

# Northeast Pasture Consortium News Meeting Update January 2013

Linking Graziers, Researchers, Extension, and Technicians

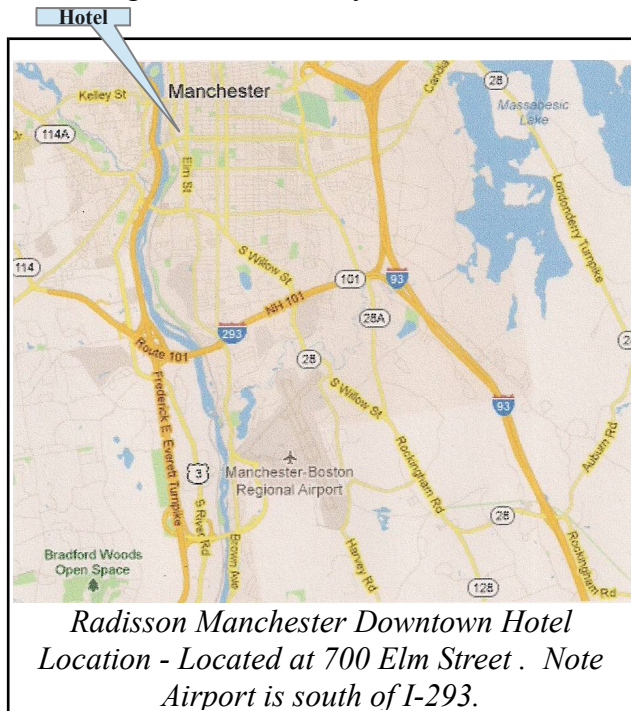
<http://www.grazingguide.net>

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.



One of their many meeting rooms.

## 2013 Northeast Pasture Consortium Annual Conference & Meeting Agenda

Thursday, February 7

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

*Perennial Ryegrass Varieties for Pasture*

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

Howard Skinner presenting for 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*

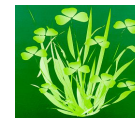
<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
11:30 AM	<b>Producer Session - Pasture-Based Farming Research Needs Determination</b> <i>Moderator, Rachel Gilker, Salon C</i> <i>Recorder, Ken Miller</i> <b>Public Session - Moderator, Jill Ott, Salon A</b> <i>Recorder, Andre Brito</i> Topics: Public sector views on pasture 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	<b>Session 3 - Economics of Confinement Dairy Farms versus Pasture Dairy Farms</b> - Moderator, Ken Miller, Salon A <b>Speakers:</b> Jason Karszes, Cornell University Dairy Farm Business Management Program: <i>Economics of Confinement Dairy Farms versus Pasture Dairy Farms - Business Analyst Perspective</i> Wally & Eric Sheffer, Sheffers Grassland Dairy, Hoosic Falls, NY: <i>Farmer Perspective</i>
3:00 PM	Poster Break – (authors present) Salon C
3:45 PM	<b>Session 4 – Developing Economic and Energy Tools to Aid Farmer Decision-Making</b> - Moderator, Jennifer Colby, Salon A <b>Speakers:</b> 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) 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	<b>Adjourn</b>
5:45 PM	<b>Dinner</b> – Curriers
7:00 PM-9:00 PM	<b>Evening Session - Producer Showcase - Bedded Pack, the Complete Scoop</b> - Moderator, Rachel Gilker, Salon A <b>Speakers:</b> Mark Russell, Swallowdale Farm, Orwell, VT: <i>Bedded Pack - Challenges and Benefits</i> Earl Fournier, Fournier Farms, Swanton, VT: Presentation title to be announced

