

# Northeast Pasture Consortium News Update November 2012

Linking Graziers, Researchers, Extension, and Technicians

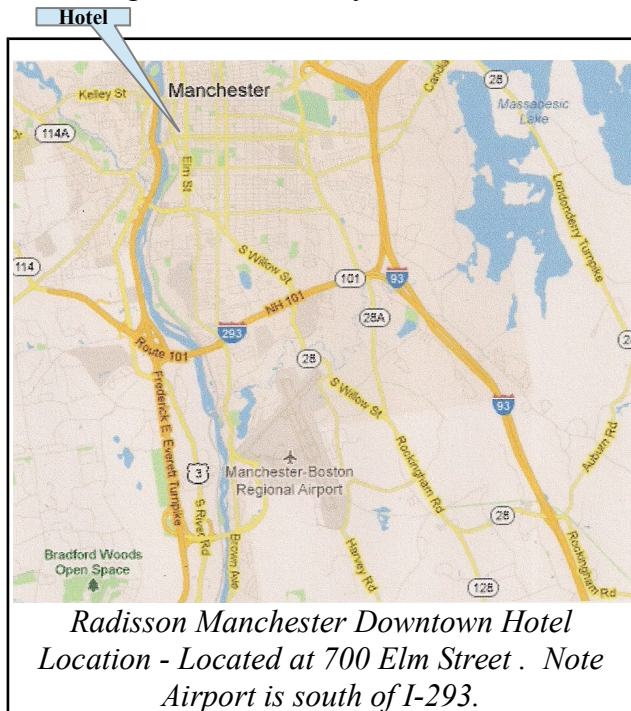
<http://www.grazingguide.net>

James Cropper, Executive Director & Editor



## 2013 Northeast Pasture Consortium Annual Conference & Meeting

The 2013 Annual Conference & Meeting will be at the Radisson Manchester Downtown Hotel, Manchester, NH on February 7 & 8. It precedes the 7th Annual New Hampshire Grazing Conference being held on February 9 at the Radisson.



To make **room reservations** use one of the following contact means: Radisson Downtown Hotel, 700 Elm Street, Manchester, NH 03101; internet: [www.radisson.com/manchesternh](http://www.radisson.com/manchesternh); ph. no: 603-206-4109. **The room rate is \$99.00 per night, plus 9% tax. Each attendee needing a hotel room please make these room reservations no later than January 16, 2013 to hold this rate. Say you are attending the Northeast Pasture Consortium Annual Conference.**

### Driving Directions:

#### From Albany, NY:

Take the NYS Thruway, I-90 (becomes MA

Turnpike, Eastbound to I-290. Head on I-290 East to I-495, then head on I-495 Northeast to Lowell, MA to US Route 3. Take Route 3 Northbound to the Frederick E. Everett Turnpike, take the turnpike North to Manchester (becomes I-293 near Manchester). Take the Granite Street Exit and go across the river and make a left onto Canal Street and then a right onto Pleasant Street. Go about 2 blocks, the Radisson is at 700 Elm Street just to the right of the intersection of Pleasant and Franklin, East of Franklin and West of Elm. Trip is 203 miles long and 3.75 hours.

#### From Newburgh, NY:

Take I-84, Eastbound to I-90 (MA Turnpike). Then follow directions beginning with the I-290 turn-off from I-90 given for Albany, NY. Trip is 230 miles long and 4.5 hours.

#### From Portsmouth, NH:

Take I-95, Southbound to NH 101 West (Exeter-Hampton Expressway). Continue on NH 101 West to I-93. Head Northbound on I-93 to the Bridge Street Exit (first interchange) to downtown Manchester. Go several blocks to Elm Street (US-3), turn left. Head Southbound on Elm to Central Street and turn right. Hotel will be on right. Trip is 44.5 miles and 1 hour.

#### From Manchester-Boston Regional Airport.

The Radisson Hotel offers free transportation to and from the airport. Trip is 6.5 miles one-way.



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A discounted parking fee of \$5.25 per vehicle is being offered to day-commute Consortium members. Overnight guests get a \$10.00 per vehicle discount for 24-hour parking. Please bring parking tickets in to be stamped at the Consortium's registration desk.

## Perennial Ryegrass Varieties for Pasture

Jennifer Colby, University of Vermont: *Developing Economic and Energy Tools to Aid Farmer Decision-Making*

Sarah Goslee, ARS, Pasture Systems & Watershed Management Research Unit: *Pasture-Based Products within Regional Food Systems*

John Aber & Matt Smith, University of New Hampshire: *Reducing Costs for Bedding and Energy on Organic Dairy Farms*



One of their many meeting rooms.

