



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

Nutrient Density Track at the NOFA Summer Conference

Expand your knowledge of nutrient density and 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

13) Underlying Principles in Agriculture **ND Track** *Intermediate*

Campus Center 162-75

Dan Kittredge: Farmer, father, non-profit director, entrepreneur, husband and continually seeking.

This workshop will cover the subtle and less well understood realities that are foundational to comprehensive understanding of biological systems, including geometry of minerals, quantum coherence, and vibrational communication in cells. Understanding these concepts in relation to our crops can inform more effective, efficient, and cost appropriate management choices.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 4-5:30 PM

31) Improving Nutrient Density of Pastures **ND Track** *All levels*

Campus Center 168C

Rebecca Brown: Herd Manager at The Grey Barn, running the organic grass-based dairy.

Discussion will be on evaluating soil and pasture conditions, determining objectives, exploring various management options, and prioritizing action. Starting with examples of soil samples and plant tissue analysis, we will explore different soil building programs focusing on soil amendments, foliar feeding, grazing management, tillage choices, and green manure crops.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 8-9:30 AM

64) Johnes, Mastitis and Pathogens Oh my! **ND Track** *All levels*



Campus Center 903

Tim Wightman: Author of "The Raw Milk Production Handbook," the "Chore Time" video series, and Cow Share College instructor.

Learn to navigate the problems and solutions to managing modern dairy cows, producing safe, nutrient dense raw milk, while creating longevity and profitability in a raw milk herd of any size. Learn what to look for in a dairy cow, the applicability of diagnostic tests, and the economics of nutrient density.

72) UMass Nutrient Dense Foods Garden **ND Track** *Beginner-Intermediate*

Outside: Next to Franklin Dining Commons

Ryan Harb: LEED AP, MS, Sustainability Specialist at UMass Amherst.

Nathan Aldrich: Assistant Garden Manager of the Franklin Dining Commons Permaculture Garden.

Learn how UMass Amherst transformed a conventional grass lawn into a thriving campus garden that supplies nutrient dense foods to the university's dining commons. A blend of permaculture techniques and principles along with intensive soil management is being used to showcase how agriculture is positively shifting in the 21st century. DIRECTIONS: From the campus center, walk toward the street (North Pleasant St.). At the bus stop adjacent to Hasbrouck Lab, cross the street to go up the stairs in between Morill Science Buildings. At the top of the stairs, you reach another street - bear right. Walk past the University Club on your right, and you will see Franklin Dining Commons up ahead on the left, and a big garden!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 10-11:30 AM

93) Interpreting Soil Tests **ND & OLC Track** *Beginner*

Campus Center 803

Derek Christianson: Farmer & Community Educator at Brix Bounty Farm, Dartmouth, MA.

Accurately gauging nutrient needs in our soils is a critical step in making sound fertility decisions. We will set out to demystify soil test results, from cation exchange capacity (CEC) and base saturation to ppm and lbs/acre. Hands-on activity included to help participants gain confidence in interpreting soil test results.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 1-2:30 PM

123) Debate: Organic Soil Fertility Approaches **OLC Track** *All levels*

Campus Center 163C

Lee Reich: My approach to soil fertility reflects my fundamental faith in natural processes. I improve and maintain fertility from the top down using organic materials, especially compost, augmented, as needed, by seaweed, rock powders, and seed meals.

Dan Kittredge: My goal is highest quality nutrition in crops, achieved by addressing microbial and mineralogical limiting factors in the biological system.

Dave Jacke: I will argue that, by their very nature, perennial ecosystems build soil while annual agriculture destroys soil unless extraordinary measures are taken. Being energetically able to afford extraordinary measures is seriously in question over the long haul.

Organic agriculture distinguishes itself from "conventional" by its approach to soil fertility, yet people working within an organic system have divergent ways of thinking on the subject. Panelists will discuss their preferred approach and how the practices and paradigms they promote address the urgent global crisis of soil depletion, or "peak soil."

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 8-9:30 AM

153) Certified Organic Nutrient Dense Small Fruit **ND Track** *All levels*

Campus Center 163C

Julie Rawson and Jack Kittredge: We like fruit.

We will discuss strawberries, blueberries, black and red raspberries, grapes, and miscellaneous uncommon fruits, covering fertility, cultural management (beds, trellises, etc.), pruning, harvesting, timing, and eating!



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164) The Case for Full Spectrum Fertility **ND Track** *Advanced*
Campus Center 904-08

Derek Christianson: Farmer & Community Educator at Brix Bounty Farm, Dartmouth, MA.

An examination of our pre-transplant fertility protocol. Join us as we discuss the steps taken at Brix Bounty Farm in the critical week leading up to transplanting. Focusing on soil fertility we aim to create prime soil conditions for vigorous root growth and thriving transplants. Inoculants, amendments, and energy in-depth.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 10-11:30 AM

181) Fertilizer Use and Application Equipment **ND Track** *Intermediate*
Campus Center 811-15

Bryan O'Hara: Farms at Tobacco Road Farm in Lebanon, CT.

This workshop presents the use and properties of mineral amendments and fertilizers. Topics will include: proper selection and trialing, effects on soils and crops, monitoring crop response, proper mixing, use of liquid and dry materials, and equipment selection for application.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 1-2:30 PM

219) Soil Management Techniques **ND & OLC Track** *Intermediate*
Campus Center 811-15

Bryan O'Hara: Farms at Tobacco Road Farm in Lebanon, CT.

This workshop will focus on managing soils for the growth of healthy crops. Topics will include: soil and water management, methods to enhance soil life, timing for residue decay, tillage, use of cover crops and mulches, and evaluating soil quality.

222) TOUR: Simple Gifts Farm: Biological Soil Fertility **ND Track** *Intermediate*
TOUR

Jeremy Barker-Plotkin: Has been growing veggies since 1999.

Simple Gifts Farm is a 350-member CSA growing 15 acres of vegetables on 35-acres. This tour will introduce our current efforts to integrate practices from the biological/nutrient density soil fertility program into our vegetable production operation. It will include showing the products and equipment we use to manage soil fertility. DIRECTIONS: Drive north from the campus on North Pleasant St., which is the road by the pond and student center. Simple Gifts Farm will be on the right in less than a mile. Look for the big sign. ADDRESS: 1089 N. Pleasant St, Amherst, MA. ARRANGE CARPOOLS, USING THE "TOUR RIDE BOARD" PLACED AT THE REGISTRATION TENT.