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Friday, February 8

- | <u>Time</u> | <u>Activity</u>   |
|-------------|---|
| 8:00 AM     | <b>Pasture-Based Farming Research Needs Discussion Session</b><br>("Fish Bowl" room arrangement) - Salon A<br><br><b>Private Sector</b> – Coordinator Joe Hatton,<br>Recorder, Ken Miller   |
| 9:15 AM     | <b>Poster Break</b> – (authors present) Salon C   |
| 10:00 AM    | <b>Session 5 – Grain Supplementation Economics &amp; Strategies for Pastured Dairy Cows</b> - Moderator, <i>Andre Brito</i> , Salon A<br><b>Speakers:</b><br>Dr. Hubert Karreman, Organic Valley CO-OP, Penn Dutch Cow Care, Lancaster, PA: <i>Reading and Feeding Cows on Pasture</i><br>Fay Benson, Cornell University: <i>Barley Fodder Feeding for Organic Dairies</i><br>John Stoltzfus, Be-A-Blessing Organic Dairy, Whitesville, NY: <i>Barley Fodder Feeding for Organic Dairies</i><br>Brent Beidler – Beidler Family Farm, Randolph Center, VT: <i>The Dollars and Sense of a 100% Forage Ration for an Organic Dairy Herd</i>  |
| 12:00 PM    | <b>Lunch</b> – Curriers   |
| 1:30 PM     | <b>Sector and USDA Agency Reports</b> - <i>Jim Cropper, Executive Director presiding</i> , Salon A<br><br>Private Sector report – <i>Joe Hatton, Co-Chair Elect</i><br>Public Sector report – <i>Tom Akin, Co-Chair Elect</i><br>NIFA report - <i>Jim Dobrowolski, Washington, DC or designated representative</i><br>ARS report – <i>Peter Kleinman, University Park, PA</i><br>NRCS Report - <i>Kevin Ogles, Greensboro, NC (tentative)</i>   |
| 3:00 PM     | <b>Break</b> – Salon A  |
| 3:30 PM     | <b>Business Meeting</b> – <i>Rob DeClue, Public Sector Co-Chair and Bob Richardson, Private Sector Co-Chair, Presiding</i> , Salon A<br><br><i>Margaret Smith, Administrative Advisor to NERA1003 (Northeast Pasture Consortium)</i><br><br>Election of Private & Public Sector members-at-large to serve on the Executive Committee of the NE Pasture Consortium<br><br>Other business to come to the Floor, such as resolutions and changes to Consortium research, education, and financial & technical assistance priorities..<br><br><i>Jim Cropper, Executive Director</i> , 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     | <b>Adjourn</b>  |

## 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.

## Granite State Graziers Present the Seventh Annual New Hampshire Grazing Conference

The New Hampshire Grazing Conference will be held on Saturday, Feb. 9, 2013 at the Radisson Hotel on Elm Street in Manchester, NH in conjunction with New Hampshire Farm and Forest Expo. Information about the NH Farm and Forest Expo follow starting on page 6. The main theme for the 7th Annual Grazing Conference is pasture economics. This year's conference features a key-note address by Steve Taylor, former NH Commissioner of Agriculture.

The conference is made possible with support from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Organic Valley Cooperative.

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 8:00 check-in and coffee, Currier's Room
- 9:00 welcome and introduction  
by Bruce Clement and Bill Foshier, Granite State Graziers
- 9:15 KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Farm Economics in New England through the Years  
Steve Taylor, agriculture writer and former New Hampshire Commissioner of Agriculture
- Sessions on **track A** are held in Currier's Room.
- Sessions on **track B** are held in Salon C.
- 10:00 BREAKOUT SESSION I
  - A. Livestock health and the immune system  
Dr. Hubert Karreman

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### B. Alternative pasture crops and tillage systems

Dorn Cox

10:55 break and refreshments

11:05 BREAKOUT SESSION II

#### A. Pasture Economics

Eric Noël

#### B. Pastured pork production

Jeff Cantara

12:00 Lunch break (on your own)

1:00 BREAKOUT SESSION III

#### A. Grazing season extension and winter feeding strategies

Eric Noël

#### B. Soil Health for Graziers

Brandon Smith

1:55 break and refreshments

2:05 BREAKOUT SESSION IV

#### A. Grazing management in drought

Tom Cope and Steve Normanton

#### B. Managing parasites in small ruminants

Bill Foshier

3:15 Granite State Graziers activities in the coming year

Bill Foshier and Bruce Clement

Questions and Answers

Evaluations

4:15 Adjournment

## SESSION TOPICS

### Livestock Health and the Immune System

Presenter: *Dr. Hubert Karreman*, veterinarian and owner of Penn Dutch Cow Care

Dr. Karreman's practice is dedicated to providing natural treatments and herd health management services to ecologically motivated dairy farmers in Lancaster County, PA. His focus on botanical and other non-chemical health protocols includes educating producers about how the immune systems of animals function, and what happens when it is weakened or overcome. He'll cover

the scientific basis of both pharmaceutical and organic treatments for disease.

### Alternative Pasture Crops & Tillage Systems

Presenter: *Dorn Cox*, director of Green Start, Lee, NH.

Working with four generations on his family's on a 250-acre diversified organic farm, Dorn has worked to select effective cover crops, grains and oilseed coupled with animal rotations for food and energy production, and developed no-till and low-till techniques to reduce energy use and increase soil health in New Hampshire conditions. Graziers can use many of these same crops and tillage systems to extend growing seasons, renovate pastures, or increase pasture biomass.

### Pastured Pork Production

Presenter: *Jeff Cantara*, farmer at New Roots Farm, Exeter, NH

Swine can serve many functions on pasture-based farms, from land clearing to crop gleaning, and can provide an additional revenue stream using land that might otherwise be unproductive. Jeff has raised pigs on his farm since its inception, and will talk about the ins and outs of raising pigs on pasture.

