

Dear NODPA member,

Over the past three years the University of New Hampshire has been conducting research on the impacts of kelp meal on performance and health of dairy cattle. We would like now to examine the on-farm use of kelp meal in the Northeast. By completing the following survey you will be providing us with essential information about the demographics and feeding practices related to kelp meal supplementation. In addition, this survey will provide you with an opportunity to share with us any questions, comments or concerns you have about feeding kelp meal to dairy cattle. Please mail back your responses using the pre-addressed and pre-paid envelope.

Your answers are essential for us to plan future studies. Our goal is to provide northeastern farmers with scientific-based information to enhance your ability to raise healthy, productive animals while managing a profitable business and providing the consumer with high quality dairy products. Results from the survey will be used to direct future grant proposals involving on-farm research. ***This brief survey should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete.*** Thank you for your time!

By completing and returning this survey, you are giving us permission to use your responses. Your identity will be protected throughout our research. Direct quotations may be used but with all identifying information removed. If you have any questions about the research study or survey please contact: Dr. André F. Brito (Assistant Professor of Organic Dairy Management) via email (andre.brito@unh.edu) or phone (603 862-1341).

1. I understand that my consent to participate in this project is completely voluntary and that I may discontinue my participation at any time.
2. I understand the scope, aims, and purpose of this study, the procedures to be followed, and the expected duration of my participation.
3. I understand the use of human subjects in this project has been approved by the University of New Hampshire Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects in Research.
4. I understand that the investigator plans to maintain confidentiality of all data associated with participants. No data (aggregate or otherwise) will be shared with anyone and direct quotes used in any publications will be stripped of any individual identity.
5. I understand that this project is not expected to present any greater risk of loss of my personal privacy than I would encounter in everyday life when sending and/or receiving information over the Internet or through the US Mail. Further, I should understand that any form of communication over the Internet does carry a minimal risk of loss of confidentiality.
6. I understand that I will not be provided financial incentive for my participation by the University of New Hampshire.
7. I understand that I will have an opportunity to read a summary of the study's findings at the conclusion of my involvement in this project if I so desire.
8. I understand that if I have questions about my rights as a participant in this study I may discuss those issues with a member of the Institutional Review Board (Dr. Julie Simpson, 603 862-2003)

By returning this survey, you certify that you have read and fully understand the purpose of this research and indicate your consent/agreement to participate in this research project.

Farm Name:

Contact person's name:

Contact person's title on farm (owner, herdsman, farm staff etc.):

1. In what state is your operation/business located?

- Connecticut
- Massachusetts
- Maine
- New Hampshire
- New York
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- Vermont
- Other (please specify) _____

2. How many cows do you currently milk? _____

3. How many years have you been milking cows on this farm? _____

4. Which dairy cow breed or breeds or crossbreeds are you currently milking?

5. Are you certified organic? Circle answer:

YES

NO

a. If yes how many years have you been certified? _____

6. Are you currently feeding kelp meal on your farm? Circle answer:

YES

NO

7. What brand of kelp meal are you feeding?

8. What animals are you supplementing with kelp meal? Circle all that apply:

Calves Heifers Lactating cows Dry cows Others: _____

9. How are you supplementing kelp meal? Circle all that apply

Top-dressed Free choice Other: _____

10. If top-dressed: How much are you providing per head?

11. If free choice: How many animals have access to kelp?

How often is kelp offered?

How much kelp is added every time?

12. Why did you decide to feed kelp meal on your farm?

13. Do you feel kelp meal has made a difference on your farm?

14. Please list any questions or concerns about kelp meal:

Thank you for your time!