## 2013 Northeast Pasture Consortium Annual Conference & Meeting Agenda

Thursday, February 7

### Time Activity

- 8:00 AM **Welcome & Introduction of Participants** - Jim Cropper, Executive Director presiding, Salon A
- 8:30 AM **Session 1 – Efficient Pasture Systems Design for Natural Features & Management Challenges** - Moderator, Don Wild, Salon A  
**Speakers:**  
 Don Wild, Wild Acres Family Farm, Great Valley, NY: *Efficient Pasture Systems Design on Irregular Topography*  
 Rob DeClue, Chenango Co. Soil & Water Conservation District, Norwich, NY: *Landscape, Animal, Plant, & Operational Challenges for Successful Grazing Assistance*
- 10:00 AM **Break** - Salon A
- 10:15 AM **Session 2 – Northeast Region Pasture-Based Research & On-Farm Demonstration Update (Quick Overview of current or planned research)** - Moderator, Howard Skinner, Salon A  
**Speakers:**  
 Howard Skinner, ARS, Pasture Systems & Watershed Management Research Unit, University Park, PA: *Introduction: Coordinating Pasture Research in the Northeast*  
 Andre Brito, University of New Hampshire: *Assisting Organic Dairy Producers to Meet the Demands of New and Emerging Milk Markets: An Update on Feeding Flaxseed to Organic Dairy Cows*  
 Sid Bosworth, University of Vermont: *Assisting Organic Dairy Producers to Meet the Demands of New and Emerging Milk Markets: An Update on Using Complex Blends of*

### Time Activity

- 11:30 AM **Producer Session - Pasture-Based Farming Research Needs Determination**  
 Moderator, Rachel Gilker, Salon C  
 Recorder, Ken Miller
- Public Session - Moderator, Jill Ott, Salon A**  
 Recorder, Andre Brito
- Topics: Public sector views on pasture research direction helpful to educators and technicians. Current events of interest in providing grazing lands technical and education assistance.
- 12:30 PM Lunch - Curriers
- 1:30 PM **Session 3 - Economics of Confinement Dairy Farms versus Pasture Dairy Farms** - Moderator, Ken Miller, Salon A  
**Speakers:**  
 Jason Karszes, Cornell University Dairy Farm Business Management Program: *Economics of Confinement Dairy Farms versus Pasture Dairy Farms - Business Analyst Perspective*  
 Wally & Eric Sheffer, Sheffers Grassland Dairy, Hoosic Falls, NY: *Farmer Perspective*
- 3:00 PM Poster Break – (authors present) Salon C
- 3:45 PM **Session 4 – Developing Economic and Energy Tools to Aid Farmer Decision-Making** - Moderator, Jennifer Colby, Salon A  
**Speakers:**  
 Mark Cannella, Farm Business Management Specialist, University of Vermont  
 Eric Garza, Energy Use in Food Systems Lecturer, University of Vermont
- Decisions about whether and when to plant, hay or graze can really affect resiliency, production and financial stability on grazing farms. Jennifer Colby, Mark Cannella and Eric Garza (invited) as they describe economic indicators and energy assessments to help make the most of these choices. UVM is partnering with the Northeast Pasture Consortium to gather data from farmer representatives of the Consortium in order to develop a tool for helping other Northeast farmers evaluate their options quickly and with confidence.
- 5:00 PM **Adjourn**
- 5:45 PM **Dinner** – Curriers
- 7:00 PM- **Evening Session - Producer Showcase - Bedded Pack, the Complete Scoop** - Moderator, Rachel Gilker, Salon A  
 9:00 PM **Speakers:**  
 Mark Russell, Swallowdale Farm, Orwell, VT: *Bedded Pack - Challenges and Benefits*  
 Earl Fournier, Fournier Farms, Swanton, VT: Presentation title to be announced

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Friday, February 8

Time      Activity  
8:00 AM **Pasture-Based Farming Research Needs Discussion Session**  
("Fish Bowl" room arrangement) - Salon A

**Private Sector** – Coordinator Joe Hatton,  
Recorder, Ken Miller

9:15 AM **Poster Break** – (authors present) Salon C

10:00 AM **Session 5 – Grain Supplementation Economics & Strategies for Pastured Dairy Cows** - Moderator, *Andre Brito*, Salon A  
**Speakers:**

Dr. Hubert Karreman, Organic Valley CO-OP, Penn Dutch Cow Care, Lancaster, PA: *Reading and Feeding Cows on Pasture*

