



Vermont Vegetable and Berry News – January 5, 2021
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UVM EXTENSION'S VEG AND BERRY WEB SITE HAS MOVED

After many years, the web site www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry has expired. Much of its contents has migrated to: <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/horticulture/commercial>

This new site merges access to UVM's tree fruit and grape pages with vegetables, berries and high tunnel content. There are also pages of links to crop budgets, on-farm research reports, pest management, regulations that affect you, and much more. Please update your bookmarks if you have them, and let me know if you have suggestions or corrections.



THE VVBGA NOW HAS ITS OWN WEB SITE: www.vvbga.org

Thanks to a grant from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, the VVBGA and UVM Extension folks have worked with the Tamarack Media Cooperative to develop a user-friendly site just for VVBGA members. It is where you go [to join or renew your membership](#), and if you want, to create produce safety and soil health plans.

Once you create your farm profile you can add or remove e-mails that you want to be on the vegetable and berry grower's listserv. These can be updated at any time.

You can also write your produce safety plan and sign up for CAPS accreditation. And, you can upload and store your soil tests by individual farm fields, as well as create or upload your soil amendment plans and records. This will help you comply with Required Agricultural Practices.

Annual membership in the VVBGA costs \$60 per farm, per year. (\$70 after Jan. 31.) Farms from beyond Vermont's borders are welcome! CAPS accreditation is still only \$100 (because grants fund the majority of the program's cost).

If these fees pose a financial hardship it is easy to request and pay a reduced rate on the web site. We want all vegetable and berry farms in Vermont to become members! We also have member farms growing many other crops such as ornamentals, hemp, and tree fruits.

VVBGA ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD VIA ZOOM ON JANUARY 25

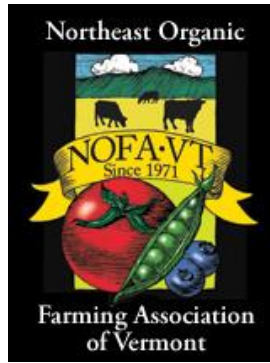


This meeting is free to VVBGA members!

The Zoom link to attend will be made available to the emails entered by all VVBGA member farms in good standing as of January 22. But don't delay, join now! Attendees will be able to come and go.

- 7:50 Connect early to make sure everything works. ([Here is info](#) on joining a zoom webinar.)
- 8:00 **Welcome.** Lisa MacDougall, VVBGA President
- 8:05 **How this Zoom meeting will work.** Vern Grubinger, moderator
- 8:10 **Grower Panel: Market Changes in 2020: CSA, Farm Stand, PYO, and Local Wholesale**
Lisa MacDougall, [Mighty Food Farm](#), Shaftsbury
Ryan Demarest, [Naked Acre Farm](#), Hyde Park
Eugenie Doyle, [Last Resort Farm](#), Monkton
Christa Alexander, [Jericho Settlers Farm](#), Jericho
- 8:30 Q&A using chat box
- 8:35 **Pivoting from Green Markets to the Green Mountains in 2020**
Amanda Andrews, [Tamarack Hollow Farm](#), Plainfield
- 8:50 Q&A using chat box
- 8:55 **Year-Round Customized On-line CSA**
Steve and Sunshine Vortigan, [Round Right Farm](#), WV
- 9:10 Q&A using chat box
- 9:15 **Grower Conversations** – you will be randomly assigned to “break out rooms.”
Meet in small groups to share something about your marketing experiences in 2020
- 9:30 **Our Experience Steaming High Tunnel Soils**
David Paulk, [Sassafras Creek Farm](#), MD
- 9:45 Q&A using chat box
- 9:50 **Tunnel Soil Steaming Project: Effects on Chickweed and Soil Microbes in 2020**
Becky Maden, UVM Extension
- 10:05 Q&A using chat box
- 10:10 **Morning Break**

- 10:25 **Lessons from our SARE-funded Organic Strawberry Planting Systems and Variety Trial**
Ryan Voiland, [Red Fire Farm](#), MA
- 10:40 Q&A using chat box
- 10:45 **Blueberry Production at High Ledge Farm**
Paul Betz, Woodbury
- 11:00 Q&A using chat box
- 11:05 **Update on New Offerings from [High Mowing Seeds](#)**
Paul Feenan
- 11:15 Q&A using chat box
- 11:20 **Know Your Seed: Choosing the Best Varieties for Your Farm**
Adrienne Shelton, [Vitalis Seeds](#)
- 11:30 Q&A using chat box
- 11:35 **Grower Social Hour** – you will be randomly assigned to a “break out room.”
Meet in small groups with old friends and/or people you don’t yet know!
- 11:50 **Update from [Vermont Compost Company](#)**
Karl Hammer
- 12:00 Q&A using chat box
- 12:05 **Lunch Break**
- 12:30 **Disease and Insect Pests of Note in 2020**
Ann Hazelrigg, UVM Extension
- 12:45 Q&A using chat box
- 12:50 **On-Line Local Marketing Strategies at [Bear Creek Farm](#)**
Brian Bates, Petoskey, MI
- 1:05 Q&A using chat box
- 1:10 **Election** of VVBGA officers and directors
- 1:15 **Tour of the New VVBGA Web Site** – Using the Soil Health and Produce Safety platforms
Becky Maden and Hans Estrin, UVM Extension
- 1:30 Q&A using chat box
- 1:35 **Grower Conversations** – for those that wish to stick around.
Participants will be randomly assigned to two 10-minute “break out rooms.”
- 1:55 **Adjourn**



NOFA-VT's 39th ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE IS ON!

This February, in lieu of an in-person conference, there will be a month-long series of events with many different workshops, speakers and films. Native American attorney, activist, author and changemaker Sherri Mitchell will keynote. Workshops and speakers will take place virtually from February 7 to March 4. Registration is now open. For more information and to register, visit www.nofavt.org/conference

A Preview of Commercial Track Workshops:

- From Direct to Digital Marketing: Building a Strong Business Brand Online
- Amplifying and Advancing Your Brand Through Social Media
- Building On-Farm Soil Health with Cover Crops
- Hoophouse Growing Success in the Shoulder Seasons
- Online Sales & Marketing: Lessons Learned from the Quick COVID Pivot
- Stronger Together: Cooperative & Alternative Models for Farms and Food Businesses
- Farm Stress & Emotional Well-being on the Farm
- The Organic Farmers Toolbox: Resilient Farming Practices for Climate Change

UVM RESEARCHERS SEEK YOUR INPUT SOUGHT ON SOIL HEALTH

To gather comprehensive perspectives and priorities related to soil health, we are inviting a diverse group of stakeholders to participate in a brief survey exploring soil health on Vermont's small- and medium-sized farms. The project is part of the Agricultural Research Service and UVM's Food Systems Research Center. Eligible participants must live and work in Vermont, and their work must be directly or indirectly related to soil health on Vermont farms. The survey takes approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. Your survey response will be anonymous. More information about the project precedes the survey questions. If you have questions, please email Katie Horner (Catherine.Horner@uvm.edu). To view the information and participate in the survey go to: https://qualtrics.uvm.edu/jfe/form/SV_br2bSdxK092pphX

SUMMARY OF THE PANDEMIC'S IMPACT ON VERMONT GROWERS

Using grower reports in the VT veg and berry news, emails, and phone calls I've tried to capture the impacts and responses to the unusual situation that occurred in 2020. [It's posted here](#). If you have something to add, I'd welcome your perspective. Best wishes for a much more normal 2021.