

NODPA NEWS

Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance

CONTENTS:

NOVEMBER 2003

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4

WWW.NODPA.COM

Organic Industry News



Organic Industry News

Horizon Sales Increase 1

Send Letter to NOP re: 1
organic dairy replacements

Organic Valley/ CROPP 1
3rd Quarter Update

Position Statement on 2
Dairy Replacements

Hudson Institute, 3
Seal of Approval

Producer and Organic 4
Integrity Part 2

Organic Certifying Agen- 6
cies in the Northeast

Organic Production



Feature Farm: 9
Chase Hill Dairy Farm

Report on NODPA 11
Field Days

Dear Jim: Alternative 14
Health Care Answers

Find or Sell Organic 15
Livestock or Feed

No-Bloat Legume 16
Alternative

Net Update



Calves with their mothers 17

NODPA Reps 17

Calendar 18

Resources 19

Classifieds, hats, t-shirts 20

Organic Valley/CROPP Cooperative 3rd Quarter Update

By Theresa Marquez, OV

Organic Valley sales for the first nine months of 2003 have increased 25% to \$113 million dollars. Third quarter 2003 sales were \$39.2 million. In the Northeast sales increased by 34% outpacing the national average. Much of the growth is attributed to the locally produced New England Pastures (fluid milk).

The Cooperative added over 100 farmers in 2003 to a total of 650 farmer/owners. Total number of farmers in New England (does not include New York and Pennsylvania) total 80 family farmers. Our farmer determined pay price strategy has resulted in the highest pay price to farmers in the country.

Third quarter's most exciting development was the introduction of Organic Valley single serve already available in four different schools and several school vending machine programs. We are excited about the new organic frontier of food service.

The Cooperative is experiencing strong growth in the 4th quarter and expects to beat both sales and profit goals for the year. Given the atmosphere of merger mania and the trend toward organic businesses being swallowed up by the giant corporations, Organic Valley is proud to be one of the few organic companies still independent and deeply committed to the environment and healthy communities.

Dear NODPA Members,

Included with this newsletter are two letters addressed to the National Organic Program regarding organic dairy replacements. It was determined at the NODPA annual meeting that EVERY producer present felt that all dairy livestock should be raised organically from the last third of gestation once a farm is certified organic. If you agree with the content of this letter, PLEASE sign the letters and send or fax one copy to the NOP and send one copy to NODPA. Return addresses are included on the back side of the letters so fold, stamp and send. Thank you! Your voice really matters.

Horizon Organic Sales Increased 18 Percent in Third Quarter

Boulder, CO., Nov. 3, 2003 /PRNews-wire-FirstCall/ -- Horizon Organic Holding Corporation (Nasdaq: HCOV), which markets the leading brand of certified organic foods in the United States, grew sales 18 percent to \$56 million during the third quarter of 2003, compared with the third quarter of 2002.

Highlights for the third quarter included:

* An 18 percent increase in U.S. milk sales due to increased distribution and strong promotion results. This includes the continued expansion of large size milk distribution. Gallon sales now account for 37 percent of Horizon Organic

(Continued on page 5)

Position Statement on Organic Dairy Replacements (Origin of Dairy Livestock)

Northeast Organic Dairy
Producers Alliance (NODPA)
Attn: NOFA-VT PO Box 697
Richmond, VT 05477
802-434-4122, www.nodpa.com

Mr Richard Mathews
National Organic Program Manager
Fax #: 202-205-7808
September 30, 2003

The Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance, NODPA, held its annual meeting on August 22, 2003 in Albion, Maine. There were over 75 farmers representing organic dairy producers in the Northeast in attendance at this meeting. States represented at the meeting included Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Vermont, and Maine. As a group we represent over 350 organic dairy farmers. A vote was taken at the meeting on the issue of organic dairy replacements and the vote was unanimous in support of the last third of gestation for all dairy herd replacements and in support of all organic dairy farmers working under the same set of standards.

As representatives of organic dairy farmers in the Northeast, we strongly disagree with the NOP's current interpretation of origin of dairy livestock. We believe that the contradiction in the Rule regarding dairy replacements was an oversight during the assembly of the Final Rule and that the mistake should

be corrected to be in line with the intent stated in the Preamble. The language in the preamble of the NOP Rule is perfectly clear in requiring all livestock to be raised organically from the last third of gestation once a farm is certified organic as opposed to the current NOP interpretation which allows the "buying in" of conventional heifers and managing them organically for twelve months. With its current interpretation, we feel that the NOP has neglected to act on substantial public and NOSB input in regards to all herd replacements being organic from the last third of gestation.

We also strongly object to the double standard resulting from NOP's current position. This results in the lack of equal protection for organic dairy producers. All organic dairy producers should have a level playing field and the same set of standards, regardless of their date or method of certification.

Sincerely,

Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance
(NODPA) Representatives listed below:

Arden Landis, organic dairy producer, PA
Roman Stoltzfoos, organic dairy producer, PA
Dave Johnson, organic dairy producer, PA
Jim Gardiner, organic dairy producer, NY
Siobhan Griffin, organic dairy producer, NY
John Stoltzfus, organic dairy producer, NY
Ted Yandow, organic dairy producer, VT
Annie Claghorn, organic dairy producer, VT
Lisa McCrory, NOFA-VT., VT
Rick Segalla, organic dairy producer, CT
Henry Perkins, organic dairy producer, ME
Steven Russell, organic dairy producer, ME
Steve Morrison, organic dairy producer, ME
Diane Schivera, MOFGA, ME
Ron Kirk, organic grain grower, NY
Kevin Brussell / Midwest Organic Farmers Coop, IL
Brian Caldwell, NOFA-NY, NY

*Cc: George Siemon, NOSB Livestock Committee
Chair*



LAKEVIEW ORGANIC GRAIN
High Quality Certified Organic Feed and Seed

We specialize in Custom Feed Mixes for all YOUR feed needs

Certified Organic Feed - dairy, calf, chicken, turkey, pig,
sheep, goat, whole grains, bulk or bagged, delivery available

Certified Organic seed - barley, oats, wheat, triticale, rye,
red clover, field peas, OP & hybrid corn, soybeans, buckwheat,
alfalfa, assorted pasture grasses and legumes

Crystal Creek Natural Animal Health Care Products

Conscientious Attention to YOUR Certified Organic Requirements

Lakeview Organic Grain LLC
Box 361, 119 Hamilton Place
Penn Yan, NY 14527
315-531-1038
kandmhfarm@sprintmail.com

** From Northeast organic farmers to Northeast organic farmers **

NORTHEAST ORGANIC DAIRY PRODUCERS ALLIANCE

MISSION STATEMENT

To enable organic family dairy 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.

New Seal of Approval as Alternative to Organic Label

CHICAGO, Oct. 29 /PRNewswire/ -- The Hudson Institute's Center for Global Food Issues (CGFI) will preview its new "Earth Friendly/Farm Friendly" Seal of Approval project to the food and dairy industry this week at the Worldwide Food Expo in Chicago. A farm and environment friendly seal of approval offered as an alternative to organic and other production-related niche marketing, the CGFI seal will assure consumers that products bearing the seal are produced in a manner consistent with the best available scientific, health, environmental and quality standards and technologies.

Designed in conjunction with independent academic, consumer and farm policy and practice experts, the program will certify farm and process management practices that are verifiable as both farm and environmentally friendly. The certification program is based on the adoption of environmentally sound and economically sustainable practices.