Fay Benson, Cornell University: *Barley Fodder Feeding for Organic Dairies*

John Stoltzfus, Be-A-Blessing Organic Dairy, Whitesville, NY: *Barley Fodder Feeding for Organic Dairies*

Brent Beidler – Beidler Family Farm, Randolph Center, VT: *The Dollars and Sense of a 100% Forage Ration for an Organic Dairy Herd*

12:00 PM **Lunch** – Curriers

1:30 PM **Sector and USDA Agency Reports** - *Jim Cropper, Executive Director presiding*, Salon A

Private Sector report – *Joe Hatton, Co-Chair Elect*

Public Sector report – *Tom Akin, Co-Chair Elect*

NIFA report - *Jim Dobrowolski, Washington, DC or designated representative*

ARS report – *Peter Kleinman, University Park, PA*

NRCS Report - *Kevin Ogles, Greensboro, NC (tentative)*

3:00 PM **Break** – Salon A

3:30 PM **Business Meeting** – *Rob DeClue, Public Sector Co-Chair and Bob Richardson, Private Sector Co-Chair, Presiding*, Salon A

*Margaret Smith, Administrative Advisor to NERA1003 (Northeast Pasture Consortium)*

Election of Private & Public Sector members-at-large to serve on the Executive Committee of the NE Pasture Consortium

Other business to come to the Floor, such as resolutions and changes to Consortium research, education, and financial & technical assistance priorities..

*Jim Cropper, Executive Director*, Thank you to the outgoing Executive Committee members, Welcome the new Executive Committee members, and Announcement of the 2013 Public and Private Sector Co-Chairs

5:00 PM **Adjourn**

## Conference & Meeting Overview

Pasture research coordination and facilitation is a big part of the program this year. This is a new addition that we want to become an annual event.

At this conference, since it initiates the process, it involves 4 sessions. The first session, Session 2 – Northeast Region Pasture-Based Research & On-Farm Demonstration Update, will inform everyone what is currently being studied or proposed. The next session, Producer Session - Pasture-Based Farming Research Needs Determination, is where our farmer members can weigh-in on what new or redirected research should be done to help them better manage their pastures and livestock. While this session is being held, the Public Sector will also spend time concurrently proposing research that can address issues they face when working with pasture-based farmers. The third session, Pasture-Based Farming Research Needs Discussion Session, will be held Friday morning at 8:00 AM. In this session, the farmer members will present their research requests to the Public Sector. The researchers and extension specialists will take notes about what is proposed and will develop a response. At the Reports session Friday afternoon, the Public Sector report will devote most of its time responding as to how they might address the research topics presented by the Private Sector. This format will strengthen one of our Consortium's objectives. It will better coordinate our pasture research work among our member universities and ARS, and it will find areas of work that need more answers to make pasture-based farming more efficient, productive, and profitable. So, everyone come prepared with your wish list of things that need answers. Questions often arise that seem to have too few or no answers to make a good decision on what management action to take that can solve an issue of raising and feeding livestock on pasture.

Session 4 - Developing Economic and Energy Tools to Aid Farmer Decision-Making is actually setup to inform farmer members attending the 2013 Conference how they can participate with the University of Vermont by using their farms' financial records to help UVM develop economic



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tools to in-turn help them make good economic management decisions on their pasture-based farms. We need 20 farmer volunteers to help Jenn Colby, Mark Cannella, and Eric Garza complete their Conservation Innovation Grant project. To learn more about this project, contact Jenn Colby at [jcolby@uvm.edu](mailto:jcolby@uvm.edu) or by phone: 802/656-0858.

The Producer Showcase this year features two Vermont farmers who are using bedded packs in their farm operations to bed-down livestock during the pasture off-season.

Dr. Andre Brito from the University of New Hampshire heads up the Grain Supplementation Economics & Strategies for Pastured Dairy Cows session. This session explores some innovative ideas from reading cow behavior to better meet their feed requirements to providing no supplemental feed on pasture to supplementing pasture with flaxseed and barley fodder. Dairy producers do not want to miss this session. Other livestock type farmers may learn something as well from this session that they can use back at their farm.

Jason Karszes from Cornell's Dairy Farm Business Management Program and Wally and Eric Sheffer of Sheffers Grassland Dairy will update us on the profitability of pasturing dairy cows versus feeding them in confinement.



Rotational pasture layouts and management can be challenging on our Northeast topography and soil conditions. Don Wild and Rob DeClue bring along a lot of experience in making rotational pasture layouts efficient and manageable even in the most challenging of environments. Everyone who pastures livestock can gain new insight with our opening session on Thursday morning, Efficient Pasture Systems Design for Natural Features and Management Challenges.

