

NODPA



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Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance 6th Annual Field Days Event August 18 & 19, 2006 at the Organic Dairy Research Farm, Durham, UNH

Too much organic milk or not enough; organic standards are being flouted or interpreted strictly by family farmers; is this the silver bullet for New England dairy farmers or just more of the same. Join the people that do the work as they discuss, debate and plan for the future of organic dairying in the Northeast

NODPA's Field Days will be held at Huddleston Hall, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH. Dairy farmers and supporters will be welcomed by **Bill Trumble, Dean College of Life Science and Agriculture, UNH, Steve Kerr, Vermont Secretary of Agriculture Food and Markets; Ned Porter, Maine Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources and Steve Taylor, New Hampshire Commissioner of Agriculture, Markets and Food.** There will be presentations from **Mark Bradley, Associate Deputy Administrator for the National Organic Program (NOP), USDA; Dr Hubert Karreman, VMD, and member of the NOP National Organic Standards Board and Gary Zimmer, president, Midwestern Bio-Ag.**

"This is a critical time for the organic dairy industry," says Maine farmer and president of NODPA, Steve Morrison, "and this two day event will educate us all about what the future holds; how we can participate in decision making and influence the future of our industry. It promises to be a lively couple of days filled with information, discussion, education and networking."

The event kicks off on Friday afternoon, August 18th, with a tour of the new UNH Organic Dairy Research Farm with Chuck Schwab, Professor of Dairy Nutrition, UNH, and Kevin Brussell, Farm Manager, who previously worked on his family's fifth-generation, 500-acre Illinois farm. They will share their vision for this exciting project as they guide the tour around the two adjoining UNH-owned farms, the Burley-Demeritt Farm and the Bartlett-Dudley Farm. Together, the two farms provide over 130 acres of cropland and over 170 acres of woods, trails and permanent pasture, of which 215 acres are certified organic. New facilities will include a milking center with parlor and holding area, a pack barn for 80 cows, a small feed mill attached to a 3-sided shed for equipment, feed and bedding storage, and a small loafing shed for the heifers' winter housing.

On Friday evening, after socializing and a great dinner, **NODPA President, Steve Morrison** will introduce **Steve Kerr, Vermont Secretary, of Agriculture Food and Markets and Ned Porter, Maine Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources** who will speak on the great work that organic dairies are doing in their states. The keynote speaker for the evening will be **Mark Bradley, Associate Deputy Administrator for the National Organic Program (NOP), USDA.** He is responsible for the development and maintenance of the U.S. National Organic Standards and the accreditation of private and government organizations that certify organic producers and handlers for the USDA. Mark will speak about the work he does and how he sees the future for the program; the need for clarity in rule making and the need to work together to enforce high standards. He is even brave enough to take questions!

NODPA's annual meeting will follow the keynote speech and is restricted to organically certified and transitional dairy farmers, and excludes all processors and consumers. NODPA members will talk freely with each other about

their concerns and give direction to the NODPA Board. During the annual meeting, NODPA members will be informed of the past year's activities and encouraged to give feedback on ways in which the organization can better represent their interests. Ed Maltby, NODPA Executive Director, will then moderate a discussion that will set the priorities for the coming year.

Saturday proceedings start at 9:00 am with a welcome by **New Hampshire Commissioner of Agriculture, Markets and Food, Steve Taylor**, and **USDA Associate Deputy Administrator Mark Bradley**.

Following the welcome, nationally-recognized Lancaster County PA dairy practitioner, **Dr Hubert Karreman, VMD**, will talk about the natural treatment of cows. Hue, who also serves on the National Organic Standards Board, and his wife Becky, run Penn Dutch Cow Care, a practice dedicated to working with dairy farmers who are ecologically motivated and who prefer natural treatments for their cows. Karreman's experience in agriculture spans 20 years, and encompasses soil science, soil conservation, cropping, and management of intensive grazing. His interest in complementary and alternative treatments stems from his six month tenure as herdsman on Seven Stars Farm, a Biodynamic farm in Kimberton, PA.