"Unlike other certification programs that limit and restrict a farmer's choices and significantly increase consumer costs, "Earth Friendly/Farm Friendly" offers farmers more choices that do not add significant costs for consumers," said Alex Avery, Director of research at CGFI. "The program is intended to provide farmers with information and tools to produce more food per acre, leaving more room for nature, using techniques and practices which have been scientifically proven and endorsed by experts."

The "Earth Friendly/Farm Friendly" concept grew out of CGFI's High Yield Conservation Campaign. This campaign, launched in Spring 2001, was created to educate farmers, policy makers and the public about the need to grow more food per acre using high yielding techniques, in order to leave more room for nature and conserve precious natural resources. Supporters of that campaign include Nobel Prize Laureate and Green Revolution leader Dr. Norman Borlaug; Greenpeace founder Patrick Moore; World Conservation Trust president Eugene Lapointe; Nobel Laureate Oscar Arias; World Food Prize laureate Per Pinstrup-

Anderson; and former US Senators George McGovern and Rudy Boschwitz. CGFI is launching this program with a pilot project in the dairy industry and is currently soliciting producers, processors and retailers interested in providing their customers with this Earth Friendly/ Farm Friendly marketing tool. During the first year of the pilot, CGFI will work with dairy producers, processors, retailers and consumers to formalize standards

and create consumer awareness that will provide real value to farmers, consumers and the environment. An advisory panel, comprised of academic experts, public policy, industry and consumer representatives will review feedback at the end of this pilot to ensure the ongoing value and credibility of the seal of approval.

"We are currently consulting with the US Department of Agriculture to include our certification plan and the elements required of dairy producers in the USDA's Agricultural Process Verification Program," said advisory panel member Graydon Forrer, former director of consumer affairs for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. "CGFI wants to provide farmers with the best high yield conservation practices and provide retailers and consumers with useful information about dairy products and dairy production practices."

CGFI is a project of the Hudson Institute, a tax-exempt non-profit public policy organization, providing factual, science-based information on important food and farming issues.

Who is the Hudson Institute Who is Rolling Out This New Seal of Approval?

The Hudson Institute is a neo-conservative "think-tank" that is funded by giant food companies Cargill, ConAgra, H.J. Heinz, McDonalds and Philip Morris, the chemical transnationals Ciba-Geigy, Bristol Myers Squibb, Dow Elanco, Du Pont and Procter and Gamble, and last but not far from least, the genetic engineering leaders Zeneca and Monsanto, among many other giant pharmaceutical, chemical and petroleum companies.

The Hudson Institute serves as a public relations front for these companies as they attempt to influence public policies and opinions (under the guise of applied research). The Hudson Institute puts a great deal of money, time and effort into discrediting and downplaying issues or policies that threaten the bottom lines of the corporations that fund it. You can visit the Hudson Institute's website here: <http://www.hudson.org/>

The Hudson Institute tries very hard to present themselves as an unbiased, research-oriented organization, although nothing could be further from the truth. To learn more about who really is behind the Hudson Institute and other right-wing think tanks try this article from the People for the American Way: www.pfaw.org/pfaw/general/default.aspx?oid=2060
(Excerpted from "The Facts Behind 'Stop Labeling Lies' and the Hudson Institute" by Joe Pedretti, NODPA News, August 2003)

Browse, Shop, Learn & Save Online

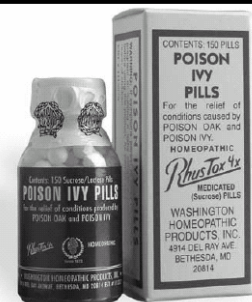
We Service All Your Homeopathic Needs

Washington Homeopathic Products, Inc.



For Your Free Catalog or Orders

Call 1-800-336-1695



www.homeopathyworks.com

Producer and Organic Integrity Part 2

By Kathie Arnold

Maintaining the integrity of organic products from production on the farm and beyond is so important in retaining the confidence of our customers. We all need to be vigilant in helping to uphold the credibility of certified organic production. The November 2002 issue of NODPA News featured Part 1 of *Producer and Organic Integrity*. In that article, NOFA-VT, NOFA-NY, PCO, ICS/FVO and GOA answered four questions on certification compliance. Four more certification agencies (QAI, OCCP, MOFGA, and OTCO) were recently contacted and asked to answer the same four questions. Only Chris Schreiner from OTCO (Oregon Tilth) has currently responded to the request. Following is Chris' reply.

What should producers do if they hear of or know of other certified organic producers who are not following Standards?

Anyone who knows or suspects certified producers are violating organic standards should submit a written complaint to the producer's certification agent. Complaints submitted to certification agents should provide as much detail and supporting evidence as possible concerning the alleged violation. If the complaining party is not satisfied with the diligence of the certification agent responding to the complaint, they should subsequently submit their complaint to the USDA NOP.

What would you as a certifier do if you were told that talk was circulating that Producer X was violating Standards, such as using antibiotics or buying conventional grain?

OTCO's procedures for responding to alleged violations of the standards require a formal investigation of all written complaints. Depending on the nature of the complaint, the investigation may include requesting documentation from the producer, an unannounced inspection and/or lab analysis of tissue/soil. OTCO communicates to the complaining party the resolution of formal investigations to the extent possible while adhering to the confidentiality requirements of the NOP.

OTCO will take "talk" of violations into consideration. OTCO may pursue non-written complaints in a number of ways such as contacting the producer, conducting an unannounced inspection or highlighting the concern for review during the next scheduled inspection. OTCO determines the appropriate course of ac-

tion for non-written complaints based on a number of variables such as source and trustworthiness of the complaint as well as the producer's certification history (previous noncompliances and/or complaints).


Is the name of the person making the complaint kept confidential?

OTCO does not disclose the name of the person making a complaint against a certified producer unless legally required to do so.

Additional comments:

If OTCO finds adequate evidence that a violation has occurred, then OTCO notifies the producer by following due process as outlined in §205.662. This process provides the producer with the opportunity to rebut or correct identified non-compliances and request mediation or file appeal of proposed suspension or revocation. Accordingly, enforcement action (such as suspension or revocation) against producers in violation of the standards is not always immediate because the producer has a right to due process.

However, any willful violations of the standards perpetrated by a producer prior to certification suspension or revocation are still subject to civil penalties (not more than \$10,000 per violation).




**WE'D RATHER PRESERVE THE PLANET
THAN OUR YOGURT.**

We make our yogurt the best way we know how: with a family recipe that calls for only all natural and organic ingredients. And because we believe healthy food only comes from a healthy planet, we give back to the earth that's given us so much.

Stonyfield Farm donates 10% of our profits to causes that restore the earth. And we support family farmers who pledge not to use synthetic bovine growth hormone on their cows. This commitment to the environment is shared by our people and our customers.

Jerry Hirsch



Organic Vending Machines Replacing Junk Food in Schools

Organic food companies are now testing vending machines in high schools. Perched next to the Coke and Doritos machines at Cranston High School West in Rhode Island, is a new vending machine with soy chips, rice snack bars and organic yogurt. Stonyfield Farm, an organic dairy product producer, has placed similar machines in schools on both US coasts. Attesting to the overall potential of these programs, Gary Hirshberg, CEO of Stonyfield said, "This could be the tip of the iceberg." Profits are divided between the schools and machine operators.

Survey Says...

