



Northeast Organic Farming Association
37th Annual Summer Conference with Northeast Animal-Power Field Days
August 12-14, 2011
University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA
www.nofasummerconference.org

Beginning Farmer Track at the NOFA Summer Conference

The Beginning Farmer Workshop Track highlights workshops in a range of technical topics. The presenters of these workshops aim to provide insight about the logistics, investments, planning and strategy needed for incorporating the given technical topic into a farming enterprise. While not a requirement for beginning farmers or recipients of beginning farmer scholarships, this group may find the highlighted workshops to be particularly useful. For more information on beginning farmer scholarships to the NOFA Summer Conference, please visit (<http://www.nofasummerconference.org/beginningfarmer.php>) or call Michal Lumsden at 413-429-7512.

There are also many other topics related to organic agriculture at the 2011 NOFA Summer Conference. Find a complete listing of 225+ exciting workshops on organic farming, gardening and land care, draft animal-power, homesteading, nutrition, spirituality, food politics, activism, and much, much more at this web page: <http://www.nofasummerconference.org/workshops.php>

The conference features presenters from all over the Northeast, nearly 100 exhibitors, workshops and activities for teens and children, an afternoon fair with farm animals, live music and dances, an auction, and an ALL-LOCAL dinner. Stay on campus in the dorms or camp in a tent under the stars.

Keynote Speakers: **Eric Toensmeier**, award-winning author promoting food forestry to sequester carbon worldwide and **Ignacio Chapela**, scientist and activist on GMOs, agri-fuels, and the global food crisis.

[Register Now Online!](#)

*** Registrations received before July 11, 2011 get a \$20 discount.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2:00-3:30 PM

4) Farmer Maintenance: Ergonomics & Self-care **BF Track All levels**
Campus Center 174-76

Lydia Irons: Raised on a homestead, Lydia recently received a BA in sustainable-agriculture, anatomy & movement-theory.

Rachel Scherer: Luckily, started my Massage Therapy practice before the farm!

If you work on a farm you probably have experienced muscle pain. Like any farm machinery, your body can be maintained with the right know how. In this workshop, you will gain a better understanding of the mechanics of your body during common tasks, and learn corrective exercises to address nagging aches and repetitive stress pains. Lots of time for Q&A. Handouts provided.

5) Getting Started with Farm Planning and Management **BF Track All levels**
Campus Center 903

Jeffrey Froikin Gordon and Giulia Stellari: Both received their PhD from Cornell & are co-founders of www.agsquared.com.



Creating a farm plan is an important step in building a sustainable farm enterprise. Discover techniques and tools that can improve the planning, management and record keeping practices on your farm. Receive a guided, live tour of AgSquared – free online farm planning and management software created especially for small farms.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 4-5:30 PM

39) Soil Fertility in Organic Farming **BF Track** *Intermediate*
Campus Center 101

Joseph Heckman: Professor of Soil Science, Rutgers University, & hobby organic farmer.

A soil fertility program for an organic farm ideally functions as an ecosystem that includes a complex rotation of annual and perennial crops integrated with livestock. I will describe practical and philosophical aspects of effectively recycling and mobilizing nutrients to build and sustain soil fertility and produce quality food.

40) Starting a CSA **BF & CSA Track** *Beginner*
Campus Center 811-15

Carolyn Llewellyn: Helped found two successful CSAs, and now does farm education.

This workshop will help you consider all of the various details that can determine the success of a start-up veggie CSA, from land and growing to marketing, distribution, labor, administration, and more. Many handouts are supplied to cover these issues as well as crop planning and further resources.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 8-9:30 AM

60) CSA Financial Management **BF & CSA Track** *Advanced*
Campus Center 904-08

Dan Kaplan: Farm Manager at Brookfield Farm, Amherst, MA for 16 years.

Overview of how we create budgets, track payments, make financial reports, plan for infrastructure improvement, and analyze financial health. Includes descriptions and pictures of documents we use.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 10-11:30 AM

86) Biodynamics: Practical Applications **BF Track** *All levels*
Campus Center 163C

Mac Mead: Director, The Pfeiffer Center; 35 years experience in biodynamic farming.

I will show how to apply several of the biodynamic principles to practical farming and gardening. We will cover farm individuality, raised beds, planting calendar, legumes, biodynamic preparations, weed/pest management, and fungus/disease management.

90) FarmHack- Sharing Farm-Built Tools & Inventions **BF Track** *All levels*
Campus Center 101

Benjamin Shute: Owner of Hearty Roots Community Farm and editor of FarmHack.net.

The Farm Hack project helps farmers share inventions, plans, ideas and tools with one another. We will look at some of the tools profiled at FarmHack.net and discuss tools that we as a group have invented, used, or dreamed up but not yet built.

91) Finding a Farm to Fit Your Vision **BF Track** *All levels*
Campus Center 804-08

Bob Bernstein: LFG co-director helps farm seekers, farmers, landowners keep farmland working.

Learn how to find a farm and explore leasing and purchasing options. Find out how you can draw upon your personal network and members of the communities where farms are sited to locate available properties. Practice evaluating the fit between your proposed operation and the farm prospects you have identified.

