UPCOMING EVENTS

VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY GROWERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING
January 25, 2016. Lake Morey Inn, Fairlee, VT
8:00 Registration, Trade Show, Refreshments
9:30 President’s Remarks.
   Christa Alexander, Jericho Settlers’ Farm, Jericho VT
9:50 Lessons from the Field in 2015
   Vern Grubinger, UVM Extension
10:10 Using Mustard Cover Crop as a Biofumigant
   Charlie Gray, Four Corners Farm, S. Newbury VT
10:30 Earning a Living on a Small Hillside Vegetable Farm
   Ryan Wood Beauchamp, Eveningsong Farm, Cuttingsville VT
10:50 Community Accreditation for Produce Safety
   Hans Estrin, UVM Extension
11:10 FSMA and Proposed Produce Regulations in Vermont
   Kristina Sweet, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
11:30 Updates from Trade Show Representatives on Products and Services
12:00 Luncheon and Trade Show
1:30 Business Meeting: Election of Officers, etc.
1:40 Get Ready for RAPs! Writing A Nutrient Management Plan
   Becky Maden, UVM Extension
2:00 Bed Steaming Tunnel Soils for Weed and Disease Management
   Andre Cantelmo, Heron Pond Farm, Stratham NH
2:20 Pests to Keep an Eye Out For In 2016
   Ann Hazelrigg, UVM Plant Diagnostic Lab
2:40 Lessons Learned Establishing My Blueberry Farm
   Ben Waterman, Waterman Berry Farm, Johnson VT
3:00 A Small-Scale Perspective on Wholesale Produce Marketing
   Annie Myers, Myers Produce, Hardwick VT
3:20 Top Vegetable Varieties in My Research Trials
   Becky Sideman, University of New Hampshire
SOIL FERTILITY MANAGEMENT FOR VEGETABLE FARMERS

December 8 in Rutland or January 13 in Bennington, from 9:30 -3:00. Good soil fertility stewardship is a key aspect to profitable, environmentally sound vegetable farming. With the recent passage of Act 64, Vermont’s water quality bill, farmers of all scales need to be actively aware of the significance of nutrient management. Join us for an interactive workshop discussing practical soil fertility and nutrient management planning, specifically tailored to vegetable farms. We will cover how to interpret soil test recommendations, calculate nutrient inputs and costs, source amendments and effectively apply them. We will also discuss the importance of cover cropping in the context of soil fertility and field rotations. At each location a local farmer will join us and help to apply this knowledge by sharing their soil fertility management practices with the group. Please bring your most recent soil tests so you can begin writing your own nutrient management plan! This workshop will be hands-on with plenty of time for questions. For more information and to register visit: http://www.rutlandfarmandfood.org/workshop

MEETING WITH FDA ON FINAL FSMA RULES

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture will host FDA personnel for an explanation of the Food Safety Modernization Act Final Rules on Monday, December 14, 2015 from 9:30 to 4:30 at the Latchis Theatre, 50 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT. The FSMA Produce Safety Final Rule Overview with question and answer session will take place from 1:30 to 2:50. For more information see: http://agriculture.vermont.gov/node/1170
NEW ENGLAND VEGETABLE AND FRUIT CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW

December 15, 16, 17 at the Radisson Hotel, Manchester NH. The conference includes 32 educational sessions over 3 days, covering major vegetable, berry and tree fruit crops and 11 Farmer-to-Farmer discussion groups on cutting edge topics. There is an extensive Trade Show With over 100 Exhibitors. Additional information, including downloadable registration material, may be found at www.newenglandvfc.org

PUBLIC MEETINGS ON DRAFT REQUIRED AG PRACTICES RULE

There are still several more meetings to go where you can get briefed on the draft rule that will regulate compost, manure and fertilizer use, among other things.
December 8: St. Johnsbury Comfort Inn and Suites. 9-11am
December 8: Newport, Eastside Restaurant, 2-4 pm
December 10: Montpelier, Room 11 in the Vermont State House, 9-11am
December 10: Randolph, Chandler Music Hall, 2-4 pm.

MAKING IT HAPPEN: PROFITABILITY AND SUCCESS

January 4 in Rutland VT at RAFFL or January 7 in Burlington at the Intervale Center. Noon-5pm. This workshop will help small farmers build sound financial systems. Farmers will learn effective financial management tools that can be used to make business decisions and improve their farm business. These tools can be easily used by farmers in business operations: to improve productivity, reduce costs, increase net farm income, and improve overall quality of life. To register for Rutland: http://www.rutlandfarmandfood.org/workshop or for Burlington: email maggie@intervale.org

NOFA-VT WINTER CONFERENCE

February 13-15, 2016 at the University of Vermont, Burlington. Registration begins in January. See: http://nofavt.org/annual-events/winter-conference