

Farmer-To-Farmer Discussion Group for Organic and Conventional Dairy and Livestock Farmers -- Brattleboro Region

Nobody understands farming better than farmers. They are working day in and day out to address the many challenges and opportunities in cutting production costs, trying out new ideas and improving the bottom line on their farms.

NOFA Vermont's Dairy and Livestock Technical Assistance Program is beginning a long-term effort to provide support for dairy and livestock farmers in forming Farmer-To-Farmer Discussion Groups in all regions of Vermont. These groups will enable conventional and organic farmers to regularly come together to share ideas and learn more about topics of interest -- herd health and nutrition, grazing and crop management, housing, nutrient management, meat and milk quality, business planning, energy efficiency, and more. NOFA-VT's Dairy & Livestock Program farm advisors will assist the on-going work of groups -- scheduling meetings, discussion planning, locating resources and following up with participants who would like on-farm technical assistance.

NOFA Vermont has scheduled a Discussion Group meeting for dairy and non-dairy livestock farmers in the Brattleboro region. At the meeting farmers will develop ideas for organizing their group and identify topics of interest. *Those who attend this meeting are not obligated to participate in future Discussion Group meetings or activities.* Lunch will be provided.

MONDAY, MARCH 29, 12:30-2:30 PM. LILAC RIDGE FARM, BRATTLEBORO (Ross Thurber and Amanda Ellis-Thurber) Tele: 802-257-0985. *All dairy farmers **and** non-dairy livestock farmers, conventional and organic, in Vermont and neighboring states are invited.* (Directions: Exit 2 on I 91 take right on route 9 west; 1.5 miles take Greenleaf St. on left (just after 7-11 store); 1.5 miles on Greenleaf at sharp turn go straight onto Ames Hill Road. Farm is a half mile on the left.)

For more information contact Sam Fuller, NOFA Vermont (sam@nofavt.org, 434-4122), or the Thurbers. If you plan to attend, please let NOFA or the Thurbers know several days in advance so that we can be sure to have enough lunches prepared.

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91 take right on route 9 west; 1.5 miles take Greenleaf St. on left (just after 7-11 store);
1.5 miles on Greenleaf at sharp turn go straight onto Ames Hill Road. Lilac Ridge Farm
is a half mile on the left.)

All conventional and organic dairy farmers and non-dairy livestock farmers in Vermont and neighboring states are invited to a Farmer-To-Farmer Discussion Group meeting in the Brattleboro region. Farmers who attend will develop plans for future Discussion Group meetings and identify topics of interest to focus on, e.g., animal health and nutrition, housing, nutrient management, grazing and crop management, meat and milk quality, business and enterprise planning, energy efficiency and more. The meeting will be facilitated by farm advisors from NOFA Vermont's Dairy and Livestock Technical Assistance Program, who will assist the on-going work of the group -- scheduling meetings, discussion planning, locating resources and following up with any farmers who would like on-farm technical assistance. *Note: Those who attend this meeting are not obligated to participate in future Discussion Group meetings or activities.* Lunch will be provided

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