## POSTER PAPER SESSIONS FOR THE 2013 ANNUAL MEETING

Jim Cropper is coordinating the poster paper sessions. These will be held on the afternoon of February 7<sup>th</sup> and the morning of February 8<sup>th</sup>. This allows researchers and others a chance to show us what they are doing in support of pasture-based farms in Northeast and elsewhere. These are often wide-ranging efforts from papers that support the session topics of the current annual meeting to papers following up on previous meetings' session topics to papers addressing new issues of importance to pasture-based farmers and the society that they support with food, fiber, and scenic green open spaces.

Be sure to let Jim know you plan to present a paper so that we have adequate wall space to display them. **Deadline for submission of poster paper title and author(s) is January 4, 2013.** Submit title and authorship via email to: [jbcropper@yahoo.com](mailto:jbcropper@yahoo.com)

For the Northeast Pasture Consortium members doing a poster paper for the annual conference only, use the guidance below. For those members reprising a poster paper they have used at other conferences or meetings, there is no need to conform to every specification below. However, keep in mind the target audience is primarily to inform our livestock and pasture farmer members. In the results and summary sections be sure to emphasize how the research findings in the

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poster paper are or could be relevant to their operations. In previous years, we have had posters sessions on Economics, Carbon Sequestration and the Environment, Pasture plants, and Management and Product Quality.

### Introduction

A major purpose of the annual meeting is a 2-way exchange of information. Remember that your paper must be carefully planned, clear and concise, oriented to transfer information effectively, hold the attention of the audience, and have a take-home message.

### Planning

Include: an **introduction, methods, results and discussion, summary, and references**. Use metric and English units (in parenthesis) for **weights and measures**, or English units only. Use Power Point (or other computer graphic software) or make a small-scale layout of your poster on ordinary letter paper (8 1/2 by 11 inches). Emphasize the points you want to stress in your poster. Think of headlines, text, charts, graphs, illustrations, and photos, and incorporate these ideas into your layout. Once you are satisfied with the initial layout, finalize poster. The usable dimensions of most poster boards normally measure 44 3/4 inches high by 90 7/8 inches across, less a 2 by 4 inch space in the upper left hand corner. Your assigned poster number will be positioned in this space on a card provided by the Executive Committee. **Poster size: Full** poster board - approx. 42 X 84 inches, or **half** poster board - approx. 42 X 42 inches. **Send abstract and poster size dimensions to Jim Cropper, by January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013.**

### Organization

Your poster starts in the upper left hand corner, where your paper number is posted on a 2 x 4 inch (7.6 by 15.2 cm) card provided by the Executive Committee. From here the poster should flow from left to right and top to bottom. The

title - author(s) - sponsoring institution heading for your poster must be at the top of the poster paper. Use letters, numbers, or arrows to indicate the proper flow to the audience.

### Simplicity

Don't crowd too much information into the presentation; concentrate on two or three main points. Highlight trends and comparisons with **simplified** charts, graphs, and diagrams. Make key points in the legend of the figure or table. Use text sparingly, and make sure it is easily understood by the audience. **Outline important points with bulleted text.** Use abbreviations and acronyms sparingly. Avoid overwhelming your audience with too many numbers, words, and/or complicated graphs or tables. Remember, a lot of people will read or study your poster while you are away or talking to another person about the content of the poster; keep the message clear and simple. Choose one background color for your poster paper. Use contrasting colors where appropriate in charts, graphs, and diagrams.

### Headings

For the **title**, use a finished font that is at least 1 inch high when the poster is printed out to full size. The lettering for authors' names, sponsoring institution, and address should be at least 3/4 inch high. **For section heads and subheads, use a type font** at least 25% larger than the text font (1/4 inch tall when poster is printed at full size). All type must be easily read from a distance of six feet. Use a bold typeface for headings and labels.

### Text Type

Keep your text in short, concise, legible statements; minimize complete sentences and paragraphs. A few summary statements are encouraged. Use a word processor to prepare your text copy. Set your word processor for 1.5 lines of space between each line of type. Text in upper

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and lower case letters is more readable than all capitals. Lettering for subheads and figure captions should be larger than text type, but smaller than type used for a main heading. This type should also be bold. Text type should be at least 1/4-inch tall and readable from a distance of 6 feet. Choose a plain font type such as Arial.

## Mounting

The best procedure is to use large glossy paper that is on a spool of a plotter used to capture the image from PowerPoint or similar software. Bring along the necessary items to put up your poster. We will be using the wall space in Salon C at the Radisson to hang our poster papers. **The Radisson only allows putty to attach posters to the wall.** They have a supply at their gift store. Bring a supply of business cards to hand out at your poster session. This is a quick way of distributing your name and address to interested attendees. Have a sign-up pad available to record the names and addresses of individuals wanting more information. You may also want to have a supply of handouts available for interested people.