A recent survey funded by the USDA (released 10/15/03) found that 94% of Americans want labels on genetically engineered (GE) foods. Of those surveyed 74% weren't aware they had ever eaten any foods with GE ingredients, despite the fact that 80% of foods on US supermarket shelves do contain genetically modified organisms.

www.organicconsumers.org/ge/newpoll102303.cfm

(Horizon, Continued from page 1)

milk sales to a major customer in the southwest and that business is all incremental.

- * A 40 percent increase in single serve milk sales over the prior quarter, due largely to the expanded distribution at Costco. Costco also is testing 12-pack yogurt in Southern California.
- * Initial shipments of Horizon Organic Infant Formula to western markets in September.
- * Shipments of new multi-pack baby and kids' yogurts and yogurt tubes in August.

Chuck Marcy, CEO said that the Company's new product introductions and expanded distribution should continue to support 20 to 25 percent sales growth for the remainder of the year. In looking toward 2004, Marcy said he is very excited about the potential for Horizon Organic, especially once the Dean Foods merger is concluded.

"From the Dawn of Creation . . ."

Introducing Geothermically Produced

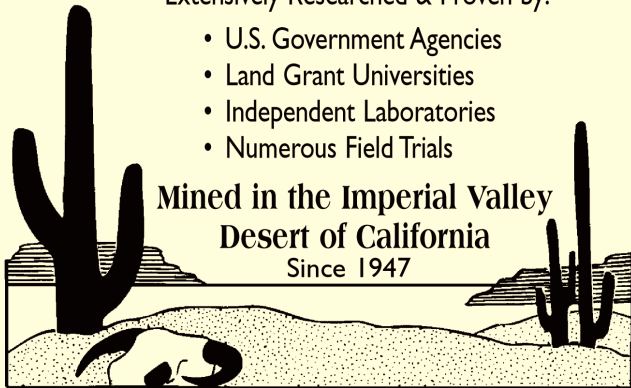
DESERT DYNA-MIN

**ALL-Natural Researched & Proven
Colloidal Trace Mineral Supplement
for all Livestock, Pets & Crops**

Extensively Researched & Proven by:

- U.S. Government Agencies
- Land Grant Universities
- Independent Laboratories
- Numerous Field Trials

Mined in the Imperial Valley
Desert of California
Since 1947

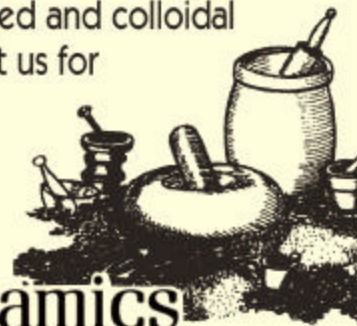


agri·dynamics P.O. Box 735 • Easton, Pennsylvania 18044
(610) 250-9280, Fax (610) 250-0935



Animal Remedies from Nature

Since 1979, Agri-Dynamics has been producing natural formulations for livestock, equine, pets and aqua-culture using the finest botanicals, essential oils, nutrients, chelated and colloidal minerals. Contact us for additional information and a free catalog.



agri·dynamics

P.O. Box 735 • Easton, PA 18044
(610) 250-9280, Fax (610) 250-0935

Organic Certifying Agencies in the Northeast

Connecticut Department of Agriculture

Contact: Richard Macsuga
Richardmacsuga@po.state.ct.us

GOA (Global Organic Alliance)

PO Box 530
Bellefontaine, OH 43311
phone: 937-593-1232
fax: 937-593-9507
email: kananen@logan.net

ICS / FVO (International Certification Services, Inc. / Farm Verified Organic)

301 5th Ave SE
Medina, ND 58467 USA
Telephone: 701-486-3578
Fax: +701-486-3580
E-mail: info@ics-int.com
Website: www.ics-intl.com

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Contact: Valerie Frances
Email: francevl@mda.state.md.us

Massachusetts Independent Certification

As of 1/1/04 name changes to:

Baystate Organic Certifiers

683 River St.
Winchendon, MA 01475
Phone: 978-297-4171
Email: dfranczyk@starpower.net
Website: www.nofamass.org

MOFGA Certification Services, LLC (Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association)

PO Box 170
Unity, ME 04988
phone: 207-568-4142
fax: 207-568-4141
email: certification@mofga.org
Website: www.mofga.org

Natural Food Certifiers (NFC)

Suite 136 648 Central Park Avenue
Scarsdale, New York 10583
Email: NATFCERT@aol.com

New Hampshire Department of Agriculture

PO Box 2042
Concord, NH 03302
Contact: Vicky Smith
Email: vsmith@agr.state.nh.us

NOFA-CT

PO Box 386
Northford, CT 06472
Phone: 203-484-2445
Fax: 203-484-7621
Email: nofact@connix.com
Website: www.connix.com/~nofact/

NOFA-NJ

60 S. Main St., P.O. Box 886
Pennington, NJ 08334
Phone: 609-737-6848
Fax: 609-737-2366
Email: nofainfo@nofanj.org
website: www.nofanj.org

NOFA-NY Certified Organic, LLC

840 Upper Front St
Binghamton, NY 13905
Phone: 607-724-9851
Fax: 607-724-9853
Email: certifiedorganic@nofany.org
Website: www.nofany.org

OCIA International (Organic Crop Improvement Association International)

6400 Cornhusker Hwy, Suite 125
Lincoln, NE 68507



The Fertrell Company

Since 1946

Where Quality comes "NATURALLY"

Organic Fertilizer

- Successful for all crops
- 100% safe for you and the environment
- Requires no special applications licensing or government controls

- Totally natural - Allows the plant to utilize nutrients without waste
- No toxic buildup or leaching
- Natural livestock feed programs

Grazer's Choice

FREE-CHOICE LIVESTOCK MINERAL

A Ready Mix of Kelp Meal, Soft Rock Phosphate (Feed Grade), TM Salt from Redmond Minerals, Vitamin E, Selenium and Diatomaceous Earth.
Highest Quality Ingredients! Custom blended so you don't have to!

Poultry Nutri-Balancer

Try our blended mineral pack and see:
Increased feed efficiency, decreased mortality,
increased weight gains and less leg problems.
This mineral also works for layers, ducks and turkeys.

P.O. Box 265 • Bainbridge, PA 17502

Phone (717) 367-1566 • Fax (717) 367-9319

(Continued on page 7)

Telephone: 401-477-2323

Fax: 402-477-4325

Email: info@ocia.org

Website: www.ocia.org

OCPP/Pro-Cert Inc. (Organic Crop Producers and Processors)

Eastern Affiliate (OCPP Ontario)

Lindsay, Ontario, Canada K9V 4R1

Phone: 877-867-4264 Toll Free in North America

Fax: 705-324-4829

Email: procertorganic@yahoo.com

Website: www.ocpro-certcanada.com

OEFFA Organic Certification (Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association)

9665 Kline Rd

West Salem, Ohio 44287

Phone: 419/853-4060

Email: organic@oeffa.com

OTCO (Oregon Tilth, Inc.)

470 Lancaster Dr. NE

Salem, OR 97301

Phone: 503-378-0690

Email: organic@tilth.org

Website: www.tilth.org

**More Organic Milk
Sought in Northeast**

Organic Valley/CROPP Cooperative continues to encourage dairy producers to transition to certified organic. Plans are to expand production in 2004 in the regions of Vermont and New York.

Please contact:

Tim Griffin at (888) 444-6455,
extension 285.