100) Root Cellars & Crop Storage Structures: Methods, Materials, & Designs **BF Track** *Intermediate*
Campus Center 162-75



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Chris Chaisson: Designs & builds root cellars for Whole Farm Services.

We will explore root cellars and other storage structures for crops and talk about applications for the market and small grower. We will look at several designs, retrofits, and new construction, passive and mechanical, and different materials used. Understand operational concerns for making the most efficient storage system possible.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 1-2:30 PM

125) Farm Acquisition Finance **BF Track** *All levels*

Campus Center 804-08

Bob Bernstein: LFG co-director helps farm seekers, farmers, landowners keep farmland working.

Learn how a farm finance strategy can fit your financial resources to the farm and land that is right for you. Join us to learn how understanding your family living budget, farm business, and acquisition finances determines how you can afford to get on the land.

139) TOUR: UMass Crops Research Farm: Hands-on Pest Management & Organic Insect Ecology **BF Track** *All levels*

TOUR

Ruth Hazzard: Publishes insect and vegetable ecology observations in Vegetable Notes newsletter.

Beetles, caterpillars, plant bugs, leafhoppers, and aphids feed on vegetables above and below ground, and their natural enemies wild or released can sometimes keep them in check – and sometimes not. How can cultural practices, sharp eyes and good timing ensure a healthy crop? DIRECTIONS: From UMass Campus take Rt. 116 north/west through Sunderland. Cross the bridge and immediately turn right on River Road (north). Travel 1 mile past the housing development to farm entrance near the animal barns. Look for signs for parking. TOTAL DRIVING TIME FROM UMass - 15 MINUTES. ADDRESS: 89-91 River Road Deerfield MA, 01373. BUS SERVICE PROVIDED.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 8-9:30 AM

167) Tree Biology for Orchards & Woodlots **BF & OLC Track** *All levels*

Campus Center 168C

Bill MacKentley: A serious student of Tree Biology.

How do trees grow? Do they heal, have immune systems? We'll also look at root structure, mycorrhizae, limb growth, wounds, insect and fungal attacks, white and brown rot, disease, CODIT, barrier zones, and branch collars. What can we do, and what should we avoid doing, to keep orchards and woodlots healthy?

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 10-11:30 AM

179) Essential Cover Crops **BF Track** *All levels*

Campus Center 101

Elizabeth Dyck: Coordinator, Organic Growers' Research and Information-Sharing Network (OGRIN).

Thomas Bjorkman: Cornell horticulture professor, coordinates outreach for cover crops in vegetables.



We'll share research and grower experiences that demonstrate how 1) cover crops increase and sustain farm productivity and 2) they can fit into your cropping sequence. We'll also discuss how issues on your farm—both soil and pest-related—can be addressed through use of specific cover crops. Bring your questions!

188) Small Woodlot Management for Multiple Yields (Even Income) **BF & PC Track** *Beginner*
Campus Center 803

Steve Gabriel: Permaculture designer, teacher, and forest farmer in Finger Lakes, NY.

Explore the potential for multiple yields from your underutilized woodlot. Topics we'll cover include forest ecology, crop tree management, mushroom production, tree crop systems, woodworking materials, maple sugaring, and more. Discussion focuses around the best practices to increase ecological health and generate income.

194) Overview of Draft Implements & Vehicles **BF Track** *Beginner*
Campus Center 911-15

Erik Andrus: Farms with horses and bakes bread in the Champlain Valley.

This workshop will provide a visual introduction to the world of animal-powered farming technology with a focus on contemporary Northeastern farms. We will learn about the many tasks performed with living horsepower, on farm and off, in the region and elsewhere.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 1-2:30 PM

220) Starting an Agroecology Fruit & Nut CSA **BF, CSA & PC Track** *All levels*
Campus Center 174-76

Susanne Hale: Manages Tending the Wild CSA at NESFI. Teaches agroecology practicum at UMass.
www.TendingtheWildCSA.com.

Learn how Northeast growers and aspiring forest gardeners can double our region's fruit and nut production using agroecology, permaculture, and CSA. Participants will learn to select a balanced mix of fruit and nut crops for their acreage and membership size, provide six months of fruit for CSA members, and calculate what plants the orchard needs for its fertility.

221) TOUR: Montview Neighborhood Farm: Permaculture in the City **BF & PC Track** *All levels*
TOUR

Lisa DePiano: Certified Permaculture designer/teacher and co-founder of the Montview Neighborhood Farm.

Molly Merrett: Main grower and co/founder of Montview Neighborhood Farm.

We are a 6 year-old, small-scale, no-till, human-powered, organic farm, and permaculture demonstration site nestled on 3.2 acres of city-owned conservation land in downtown Northampton, MA. Learn about scything, swale digging, no-till methods, forest gardens, integrating animals, beekeeping, uncommon fruits, rain catchment, gravity fed drip, and perennial polyculture trials. DIRECTIONS: Follow RT. 9 into Northampton. After Bridge Street Cemetery, take a left onto Pomroy Terr. After Pomroy turns into Williams, make first left onto Montview Ave. farm is down on the left, park on Montview Ave. Allow for 20 minutes driving time. ADDRESS: 38 Henry St., Northampton, MA. ARRANGE CARPOOLS, USING THE "TOUR RIDE BOARD" PLACED AT THE REGISTRATION TENT.