## 2013 New Hampshire Farm & Forest Expo

The 2013 New Hampshire Farm & Forest Exposition is celebrating its 30th Anniversary on February 8 and 9 at the Radisson Downtown Hotel. If you would like to purchase tickets in advance, you can do so for \$3 per ticket (regular gate pricing is \$7 per ticket). The \$3 tickets must be purchased **BEFORE** February 1st by mailing a check to NHFFE at PO Box 2585, Concord, NH 03301. The tickets will be mailed in advance to the attendee. If you prefer to wait until arriving, you can show your Consortium name badge at their ticket booth, they will use that to discount your ticket to \$3.

The NH Annual Grazing Conference is scheduled for February 9. At the time of publishing this news update, the agenda for the grazing conference was not available.

Below is the agenda for the Expo.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2013

8:30 - 11:30 am	<b>Managing Your Farmers Market, presented by the NH Farmers Market Association (NHFMA) Salon B</b>
8:30 - 9:30 am	Farmers Markets in Seacoast NH: Market Managers and Consumer Trends, Preferences and Characteristics: <i>Jewel McKenzie</i> , Graduate Student, UNH College of Life Sciences and Agriculture, Natural Resource & Environment Department and <i>Nada Haddad</i> , Food & Agriculture Extension Field Specialist, UNH Cooperative Extension - Rockingham County
9:30 - 11:30 am	NHFMA Winter Meeting Topics to include managing tips for your farmers market, discussion group on growth of winter farmers markets in NH, and 2013 update from the New Hampshire Farmers Market Association.
9 am to 12 noon	<b>Farm Labor: Rules and Regulations, Management Strategies, Apprenticeship, and Effective On-Farm Mentorship</b> <b>Hale</b>
	Are you considering finding an intern, apprentice or farm worker for the first time? Are you already managing farm labor, but could use some help strategizing for success? Do you see yourself as a mentor with the goal of teaching interns and/or apprentices the skills they need to become future farmers?
	Deciding to hire employees or take on interns & apprentices is a major step in any farm operation's long-term plan. Often the biggest questions revolve around rules & regulations (How do I do this legally?) & management strategies (How do I teach my apprentices & farm workers the skills they need to be effective), & equitable compensation (How can I plan to make it work out financially?).
	Law for Food, a Vermont based law firm focused on farmers and food entrepreneurs, will address NH Labor Law and definitions as it pertains to farm workers and apprentices. We'll discuss mentorship and apprenticeship program development, and how it relates to your whole farm plan. We'll close the session with a farmer panel focused on on-farm labor management strategies and successes, with a question and answer session to follow.
	Presenters include: <i>Kenneth Miller</i> (Law for Food), <i>Christine Pressman</i> (Foggy Hill Farm), <i>Seth Wilner</i> (UNHCE), <i>Ray Conner</i> (NOFA-NH).