PCO (Pennsylvania Certified Organic)

406 S. Pennsylvania Ave

Centre Hall, PA 16828

Phone: 814-364-1344

Fax: 814-364-4431

Email: info@paorganic.org

Website: www.paorganic.org

QAI (Quality Assurance International)

432 Southview Drive

Richmond, VT 05477 USA

Tel: 802.434.5535

Fax: 802.434.6196

Website: www.qai-inc.com

Rhode Island Depart. of Environmental Mgmt

Contact: Dan Lawton

Email: dlawton@dem.state.ri.us

SCS (Stellar Certification Services)

Britt Road

Aurora, NY 13026

Phone: 315-364-5617

Fax: 315-364-5224

Email: SCS@baldcom.net

Virginia Dept of Ag and Consumer Services

Contact: Thomas H. Smith

Email: tsmith@vdac.state.va.us

VOF (Vermont Organic Farmers)

NOFA-VT

PO Box 697, Bridge St.

Richmond, VT 05477

Phone: 802-434-4122

Fax: 802-434-4154

Email: vof@nofavt.org

Website: www.nofavt.org



the natural choice for agriculture

**Nature's Finest
Animal Health Products**

A full line of effective nutraceuticals and livestock health programs for organic, grazing and conventional operations. Specializing in dairy cows, beef cows and calves.

Experienced Staff:
Livestock Nutritionist
Calf Specialist
Large Animal Veterinarian

Cow Tales Newsletter
Crystal Creek Catalog

Crystal Creek

A Division of Leiterman & Associates, Inc.
N9466 Lakeside Road, Trego, WI 54888

Call Toll Free: 1-888-376-6777

(Continued from page 16)

other legumes. The high protein content of this legume is due, in part, to the high leaf/stem ratio (40 percent higher than alfalfa), and its ability to hold its leaves during drying and baling. The moisture content of green forage of cicer milkvetch averages four to eight percent higher than alfalfa when harvested. In the Western part of the United States, drying time of the hay is about three days longer than other legumes. Turning the windrows can reduce the drying time by 30 percent to 50 percent.

Establishment

Why haven't you ever heard of cicer milkvetch? Although it has many desirable qualities, cicer milkvetch has not been widely adopted because most believe this crop is difficult to establish taking about three years to produce a good stand.

Many factors affect slow establishment of this crop. High proportion of seed with impermeable (hard) seed coat, relatively slow growth at seedling stage (poor seedling vigor), and inability to emerge from deep seeding have been recognized as reasons for slow stand establishment. Improved genetics and a new agronomic package devised at the Lethbridge Research Center in Alberta Canada have slashed establishment time dramatically. This new and effective protocol for seeding cicer milkvetch has enabled farmers to establish vigorous stands of cicer milkvetch in one season.

The agronomic program includes:

- * Planting an improved variety such as AC Oxley II
- * Using freshly inoculated, newly scarified seed.
- * Seeding cicer milkvetch alone or with grass, and avoiding a companion crop.
- * Seeding at a shallow depth into a clean, firm seedbed.
- * Fertilizing at seeding time based on soil tests.
- * Mowing when the crop is 10 to 12 inches tall, to ensure grass doesn't overtake the stand, eliminate annual weeds and encourage the cicer milkvetch to branch and spread.

Potential in the Northeast

As a long-lived, winter hardy, salt, acid, and drought tolerant and non-bloating species, its potential application to Northeast cropping systems appears feasible. At the present time, I am unaware of any record of cicer milkvetch production in the Northeast. Cicer milkvetch is grown extensively for grazing in the western United States and is being experimented with in the Midwest. I know of a few farmers who plan to try this forage in the coming growing season. Stay tune for more information on grower's experience with cicer milkvetch in 2004.

To learn more about cicer milkvetch feel free to contact Heather Darby at (802) 524- 6501 ext. 206.

ATTENTION!

ORGANIC LIVESTOCK CARETAKERS

You are required to provide Organic Livestock
with a feed ration containing sufficient Vitamins and Minerals
to meet all nutritional requirements.
(Livestock Healthcare Practice Standard 205.238(a)(2)-USDA-NOP)

Who Can Help You Meet These Requirements?





Featuring OMRI™ Listed Product Lines
for
Beef, Dairy, Poultry & Swine
Free Choice Individual Vitamins & Minerals,
Pre-Mix, Buffer, 2:1, 1:1, Hi Phos,
and Complete Feeds Available for Small Producers

WHO IS HELFTER FEEDS INC.?

Helfter Feeds Inc. has 35 YEARS experience in formulating
Supplements and Pre-Mixes for Organically Grown Crops and Chemical Free Livestock
Production (Antibiotic & Hormone Free).

Our Staff has over 148 YEARS combined experience in Nutritional Support for
Organic and Chemical Free Livestock Production.

WE WILL HELP YOU WITH YOUR NUTRITIONAL NEEDS

Bill Johnson (Ruminant Consultant)
Dennis Clark (Swine Consultant)
Gordon Jordahl (Organic Technical Advisor/Water Consultant)

Jay Wilson (Dairy, Beef, Swine Consultant)
Jeff Chrisler (Dairy, Beef, Buffalo Consultant)
Jim Helfter (Swine & Poultry Consultant)


136 N Railroad- PO Box 266 - Osco, Illinois 61274-0027

(USA) 800-373-5971 * 309-522-5505 * (Canada) 800-779-3959 * (Fax) 309-522-5570
www.ABCOrganic.com Helfter@netexpress.net www.HelfterFeeds.com
Certificates & Labels available upon request

MICROBIOTICS


Positive manure handling solutions.

Have This...
Get Gravity Gutters Moving Use
Waste-Away




Prevent Separation and Build-up,
Use... **Manu-Rx**

Not This...!!!



Reduce odors of manure up to 90%.
Use... **ActivAid**



Aaron Groff & Son LLC
103 Clearview Drive
Ephrata, Pa 17522 1-800-468-4909

Organic Production

Feature Farm

Imagination Is the Right Tool at Chase Hill Dairy Farm

By Jonathan von Ranson, Editor, NOFA/Mass News

Compared to many jobs, being a farmer sounds mighty good. But how about to be a small New England dairy farmer with your spouse as your partner, making a good living selling your organic milk, beef and homemade cheese locally, treating your animals and the land kindly, and—here's the crazy part—having the time to imagine running your milking equipment on *horse power*...?

Mark and Jeannette Fellows of Chase Hill Farm in Warwick are an anomaly in dairy farming. Yes, they're parents of two daughters, age 11 and 13, and they own 30 milking cows and 100 acres of rumpled hill-town terrain (not the sort their classmates from Cornell School of Agriculture, '84, are looking for).

But Chase Hill Farm is the only organic dairy in Massachusetts, and it is making a decent living. It's one of the six dairies in the Our Family Farms group, which through good marketing and a favorable arrangement with a processor is able to pay farmers a premium for their milk. And Jeannette has developed a cheese business with outlets at farmers' markets, farmstands and food markets. Mark and Jeannette feel they're continually advancing as land stewards and improving their operation—refining production, fine-tuning their market approach. In conversation with them, you pick up unusually high job satisfaction. Several times they mentioned they're finding the time to dream. By all signs, they're in "the zone" and, instead of struggling like a fish on a hook, sending dairy-farmer distress signals, they're weaving the strands of family and community security through their work and daily

lives.