Gary Zimmer, president, Midwestern Bio-Ag, Spring Green, Wis., will follow Hue and will talk about how healthy soils produce healthy feed for healthy livestock, and will offer practical ideas on what works well in New England. Gary is a farmer, author, agri-businessman and educator dedicated to biological agriculture. Raised on a Wisconsin dairy farm, he studied dairy nutrition, earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin and a master's degree from the University of Hawaii, combined with years of hands-on farming experience. For the past 25 years, Gary has been evaluating farming practices as a consultant, on his family's farm, and as president of Midwestern Bio-Ag, a biological farming consulting company located in Blue Mounds, Wis. He operates the Bio-Ag Learning Center, where biological farming practices and agricultural products are field tested. The Zimmer family owns and operates Otter Creek Organic Farm, which includes a 150-cow organic dairy herd and utilizes the ideas Gary has gleaned over a lifetime spent studying agriculture.

After a deli-style lunch, attendees will travel to the Stonyfield Farm facility for a tour hosted by **Nancy Hirschberg, Vice President of Natural Resources** for Stonyfield Farm. Nancy enjoys her direct contact with the dairy farmers who supply Stonyfield, and she considers this the best part of her job. "They keep me grounded, give me hope and inspire me!" she says of the farmers. The group will watch a short (6 min) video and have ice cream and then tour the plant. The afternoon will end with a presentation/discussion in the Visitors Center with **Diane Carhart**, Stonyfield Farm Chief Operating Officer, **Rolf Carlson**, Stonyfield Farm VP of Purchasing, and **Nancy Hirschberg**, Vice President of Natural Resources, Stonyfield Farm, Inc.

This year's event is sponsored by **Horizon Organic, Organic Valley Family of Farms, Stonyfield Farm Inc, OCPP/Pro-Cert Canada Inc and Lakeview Organic Grain.**

Supporters

NODPA thanks the supporters of the Field Days: Don Faulkner and friends; HP Hood LLC; River Valley Fencing; PA Certified Organic; Upstate Farms Cooperative; NOFA VT; Acres USA; Dairy Marketing Services; Fertrell and NOFA/NY.

For more information:

Ed Maltby, NODPA Executive Director,

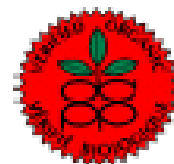
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<http://www.nodpa.com/2006fielddays.pdf>

NODPA Field Day Sponsors



What is NODPA?

The mission of NODPA: **enable organic dairy family farmers, situated across an extensive area, to have informed discussion about matters critical to the well being of the organic dairy industry as a whole.**

NODPA is the largest grassroots organic dairy farmer organization in the country that is dedicated to organic dairy farmers' interests, not to creating new bureaucracy. It is not aligned with any one processor or cooperative and is therefore able to represent the views of many different farmers.

- NODPA is able to promote the interest of all organic farmers in the northeast without favoring any one production system that meets USDA organic standards.
- By logging onto the ODAIRY and OMILK list serve, farmers can share information and make up their own minds on different issues.
- The annual NODPA Field Days provide an educational setting with good food and good company.

By supporting NODPA you will:

1. Be supporting family dairy farms in the northeast that farm organically.
2. Support farmers' ability to network, and to exchange ideas, information and news
3. Be an active part of an organization that represents all organic dairy farmers in the northeast.

NODPA started in February 2001 at a summit meeting of organic dairy producers in the Northeast. These producers came together to discuss critical issues within the organic dairy industry including maintaining a sustainable milk price, the National Organic Program, alternative milk markets, and building effective communication lines between fellow producers in the Northeast and beyond. Since that first meeting, NODPA has:

- Created effective farmer networking on a state by state and northeast level.
- Opened and maintained lines of communication with farmers, processors, industry representatives, and the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB).
- Participated in national meetings and is assisting with the creation of regional organic dairy producer organizations.
- Organized Annual Field Days Events and Producer meetings.
- Created and published the *NODPA News* quarterly newsletter that goes out to over 800 members.
- Created and moderated Odairy, the organic dairy electronic discussion group, with over 750 members. Become an Odairy subscriber, send an email to: odairy-subscribe@yahooogroups.com
- Developed a continually updated web site filled with resources including educational information on animal health and grazing management, industry news, certification, classifieds, calendar events, and a business directory. (www.organicmilk.org, www.nodpa.com)
- Worked to ensure that organic dairy Standards stay strong to uphold consumer expectations and to disallow animal factories in organic dairy production.
- Administered producer surveys providing information on pay price of milk, cost of purchased feeds, pasture use and feedback on important issues.