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	<p>Please bring your ideas and questions! If you have any particular questions that you would like to have addressed, please submit them on the Expo website.</p> <p>This program is supported by the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program of the National Institute of Food &amp; Agriculture, USDA, Grant #2011-49400-30510.</p>	1 - 4 pm	<p>stewardship in New Hampshire.</p> <p><b>NH Farm-to-Restaurant Connection (NHFR) Stark</b></p> <p>The NHFR's Certified Local program is gaining momentum and recognition after its first year. Hear how it has impacted the certified restaurants and increased the demand for NH farm products. The Certification process will be reviewed and discussed by one of our chefs and a FRC volunteer, and ideas about cooperative programs and promotions among certified restaurants will be presented.</p> <p>Our Certification program, partnerships and future plans will be subjects of a panel of farmers, chefs, interns from Plymouth State University, representatives of the FRC and members of the local food movement.</p>
9:30 am - 12:30 pm	<p><b>From Forests to Fields: Ensuring Sustainable Production in a Changing Climate</b> <b>Pierce</b></p> <p>Learn about ongoing research at the NH agricultural Experiment Station to provide agricultural strategies for our challenging climate. Productive approaches to sustainably manage NH farms and forests may include consideration of cover crops, adaptive pest management, new mixtures of pasture species, a focus on soil nitrogen and organic matter, and knowledge of how woodland species respond to warmer winters and cooler summers. Faculty from UNH's College of Life Sciences and Agriculture will discuss their investigations into these and related topics during this interactive session.</p>	1:30 - 3:30 pm	<p><b>Animal Physical Therapy</b> <b>Pierce</b></p> <p>The use of animal physical therapy is growing throughout the United States. Physical Therapy is a 100 year old human based profession focused on clinical rehabilitation supported by scientific research, that addresses neuromuscular-skeletal movement deficits with a goal of returning function after a surgery, disease or injury.</p> <p>During "Animal Physical Therapy", <i>Jennifer Brooks</i>, PT, MEd, CCRP, CERP will present an overview of Physical Therapy techniques used to treat dogs, horses and even cats.</p>
10 am - 12 noon	<p><b>How to Resurrect Your Dilapidated Barn</b> <b>Stark</b></p> <p>Do you have a barn in need of repair, feeling a bit overwhelmed and don't know where to begin? Or interested in getting some advice on your intended repairs from a historic barn contractor? Three barn preservation specialists will offer technical tips and strategies for successful barn renovation projects in this session. Featuring case studies of recent projects and lots of time for Q&amp;A. Please bring pictures of your barn to share.</p>	2 - 3 pm	<p><b>How Sweet It Is!</b> <b>Webster</b></p> <p>This is a great introductory session to keeping bees and the fascinating life of the honey bee. Perfect for gardeners, aspiring keepers and anyone interested in the miracles of nature. <i>Wendy Booth</i>, president of the NH Beekeepers Association, will use Power-Point of amazing bee photos to share her passion for honey bees. Come see what all the buzz is about.</p>
10 am to 12 noon	<p><b>NH's Food Agriculture, Food and Markets Renaissance: Cultivating Synergy, Collaboration and Networks</b> <b>Webster</b></p> <p>New Hampshire communities are experiencing a resurgence of access to local food. Leaders of these initiatives gather to exchange ideas and resources and create a network for on-going support and collaboration. Offered in partnership with NH Coalition for Sustaining Agriculture.</p>	4 - 6 pm	<p><b>Chain Saw Maintenance</b> <b>Hale</b></p> <p>An Expo classic session! You will learn safe tree cutting, saw handling, and maintenance tips. Bring your own saw and ask questions!</p>
12:30 to 5 pm	<p><b>NH Women in Agriculture Conference</b> <b>Salon B</b></p> <p>More details to follow. Registration fee at door. Pre-registered attendees receive Expo ticket.</p>	5:15 - 6 pm	<p><b>Public Meeting</b> <b>Pierce</b></p> <p>Come learn how the NH Farm &amp; Forest Expo works! Meet with our Board of Directors and share your thoughts on how we can improve the Expo! Open to exhibitors, sponsors and the general public.</p>
1 to 3 pm	<p><b>NH Coverts Project Advisory Committee</b> <b>Hale</b></p> <p>Volunteers and partners from the NH Coverts Project will meet to discuss program impacts, new ideas, and planned events for 2013. The NH Coverts Project trains community volunteers to do outreach about wildlife, habitats, and good forest</p>	6 - 8 pm	<p><b>Annual Awards Ceremony &amp; Celebration</b> <b>Armory</b></p> <p>Join us as we celebrate 30 years of the Expo!</p>



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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2013

**The Granite State Grazers are to hold their 7th annual New Hampshire Grazing Conference at the Radisson Saturday, February 9th!**

8 - 9:30 am      **Annual Meeting of NH Local Agricultural Commissions  
Pierce**

Plan to attend this annual meeting of the local agriculture commissions and discuss work completed in 2012 and to plan for work to be done in 2013. Challenges and opportunities facing local agriculture will be discussed.

8 - 9:30 am      **Soak Up the Rain with Rain Gardens  
Webster**

This session will demonstrate how homeowners can help keep New Hampshire lakes and streams clean by installing rain gardens to reduce erosion and stormwater pollution.

Conservation District Managers, *Lisa Morin* and *Amanda Costello*, and NH DES Stormwater Coordinator, *Jillian McCarthy*, will guide homeowners through the steps needed to create a rain garden on their property. The seminar will focus on properly sizing and locating a rain garden, the types of plants that should be used, and proper rain garden maintenance. This seminar will also include a brief overview of rain barrels, infiltration trenches, and other practices that homeowners can use to soak up the rain and prevent stormwater pollution.

This event is sponsored by NH Department of Environmental Services and the NH Association of Conservation Districts.

8 am to 12 noon      **Whole Farm Planning for Specialty Crops  
Salon B**

This workshop is part of a two year workshop series on specialty crops developed by Small and Beginner Farmers of NH, and will introduce participants to the process of whole farm planning.

The workshop, led by *Kate Kerman*, will encourage growers to:

- \* Create an overall goal for their operation
- \* Carefully examine and assess their resources
- \* Develop short and long term comprehensive plans and
- \* Monitor their progress.