They started right out of college, newly married, as classic, indebted new farmers. Early on, they attended a UVM dairy conference and took home a one-page handout about rotational grazing that seemed to make sense. Mark began moving his herd daily to new pasture, learning about pulsed grazing and its benefits to the land and the cows. This small step broke a piece of the New England farming mold Mark was born into, in which cows were kept on the same pasture for weeks. He remembers NOFA workshops around this time that offered intriguing techniques and paradigms that further

opened his thinking, often done during milking, leaning against the cow's warm flank. He decided to give up growing corn for silage, deciding "it's cheaper to buy it from the farms in the Valley" where it's easier to grow. But the economics of the Fellows' operation still didn't make sense. Like so many in their situation, they almost went under. "We were dying fast," Jeannette recalls.

Around 1990, Mark said, he noticed how "in summer, when the cows were on grass, the checkbook was overflowing. In the winter it was harder." After trying his brainstorm out on his vet (the vet playing Devil's advocate), "I decided to go seasonal."

Mark called that decision "the best thing I ever did," and said it had some interesting effects. "It made me like a big farmer. I have a big group of cows freshening at the same time, a big group of calves I'm raising of the same age. The cows come into heat about the same time, and, instead of watching them all year 'round, in May and June I take my granola into the field and watch them for signs of heat as I eat breakfast." In the late fall they're dried up all at once, and "Then I get four months off." (Maintaining a dry herd over the winter basically involves hauling hay and cleaning barn—easier than the summer regimen of milking, manure-spreading, breeding, fence-moving, haying).





After seasonal milking had settled into a pattern, “the next step was to become organic,” Mark said. “We were profitable selling commodity milk. It’s expensive to make the transition. We made the change because we could.”

Jeannette, a woman of enthusiasm and drive, credits her husband “being open to other people’s ideas” and her own desire to “do something on the farm” for their farm’s eventual track record of profitability. They talk of each other’s complementary talents: Jeannette’s the public one, the “scientific” one, Mark the observer and tracker of detail.

Mark, calm and plain-spoken, commented how “all the decisions we made that worked best were the intuitive ones that popped into my head.” It’s as if he and Jeannette began approaching farming as an art instead of just tradition and science—experimenting, noticing fortuitous “mistakes,” giving their intuitions due weight.

They’ve become skeptical of strategies that involve purchases and claims of “more,” “faster,” “latest.” It’s more the opposite, judging by Mark’s comment about finding a way to run the milking equipment on horsepower. It may or may not come to something. The point right now is, they’re not struggling to pay off a loan for a new piece of equipment that was supposed to save the farm. Right now, they’re moving away from what little grain they feed further toward pure grassfed, which saves grain bills and produces milk with high Omega 3 fatty acids.

They got an infusion of cash when they sold the development rights in 2001 on their acreage to the state under the APR program, but said it’s not how they were able to create and equip an immaculate new cheese room for Jeannette’s cheese operation—the money for that business expansion came out of milk profits.

Fifteen years after their early efforts, the Fellowses are trailblazers. They’ve let go of many of the mechanized, chemicalized short-cuts their New England dairy predecessors adopted when farming and food was judged differently—by price, basically. They’ve moved toward more complex, more self-sustaining, systems-oriented farming methods that produce a more natural, less industrially-influenced product. All this gives the soil, water and air a rest...and Mr. and Mrs. a seasonal one as well.

This article is reprinted from the June-July 2003 issue of the NOFA/Mass News, the newsletter of the Massachusetts chapter of Northeast Organic Farming Association.

Want to get more out of your
pastures?
You need

Graze

We focus on northern grazing management
with special attention paid to dairy grazing.
In *Graze*, you’ll find articles by graziers detailing
how they manage their pasture, feed their cows,
and market their products.

Subscription Rates:

\$30 one year (10 issues)

\$54 two years (20 issues)

For a free sample, contact us:

Graze

P.O. Box 48

Belleville, WI 53508

608-455-3311

graze@mhtc.net

www.grazeonline.com

3rd Annual NODPA Field Days A Huge Success

By Lisa McCrory and Nat Bacon

The weather was beautiful, hot, and it was probably the first opportunity in weeks that farmers had to get their hay crops in. But this did not keep people from travelling from as far away as Michigan to partake in the Third Annual NODPA Field Days in Albion, Maine. Henry Perkins and Henrietta Beaufait, owners and operators of Bull Ridge Farm and the hosts for this year's event, put countless hours into setting their farm up for this gathering. They even turned their heifer barn into a 'Lobster Feeding Trough' for the Producer dinner and meeting the evening before and donated one of their heifer calves which was raffled off midway through the day. Money raised from the raffle was donated to NODPA – thank you Henry and Henrietta!!

Over 80 people attended the lobster dinner on Friday evening and 100 attended the Field days the following day. Tradeshow tents were set up filled with displays ranging from animal health products and services to resource agencies, books for sale, machinery & parasitic wasp demonstrations and more. Food was abundant, conversations were lively and I

think everyone went home feeling like they learned something that they could take home and apply on their farm. One producer even credited this gathering for helping him find the organic dairy cows that he had needed to buy. Attendees traveled from Pennsylvania, Vermont, Connecticut, Colorado, Michigan, New York and Maine.

Producer Meeting Report, Friday, August 22nd

Welcoming remarks plus a history of NODPA and its accomplishments were summarized by Lisa McCrory, NODPA Coordinator. Steve Morrison, NODPA President, then spoke to the group reviewing the Mission Statement and commending NODPA for strengthening the bond between producers and allowing them to respond as a unit to important issues. Some important things that NODPA needs to do for 2003 and beyond are to build and maintain a database tracking milk flow, continue developing outreach to producers, and work on fundraising opportunities to support NODPA's efforts.

Discussions:

1) There was a question about farmer membership and how to get producers more involved. Com-

(Continued on page 12)

Keuka Business Park, Suite 117
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Ron Kirk, Owner
RidgeRockFarms@hotmail.com

Phone: (315) 536-0148

Certified



Organic



OCIA International

- ◆ COMPLETE LIVESTOCK NUTRITION & CUSTOMIZED FEED
- ◆ NUTRITIONAL SERVICES & CONSULTATIONS
- ◆ BALEAGE ◆ TRUCKING SERVICES

ments were to visit people 'on the ground'. Who are those farmer leaders who are connected with lots of other producers and how do we invite them in?

2) NODPA could coordinate a flier that lists livestock for sale in the Northeast. Suggested that this resource go out monthly. It was also noted that Horizon Organic and Organic Valley already provide this resource and maybe NODPA should work with them and help promote resources that already exist.

3) Organic Dairy Replacement Standards : Organic Dairy Replacement Standards are currently being interpreted in two different ways. The current NOP standards allows for some producers to source organic dairy replacements from ANY source provided they are managed organically for one full year while other producers are REQUIRED to find replacements that are organically managed 3 months prior to birth (last third of gestation). This is clearly an unlevel playing field.

At the NODPA Producer Meeting, producers agreed unanimously that once a farm has been certified organic and has gone through its one time whole herd transition, ALL replacement dairy stock must be organic from the last third of gestation. This rule must be the same for all.

On page 2 of this newsletter is a copy of the letter that was sent to the NOP and the NOSB.

Organic Dairy Health Care Panel at the NODPA Field Days

*By Nat Bacon, NOFA-VT
Dairy and Livestock Advisor;
Materials from Ann Wells
contributed to this article*

How do I keep my organic livestock healthy?
How do I dry off my cows without antibiotics?
What do you do about foot rot?