### Grazing Economics

Presenter: *Eric Noël*, grazing consultant and farmer, Highgate, VT.

As grazing consultant and diversified farmer, Eric has pushed the pencil on the real costs and real opportunities for income from a pasture-based enterprise. In this session, he will lay out techniques and strategies to beef up your wallet through grazing management. Small adjustments in your management practices can translate into big improvements in your bottom line.

### Extending your Grazing Season

Presenter: *Eric Noël*, grazing consultant and

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farmer, Highgate, Vt.

For many livestock operations, the purchase of winter feeds is the single largest cost center in the business. Extending the grazing season into winter and starting grazing earlier in spring are two powerful ways to reduce this cost, and at the same time improve herd and soil health. Eric will share his experiences and offer real-world strategies and techniques to keep your animals grazing as many days as possible.

## Soil health for graziers

Presenter: *Brandon Smith*, Resource Conservationist-Agronomy, NRCS, Durham, NH

For many decades, farmers were told that they should test their soils and apply amendments to provide the correct soil pH and macro-nutrients (N, P, and K) to obtain optimal yields. In this talk, Brandon Smith will discuss the many other factors such as the soils physical properties and biological activity that can affect productivity, and provide some insights into how we can manage our soils to improve their overall health.

## Grazing Management in Drought

Presenters: *Tom Cope and Steve Normanton*

Last summer's drought caught many graziers off guard, and climatologists tell us that we should expect more summers like 2012 in the coming years. Tom, who raises beef in Bath, and Steve, who raises beef, poultry and hogs in Litchfield, will talk about different tools they used to take on the drought, and offer insights into how you might make strategic decisions the next time we hit a dry spell. Should you plant a drought-resistant forage? Consider irrigation of some of your pasture? Try to extend rest periods? Ship animals?

## Managing Parasites in Small Ruminants

Presenter: Bill Foshier

A monthly dose of dewormer medication no longer passes for effective parasite management in sheep and goats. Bill Foshier, a Westmoreland shepherd with 22 years of experience in managing large and small flocks of sheep, will discuss how to keep flocks healthy in the face of dewormers that are losing efficacy, and the increased prevalence of killer worms in the Northeast. Bill will discuss the strengths and weaknesses tactics like the FAMACHA test, wormer rotation, and genetic selection.

## 2013 NH 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.

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.  |

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9 am to 12 noon	<p><b>Farm Labor: Rules and Regulations, Management Strategies, Apprenticeship, and Effective On-Farm Mentorship</b> <b>Hale</b></p> <p>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?</p> <p>Deciding to hire employees or take on interns &amp; apprentices is a major step in any farm operation's long-term plan. Often the biggest questions revolve around rules &amp; regulations (How do I do this legally?) &amp; management strategies (How do I teach my apprentices &amp; farm workers the skills they need to be effective), &amp; equitable compensation (How can I plan to make it work out financially?).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <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>	<p>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>
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>	<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>
12:30 to 5 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 stewardship in New Hampshire.</p>	<p><b>NH Farm-to-Restaurant Connection (NHFRC)</b> <b>Stark</b></p> <p>The NHFRC'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>
1:30 to 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><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>
9:30 am - 12:30 pm	<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</p>	<p><b>9:30 am - 12:30 pm</b></p>

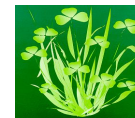


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During “Animal Physical Therapy”, *Jennifer Brooks*, PT, MEd, CCRP, CERP will present an overview of Physical Therapy techniques used to treat dogs, horses and even cats.

2 - 3 pm

### **How Sweet It Is! Webster**

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. *Wendy Booth*, 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.

4 - 6 pm

### **Chain Saw Maintenance Hale**

An Expo classic session! You will learn safe tree cutting, saw handling, and maintenance tips. Bring your own saw and ask questions!

5:15 - 6 pm

### **Public Meeting Pierce**

Come learn how the NH Farm & 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.

6 - 8 pm

### **Annual Awards Ceremony & Celebration Armory**

Join us as we celebrate 30 years of the Expo!

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 welcome 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

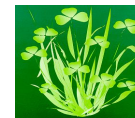


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table, plus to understand the equipment needed. This special workshop is geared to first-timers and beginner maplers having less than 75 taps. All aspects of maple sugaring will be covered, including tree identification and tapping, collecting and 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 installation 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

# Northeast Pasture Consortium News Meeting Update January 2013

## Linking Graziers, Researchers, Extension, and Technicians

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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

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 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 savings utilizing grazing management practices.

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## 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.**