Participants will also learn the basics of enterprise budgeting to predict potential expenses, and calculate the possible profits for a particular specialty crop. E-mail with questions.

8:30 to 11 am      **Equine Challenge  
Stark**

Come join the fun! All youth under age 12 are wel-

come to participate in a friendly, novice level quiz bowl event designed to showcase their horse knowledge. Questions are given verbally or visually for youth to answer using a buzzer board. This is a non-competitive, low-key event designed to introduce participants to quiz bowl similar to the 4-H format (membership NOT required). Focus will be on a comfortable, child-friendly learning environment with prizes for all.

Pre-registration is requested by February 5, 2013 by emailing *Mary Davis* or calling (603)742-3712 with names and ages of participants.

9 - 11 am      **Raising Beef at Home – Calf Management for  
Best Results  
Hale**

Raising your own beef? Come learn what you need to know from start to finish as all aspects of calf care will be discussed. Learn about calf management, growth rates, feeding, and housing.

9:30 - 11 am      **Backyard Maple Sugaring: How to Make Your  
Own Maple Syrup  
Pierce**

The sap will be running soon! Have you thought about making your own maple syrup? Do you want to know what is needed? Attend this workshop if you want to learn the steps from the tree to the table, plus to understand the equipment needed. This special workshop is geared to first-timers and beginner maplers having less than 75 taps. All aspects of maple sugaring will be covered, including tree identification and tapping, collecting and boiling sap, finishing, filtering and packing syrup. Needed supplies, especially sizing and operating small evaporators, homemade and commercial, will also be discussed.

10 am to 1 pm      **Transitioning From a Hobby to a Commercial  
Goat Dairy  
Webster**

Many people have the goal of transitioning from a hobby dairy for a home milk supply to a commercial one where dairy products are sold. This involves an investment in equipment and meeting public health requirements. This session will cover a detailed overview of a new publication, "A Guide to Starting a Commercial Goat Dairy". The schedule for this meeting includes:

- 10 am      ADGA District #1 Meeting
- 10:30 am      "Transitioning to a Commercial Goat Dairy" (*Carol Delaney* and *John Porter*)
- 12 pm      "Safe Handling of Milk" (*Dot Perkins*)

11:30 am to 12:30 pm      **Starting Your Garden From Seed  
Hale**

Presented by *Margaret Hagen*, UNH Cooperative Extension's Director of the Family, Home & Garden Education Center. People have all sorts of reasons for starting plants for their spring gardens from seed. Some common reasons include saving money,





wider selection of varieties, the ability to follow plants from seed to harvest, and pure enjoyment. If you've ever wanted to plan out a garden, order and start the seeds yourself, this is for you. We'll cover all the details: seed selection, scheduling, potting mixes, providing sufficient heat and light, what to grow in, and hardening off plants before planting.

12 to 4 pm

### **Writing Rural NH Pierce**

Join *Dr. Amanda Eason* from the Community College System of New Hampshire for this hands-on and pens-on to illuminate rural NH! You don't need to be a poet to write; this ongoing workshop offers writing and sharing sessions designed to ignite and inspire those interested in writing about their experience with rural NH.

Practical techniques in poetry and journaling demonstrated throughout the session, while attendees practice ideas as part of the class. Some materials will be provided to get attendees started; handouts will give attendees a take-home starter kit. On display: farming artifacts and an historic array of art, journals and poetry from "less obvious" sources from the earliest days up through today. Drop-ins, children and non-writers welcome!

12:30 to 2:30 pm

### **Successful Gardening at Schools, 4-H Clubs and Other Youth-Serving Organizations Salon B**

*Ron Christie* is the "go to guy" for NH and school and community garden development and is well known and sought after for help with children and school gardens (Children Grow in Gardens).

This educational workshop targets 4-H volunteer leaders, teachers, master gardeners and others interested in promoting youth gardens.

The session features three segments:

1. How to establish a successful, sustainable youth garden in your school or community.
2. How to design and build a child friendly garden
3. How to use the garden as a learning center

4-H Youth Development programming in positive youth development will be stressed. Examples of successful youth gardens will be featured including the 4-H children's garden. Helpful resources and follow-up support is available.

1:30 to 3:30 pm

### **NH Horse Council Meeting Webster**

2 to 4 pm

### **Rural Energy for America & Value-Added Producer Grant Programs Hale**

Learn from this overview of grant programs available to help agricultural producers and rural small businesses to

- 1) reduce energy costs and consumption through the purchase of renewable energy systems and internal-

lation of energy efficiency improvements, and 2) to help agricultural producers develop strategies to create marketing opportunities for value added (VA) products.