As I talk to organic and transitioning dairy farmers, these are the types of questions I hear on a daily basis. Animal health care is the single biggest concern to most organic livestock farmers. Managing your herd without relying on most conventional medicines can be quite challenging, especially for farmers new to organic certification. At the NODPA field days on August 23rd, attendees heard from 3 women who have extensive experience with alternative livestock health care: Dr. Ann Wells, Dr. Henrietta Beaufait, and Anne Lazor. Following is a summary of their

presentations.

Ann Wells is a veterinarian and livestock technical specialist with ATTRA. She noted that health has been traditionally thought of as the absence of disease, but that way of thinking doesn't really tell us how to keep animals healthy. A better definition of health would be 'an animal in balance with its environment'. How does a farmer accomplish that? By reducing or eliminating possible stresses to that animal. Stress kills the rumen microbes, which slows or stops rumination. This reduces dry matter intake which means the animal has to use its body reserves to meet its energy requirements. If the stress is short-term, the animal will be able to overcome these affects on its own with no apparent problems. If the stress is longer lasting, chronic, returns in a short period of time, or if there are multiple stresses on the animal, this may throw the animal below that threshold between health and disease.

The major stresses are poor nutrition, heat or cold stress, lack of clean water, overcrowding, inadequate bedding, and parasites. Parasites can be a symptom of disease as well as a cause – livestock are much more susceptible to worm infestations when they are stressed, and may be able to fend off parasites by themselves if they are provided with a good environment. This would include well-managed pastures, which are periodically "rested" from having animals on them i.e. hayed, not grazed for 12 months. This breaks up the parasite cycle, since the worms cannot survive without living inside the animal.

When looking at a sick animal, it is important not only to treat the animal, but also to figure out what went wrong. When we treat the disease and cause the signs to disappear but don't take care of the underlying stress, we will have a less vital animal. In this case, the animal appears healthy, but isn't. So then, health should be divided into profitable health and unprofitable health. The animal's vitality has to be brought up to a level that achieves profitable health. Treating sick or otherwise unhealthy animals, even successfully, makes no money for the farmer. It is a salvage operation.

Most health problems have a nutritional basis. It is crucial to address the mineral and fiber levels that the animals are eating. Cows need digestible fiber especially when they are on lush spring pasture where protein levels are very high and out of balance with energy levels. Good sources of digestible fiber in-

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

clude soy hulls, wheat midds, cottonseed, oats, and of course quality hay. Some of these feeds may be difficult to source organically, but their addition to the rations will improve animal health.

Henrietta Beaufait is a homeopathic vet and organic dairy farmer in Albion, ME. Henrietta suggested tracking disease trends in cow families over time, since some diseases may be transmitted genetically. In the long run, these cow families can either be culled out of the herd, or bred to improve poor genetic traits that are causing disease. As Ann Wells noted, 80% of a herd's health problems come from 20% of the animals – culling those chronically affected animals will improve herd health over time.

Henrietta also emphasized the importance of recognizing disease symptoms in an animal quickly, especially when using homeopathic treatments. The major common symptom is swelling, or inflammation. This occurs when fluid leaks out of damaged cells, and presses on lymph nodes or other internal organs.

Attention must also be paid to the cow's behavior; for instance, if a cow is unusually nervous during milking time, she should have her temperature taken and given an appropriate remedy right away (such as aconite to reduce anxiety). Too often, we wait too long - until the cow is obviously sick - to treat her, and then it is much more difficult to deal with the situation. The only time cow behavior should change is when the cow is in heat. Otherwise, any change is symptomatic of a health problem. Many times, major changes in the weather will cause stress, and cows will show early disease symptoms. Cows should be monitored especially carefully during very hot or cold weather.

Henrietta also addressed how to deal with hoof problems in organic herds. She stressed the importance of regular hoof trimming, as this allows toxins built up in the foot to escape. When dealing with foot

problems, the key is to eliminate the root cause. For instance, stony laneways cause increased bruising, so work to make lanes smooth and clean. Wet environments cause heel warts, so drain wet spots and keep barn alleys dry. Some treatments she has found successful are:

Bruises: trim out the bruised area, and soak the hoof for a period of several hours in an Epsom salt bath for several days

Abscesses: drain the abscess, and treat the animal homeopathically with Silica

Heel warts are difficult to deal with; there may be a genetic or metabolic aspect to cows' susceptibility

to warts. Arden Landis, a Pennsylvania dairyman, told the group that he had increased Boron levels in the cows feed to between 45 and 60 ppm, and had not seen any new heel warts since doing so.

Anne Lazor has managed a dairy herd organically for many years at Butterworks Farm in Westfield, Vermont. She spoke about her experience in drying off cows while

avoiding mastitis. Anne believes in drying cows off naturally and gradually. 1 week before drying off a cow, she stops feeding her grain entirely. After she stops milking the cow, it goes into a well-bedded dry cow lot, and is fed low-quality hay for at least 10 days so that milk production is minimal. Sometimes she will give a cow a specific mastitis nosode, such as Staph, to ward against mastitis developing during the dry period. Anne also talked about how crucial it is to provide good nutrition, and extra minerals (especially Selenium) in the 2 weeks before cows freshen to avoid problems in early lactation.

The take-home message from the panel: spend your time and money on preventing health problems, not treating them.

Note: More information on organic livestock health care can be obtained by contacting: ATTRA: Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural

(Continued on page 15)



Dear Jim

Answering Your Alternative Healthcare Questions



Hello everyone,

My name is Jim Gardiner and I am one of the NY NODPA Reps. My wife Nancy and I operate a certified organic dairy farm in Otselic in central NY along with our three youngest children. Over the last fourteen years my wife and I have worked at finding alternatives to medications through the use of vitamins, minerals and herbal foods to help our livestock recover from 'dis-ease'. In this column I hope to relay some of the information we have compiled over the years to help other farmers and their animals with their struggle against 'dis-ease'.

How can I deal with parasites in our certified organic dairy animals?

Soggy- this would be the best word to describe the past spring and summer here in the northeast. Wet weather during the warm months of the year tends to increase the opportunity for parasite infestation. The two body systems that are most affected by parasitic infestation are the digestive system and the endocrine system, with the effects being interrelated.

For the digestive system, the result is more physical in nature. Often the integrity of the lining of the digestive system is compromised causing nutrient loss. Many people think that parasites feed from the food that their animals eat; in a sense 'competing' for the food. This is not true in most cases. Parasites like to let your animals do all the work of breaking down the foods first. What the parasites like is to feed from the millions of miles of tiny blood capillaries that are just under the surface of the digestive tract's lining. They burrow through the lining in order to get to the nutrient rich blood supply. This is where the nutrition is 'stolen' from your animals by the parasites. In severe cases, this causes blood loss through the manure or bloating.

The endocrine system is so reliant on a constant supply of nutrients that if the digestive system is compromised in some way, disruptions in the endocrine system are soon to follow. The endocrine system controls things such as reproduction, blood sugar balance and temperature regulation, just to name a few. There are many things that can happen when the en-

docrine system is lacking. A few of the common ones would be infertility, miscarriage, milkfever, a retained placenta and poor growth in young stock.

Prevention is the key to beating losses through parasites. Of course, the first area of question would be management. Making sure animals are well bedded, ventilated, and fed a balanced diet are the foundation for healthy dis-ease resistant animals. On young stock we have found that using Black Walnut Hulls powder, vitamins A&D and oral B complex vitamins give pleasing results. These also mix well in calves' milk and are enthusiastically accepted by the calves.

The Black Walnut hulls are a great source of iodine and trace minerals that readily feed the weakened endocrine system. The vitamins A&D add strength to the walls of the digestive tract helping to rebuild and repair damaged epithelial tissues that line the digestive tract. The B complex vitamins are important when trying to maintain or replenish the good bacteria in the digestive system.

For animals older than 12 months, we use a combination of Flaxseed oil, Witch Hazel, Wormwood powder and powdered Slippery Elm Bark. For vitamins, we use A & D and B complex. This combination is mixed as a feed additive using plenty of organic molasses for palatability. This is given to the animals until all signs of parasites are gone.

Being observant of what signs of abnormality the animal is showing us will lead to what body systems are in need of nutritional intervention.

Remember these two things--watch and listen to what your animals are trying to tell you about their health and good sound management practices are the key to avoiding many health problems in the first place. It is also important to check with your certifier for the proper products that you may use before beginning the use of these products.

If you have an alternative health care question you would like Jim to address, the deadline for submission for the February issue is January 15th.

Jim & Nancy Gardiner, 315-653-7819, 2549 St. Hwy 26, Otselic, NY 13072, horseingaround@citlink.net

Disclaimer: NODPA does not endorse companies or businesses, but wants to provide education and resource information for organic dairy producers. We urge organic producers to check with their certifier before trying a new product or practice.

(Continued from page 13)

Areas, PO Box 3657 Fayetteville, AR 72702, Phone: 800-346-9140, 501-442-9824

The 2004 NODPA Field Days will take place somewhere in Vermont. If you are a producer in Vermont and are interested in hosting next years event, please let us know! You can contact Lisa McCrory at her home office (802-234-5524).

Lastly, we would like **THANK** all our sponsors who made this event possible.

Gold Sponsor: John Merck Fund

\$500 Sponsors: Bull Ridge Farm, Horizon Organic, Morrisons Custom Feeds

\$250 + Sponsors: Agri-Dynamics, Butterworks Farm, Helfter Feeds, Inc., Homestead Organics, Liberte-Vermont, Maine Department of Agriculture, MOFGA, National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT/ATTRA), NOFA-VT, Organic Valley/CROPP, Stonyfield Farm, Vermont Agency of Agriculture

Other Sponsors: Are You Ready to Party??, Brook-

field Ag Services, Cabot Creamery, Inc, Crystal Creek, Fertrell, Floating Bridge Organics, IM-PRO Products, Lakeview Organic Grain, Natural Dairy Products, Corp, Nature's Best Organic Feeds, New Trends Publishing, NOFA-NY, North American Kelp, Pennsylvania Certified Organic, Van Beek Scientific.

Looking for Organic Livestock or Feed?

Have Livestock or Feed to Sell? Sites to Find or Sell What You Want

Read and post ads in this newsletter. See the back page.

Post your ad or find classified ads on NODPA's website at www.NODPA.com.

Read and post livestock and feed for sale, job listings, etc on the **email discussion list Odairy**. To join or read previous postings, go to: groups.yahoo.com/group/Odairy

Horizon Organic sends out a **quick and easy to read postcards** listing organic livestock / feeds wanted and for sale notices. The cards are sent out each time there are timely ads to share (12 card have been sent out in the last 10 months). Horizon Organic has been sending these to all Horizon producers but is now offering to add any US organic dairy producer to their mailing list. To add your name to this organic ad postcard list or to have your for sale or wanted items posted, please contact Cindy Masterman at CindyM@horizonorganic.com or 888/648-8377.

Organic Valley publishes a **monthly trade sheet called the Organic Trader**. Organic Valley producers receive this mailing but anyone can subscribe for \$15.00 per year. Subscriptions run from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. Included in the subscription fee are any ads you may place during that time. Send your check or money order to: CROPP, Attention: Chris/Organic Trader, 507 W. Main St. LaFarge, WI 54639.

Classified ads are listed in **Tails and Tassels newsletter**. If you want to place a free classified ad in an upcoming newsletter for the certified organic products you have for sale on your farm or subscribe to Tails and Tassels, contact Mary-Howell Martens, 315-536-9879 or kandmhfarm@sprintmail.com.

Process your hay using the Deweze Rotoslicer

Aggressive enough to tear up a bale, yet gentle enough to preserve the leaves. The RotoSlicer produces quality feed from any round bales with minimum horsepower.



STEPHENSON AGRI SALES
SAS COMPANY, INC. 
www.stephensonagrisales.com (800)526-2719

No-Bloat Legume A Welcome Alternative for Northeast Pastures

*By Heather Darby, Extension Assistant Professor, University of Vermont Extension - Northwest Region
heather.darby@uvm.edu*

As winter approaches we will begin to plan for next year's forage seedings. Most pasture and hay mixes recommend inclusion of alfalfa or another legume to increase production and quality. Though, we all know that alfalfa as well as other legumes (sweet, red, alsike, and white clovers) can cause bloat. However, bloat is a concern only when grazing some legumes. There are non-bloating legumes including birdsfoot trefoil, sanfoin, and cicer milkvetch. This year you might consider integrating cicer milkvetch into your seeding plan.

General Characteristics

Cicer milkvetch (*Astragalus cicer* L.) is a long-lived, rhizomatous, perennial legume native to continental Europe. It is found in cool moist locations in an area extending from Finland to northern Spain and eastward through north-central and southeast Russia. Cicer milkvetch is adapted to a wide range of soil types including slightly acid soils to moderately alkaline soils. Cicer milkvetch has a high level of drought tolerance making the species adapted to areas where other legumes may not survive. This legume is a very winter-hardy species and is used in many areas for soil stabilization. Due to its hardy nature and ability to survive the winter conditions of North America the legume was evaluated for use in land reclamation and agricultural applications as early as 1926.

Crop characteristics

Cicer milkvetch is an extremely long-lived, winter-hardy, non-bloating, perennial legume with an aggressive creeping root system. Stems of cicer milkvetch are hollow and succulent. They grow upright when the plant is young but become decumbent to trailing as the plants mature. Under favorable conditions stem may reach a length of 5 ft, but the above ground length of the foliage seldom exceeds 2.5 ft. Stems tend to be more upright when the crop is grown with grasses than when growing alone. In North America, cicer milkvetch shows more frost tolerance than alfalfa and is also comparable in nutritive value. In Canada, forage yields approach that of alfalfa in some areas and have exceeded that of alfalfa in other regions where pocket gophers can attack the tap roots of alfalfa, but, do not affect the creeping roots of cicer milkvetch. In addition improved varieties of cicer milkvetch have no major pest problems. Unlike alfalfa, it does not cause bloat in ruminants. It is readily eaten by all classes of livestock as either hay or pasture. This nature of cicer milkvetch, its ability to compete with grasses and bloat-free characteristics makes it suitable for planting in mixtures in pasture and hay stands.

Use for Pasture

Cicer milkvetch is especially well-suited to integrate as part of a pasture mix. No cases of bloat have been reported

from grazing livestock. The sodding characteristic of cicer milkvetch resists damage from overgrazing. Recovery from grazing is rapid as opposed to the slow recovery when cut for hay. New shoots arise from the base of the lower leaves as well as from crown and rhizome buds. Close grazing or clipping stimulates the growth of new shoots from all three plant parts. Cicer milkvetch retains its leaves and maintains forage quality later in the season than alfalfa. Consequently, it has the potential to provide nutritious forage in the fall, at a time when pasture productivity and quality is limited. If grown in grass-legume mixtures, the highly competitive characteristic of cicer milkvetch will require an equally competitive grass if the mixture is to be maintained with equal proportions of each. Grasses that are known to be compatible with cicer milkvetch are orchardgrass and tall fescue. Smooth brome grass and reed canarygrass severely suppress the growth of cicer milkvetch. Studies have not been conducted to evaluate the compatibility of cicer milkvetch with timothy or Kentucky bluegrass.

