



Vermont Vegetable and Berry News – December 4, 2015  
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www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry

## 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

Sponsored by: USDA, Risk Management Agency and Farm Service Agency; Vermont Compost Company; Vermont Agricultural Credit Corporation; University of Vermont Extension; and the VVBGA. Registration includes morning coffee break and a hot lunch buffet: \$40 for VVBGA Members, \$50 Non-Members. Add \$10 for walk-in registration.

Register for the annual meeting and/or pay membership dues by January 22 on-line at: <http://2016vvgba.eventbrite.com> or print the membership form at: [www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/VV&BGA/VVBGA\\_membership\\_form.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/VV&BGA/VVBGA_membership_form.pdf) and mail it with your check to: VVBGA, PO Box 2091, South Burlington, VT 05407.

Questions? Vern Grubinger, 802-257-7967 ext. 303 or [vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu](mailto:vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu). To request a disability-related accommodation to participate in this program, please contact Vern by January 4, 2016. UVM Extension helps individuals and communities put research-based knowledge to work. University of Vermont Extension and the U.S. Department of Agriculture offer education and employment to everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

#### 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](http://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.

See: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality/news-events/public-meetings>

## 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](mailto: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>