Planning grants to establish the market opportunity (feasibility studies-marketing strategies-business plans) as well as working capital grants to implement the market opportunity will also be covered.

## **New 2013 England Meat Conference**

For those of you who are marketing meat from your farm, here is your chance to participate in the first New England Meat Conference taking place at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord, NH on Friday, March 22, 2013 and Saturday, March 23, 2013.

The goal of the New England Meat Conference is to enhance the production, processing, and marketing of sustainable, nutritious, humanely-raised, and delicious meat from New England farms by providing educational and networking opportunities for meat producers, processors and consumers.

### **Education**

The conference will feature more than 25 educational sessions, hands-on workshops and live demonstrations.

### **Networking**

As the first conference ever to focus specifically on meat production in New England, it will bring together those involved in meat production from field to table, including farmers, processors, distributors, chefs, technical assistance providers, members of our state and federal governments, and many others. With an anticipated attendance of over 200, the conference will be an opportunity to meet and learn from our counterparts in other states, and to hear from experts from across the country.

### **Showcase**

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A Meat Industry Tradeshow taking place both days will feature innovative products and services to improve attendees' manufacturing processes from ingredients to packaging, scales to labeling equipment. The tradeshow will attract national suppliers of new products and technologies that may be adopted by local farmers and processors, as well as service providers who can provide support for these growing businesses.

### Celebration

Join us at the inaugural "Meat Ball" on Friday evening for a celebration of local meat, live music, dancing and awards.

### Conference Steering Committee

The event could not happen without the support and dedication of the following Conference Steering Committee members.

Co-Chair: Chelsea Bardot Lewis, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets

Co-Chair: Sam Fuller, Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont

Amy Manzelli, Baldwin & Callen, PLLC

Carl Majewski, UNH Cooperative Extension

Charlene Anderson, Kamingo Marketing

Diane Wright Hirsch, University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension

Diane Schivera, Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association

Ed Maltby, Adam's Farm

Gabe Clark, Cold Spring Ranch

Jennifer Colby, University of Vermont Center for Sustainable Agriculture

Jennifer Hashley, New Entry Sustainable Farm-ing Project

John Guskowski, Eastern Connecticut RC&D Area, Inc.

Joyce Meader, University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension

Patrick McNiff, Pat's Pastured

Ray Conner, Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Hampshire

### Conference Logistics provided by:

JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc.

501 South Street, 2nd Floor

Bow, NH 03304

603-573-3300 ~ [www.jsi.com](http://www.jsi.com)

[lwalter@jsi.com](mailto:lwalter@jsi.com)

For more information about the New England Meat Conference go to:

<http://www.newenglandmeatconference.org/>



or call 603-573-3306.

Beidler Family Farm

## University of Vermont Receives Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG)

The Energy Savings through Holistic Planned Grazing and Management CIG project funded by USDA-NRCS is designed to assess and demonstrate energy utilization in both environmental and economic terms in order to help farmers adopt appropriate grazing practices to reduce reliance on energy inputs. It will measure and analyze energy inputs from 200 farms using a range of grazing management practices of which a minimum of 20 will include farms using the holistic planned grazing approach. Included in the analysis will be energy savings from feed or forage production, manure management and use of soil building techniques as compared to synthetic fertilizers. Some of the grant money will be used to fund farmer member participation at the 2013 and 2014 Northeast Pasture Consortium Annual Conference & Meeting. Twenty farmer members will participate in the project by providing on-farm data on energy and money

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savings utilizing grazing management practices.

## 2013 NORTHEAST PASTURE CONSORTIUM ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

### FULL REGISTRATION FEES

*Paid on or before 01/16/13* \$200.00

*Paid after 01/16/13* \$250.00

**Single-Day Registration fee** \$125.00

*If paying by check, make check payable to West Virginia University.*

### REQUIRED REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Full Registration

Single Day Reservation  02/07/13 or  02/08/13

Organization/Farm \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

If paying by credit card,

Credit Card Type \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Three Digit Security Code # \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

### PAYMENT ADDRESS

Send completed registration form, and if paying by check,

payment check to: West Virginia University  
ATTN: Becky Casteel  
WVU Extension Service  
P.O. Box 6108  
Morgantown, WV 26506-6108.

### QUESTIONS

If you have registration questions, you may contact Becky Casteel from WVU Extension Service at (304) 293-2565 or [becky.casteel@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:becky.casteel@mail.wvu.edu)

### CANCELLATIONS

Cancellations must be received on or before **January 31, 2013.**



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