Use for Hay

Although primarily integrated as a component of pastures cicer milkvetch can also be harvested for hay. Yields of cicer milkvetch cut for hay are comparable to alfalfa. Because of slow spring growth and slow recovery after hay harvest, cicer milkvetch is harvested only twice. The protein content of cicer milkvetch equals or exceeds that of

(Continued on page 8)



RELIEVE YOURSELF!

With EX-cell 7000

The ALTERNATIVE for TODAY
It's the "UDDER" method
No Withholding
New customers call for your
FREE SAMPLE

1-800-507-9361

Synergy Animal Products, Inc.

8:30 AM - 4 PM EST
Monday-Friday
MASTERCARD/VISA accepted

Net Update



A Taste of ODAIRY Keeping Calves with Their Mothers

ODAIRY, the email discussion list created and maintained by one of our NODPA members, has been a resource for producers and industry people covering topics on animal health & crops, posting calendar events, job listings, and livestock and feed for sale. If you haven't jointed this list yet, we encourage you to give it a try. To join or read previous postings, go to: groups.yahoo.com/group/Odairy

Following are excerpts from a recent set of posts on ODAIRY:

Does anyone know about methods of keeping calves with mothers?

My husband and I raise our calves with their mothers all the while milking them ...it works great. The trade off is a loss of some milk the first 3 months but the calves are great--NO health problems and the mom's love it, so do our customers. The start up is labor intensive the first few days but our calves learn the routine very quick. The moms and babies go out together during the day to pasture. When everyone comes in at night we have a "juvenile" pen where they all go for the night. Moms go back out to graze for night. In the morning we milk and put them back together.

We find that the calves with nurse mothers are bigger, healthier

and happier but very hard to handle. Do you find that the calves are wild and hard to handle?

They can be harder to handle but we make a point of starting them the first week with some halter training...but they learn the routines of in and out with their moms (fence training etc) and that helps when they become milkers and seem to be very easy to milk even as heifers.

... A man named Dr. Robert Miller, DVM, has developed a theory about herding animals (personally, I think it can be applied to any mammal at infancy). The theory has being called Imprinting. The idea behind it is that whatever the calf/foal or other is exposed to with in the first few hours of life "imprints" upon their brains as being acceptable.

.. Really it's not a hard concept to latch on to. Whatever you want them to be familiar with through their senses you introduce to them a few times within their first twenty-four hours, the earlier hours being the most critical.

My concern and reluctance to try calve with cows on pasture has been a safety / liability question. A number of our pastures are right next to a busy highway. I'm wondering if those of you who keep calves with cows, ever find that the calves occasionally go thru the fence.

It sounds like our set-up. One of our pastures is right on a main highway. We have had one calf slip through the fence but he didn't go in the road. Our other calves don't seem to want to leave mom.

NODPA REPS

PENNSYLVANIA

Arden Landis 717-529-6644

667 Puseyville Rd.
Kirkwood, PA 17536
c2graz@aol.com

Roman Stoltzfoos 610-593-2415

Spring Wood Farm
1143 Gap Road
Kinzers, PA 17535
romans@epix.net

Dave Johnson 570-324-2285

1254 Black Creek Rd
Liberty, PA 16930
provident@epix.net

NEW YORK

Jim Gardiner 315-653-7819

2549 State Hwy 26
Otselic, NY 13072
horseingaround@citlink.net

Siobhan Griffin 607-286-9362

2518 Co. Hwy 35
Schnevus, NY 12155
raindance@baka.com

John Stoltzfus 607-356-3272

1553 Hesselton Gully Rd.
Whitesville, NY 14897
jtstrib@yaho.com

VERMONT

Ted Yandow 802-524-9454

3133 Newton Rd.

Swanton, VT 05488

Annie Claghorn 802-247-3979

1395 Leicester Rd.
Leicester, VT 05733

CONNECTICUT

Rick Segalla 860-824-0241

96 Allyndale Rd.
Canaan, CT 06018
moocow@earthlink.net

MAINE

Henry Perkins 207-437-9279

Box 156 Bog Rd.
Albion, ME 04910
bullridge@uninet.net

Steven Russell 207-872-6533

RR2 Box 5660
Winslow, ME 04901
jwinrussel@adelphia.net

Steve Morrison 207-285-7085 (ph/fax)

159 Atkinson Rd
Charleston, ME 04422
mmorrison@midmaine.com

NON-DAIRY REPS

Lisa McCrory, NOFA-VT, 802-234-5524

802-234-9448 fax
341 Macintosh Hill.
Randolph, VT 05060
lmccrory@together.net

Diane Schivera, MOFGA

207-568-4142

PO Box 170

Unity, ME 04988

dianes@mofga.org

Ron Kirk 315-536-0091

1168 Travis Rd
Penn Yan, NY 14527
kirkjrj@eznet.net

Kevin Brussell / Midwest Organic Farmers Cooperative

217-923-2702 Fax 217-923-5706

572 Co. Rd. 2100E

Casey, IL 62420

Brian Caldwell 607-564-1060

Farm Education Coordinator NOFA-NY
180 Walding Lane
Spencer, NY 14883
education@nofany.org

NEWSLETTER

Mia Morrison 207-285-7085

207-285-0128 fax

Carly & Kathie Arnold 607-842-6631

Fax: 607-842-6557

3175 NYS Rt. 13, Truxton, NY 13158

caralea1@juno.com

randkarnold1@juno.com

We welcome submissions and letters.

Please send to: NOFA-VT, attn: NODPA,
P.O. Box 697, Bridge Street, Richmond VT
05477; info@nofavt.org. To speak with
someone about concerns or questions, contact
one of the NODPA representatives listed.

Calendar

December 2 & 3, Managing Udder Health & Mastitis under Organic Rules, 10-3, Civil Defence Center, Bath, NY on 12/2; and Tally Ho Restaurant, Richfield Springs, NY on 12/3, Contagious Mastitis: Concerns and Management for the Organic Dairy - Linda Tikofsky, DVM; Environmental Mastitis - Ruth Zadoks, DVM, Residue Testing Issues for the Organic Dairy Farmer - Frank Welcome, DVM, Milking Technique Management and Its Impact on Milk Flow and Mastitis - Ynte Schukken, DVM, Non-Antibiotic Udder Herd Health Options - Hue Karreman, VMD; Cost \$12.00 (includes lunch), contact David Balbian, at 518-762-3909 or James Grace at 607-664-2316

December - February Calculating Your Farms Cost of Production : VT/NH Ag. Business Management Course
St. Albans, December
Newport, January
Rutland, February
Courses meet (4) times, from 10-2:30. FSA Certified coursework meets the goals and requirements of the FSA Borrower Training Program.
For more information contact: Dennis Kauppila, 800-545-8920, Glenn Rogers and Sue Bushey, 800-639-2130

January 13-15, Maine Agricultural Trades Show, Augusta Civic Center, Augusta. Tuesday, Jan. 13, is MOFGA day at the show, when you can hear MOFGA-sponsored talks and attend MOFGA's annual meeting. For more information, call 568-4142 or visit www.mofga.org.

January 24, 8th Annual Vermont Grazing Conference
Vermont Technical College in Randolph, VT. