

## **NODPA's 3rd Annual Field Days and Producer Meeting**

Producer Annual Meeting: Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 6-9 PM

Field Days: August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2003 from 9 AM – 4 PM

**Both** at Bull Ridge Farm in Albion, Maine

The Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance (NODPA) will be holding its 3rd annual field days event and producer meeting in central Maine this year. Henry Perkins and Henrietta Beaufait, organic dairy producers, will be hosting the event at their Farm in Albion on Friday & Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>.

All Northeast organic milk producers are invited and encouraged to attend the Annual Producer Meeting August 22<sup>nd</sup>. By-laws will be approved, nominations made for officers, and other business matters will be discussed. The meeting will be followed by a lobster fest.

**Pre-registration for the annual meeting is required.**

The Field Day on August 23<sup>rd</sup> is open to producers, resource people and other interested parties. The day will start with opening remarks by one or more of NODPA's farmer representatives covering NODPA's year in review and thoughts for future directions. The day's first educational session will be led by Anne Lazor and Henrietta Beaufait. Discussion will focus on methods of dry off and reproductive problems. Anne is co-owner of Butterworks Farm organic dairy and has extensive knowledge and experience in alternative treatments for dairy animals including homeopathy, herbs and nutritional supplements. Henrietta is a naturopathic veterinarian in Maine, focusing on homeopathy and works with Henry on overall herd health and management.

Jerry Brunetti will follow this session with information pertaining to soil quality. Jerry is managing director of Agri-Dynamics, a 22 year old firm that specializes in the formulation and production of products for farm and livestock as well as pests. He consults on wide-ranging topics and contends that there are curiously similar dynamics at work though nature and across breeds. Jerry works with such materials as seaweeds, herbs, enzymes, probiotics, vitamins, chelated minerals, "rare-earth" minerals and more.

Lunch will be local, organic fare with plenty of time to discuss the morning sessions. This will be an opportunity for farmers to network with farmers from other states and discuss local and regional problems and opportunities. There will also be a tradeshow with approved products for animal health care, fencing supplies, and other milking and farm equipment. This midday break will be an opportunity to meet and network with local and non-local producers, learn about resources and resource people in the organic dairy industry, provide feedback on NODPA's direction, and enjoy local, organic food.

The afternoon session will focus on alternative forage systems. Jack Lazor will share his experiences growing barley, oats, alfalfa, and green manure crops. A diverse forage program offers a diverse diet and more variables for nutritional needs and ration balancing. It also offers some insurance during years of specific crop failure. Jack's talk will be followed by a pasture walk. Henry will share his ideas on pasturing, crops, and nutrition. He will show us his sorghum sudan, alfalfa, and corn fields, as well as share what experience has taught him about growing corn organically.

For more information, or to receive a Field Days Brochure, contact Lisa McCrory: 802-728-4416 , email: [lmccrory@together.net](mailto:lmccrory@together.net) or Stephanie Meyers at the NOFA-VT office; 802-434-4122. The brochure will be available on our web site very soon! [www.organicmilk.org](http://www.organicmilk.org) or [www.nodpa.com](http://www.nodpa.com) .

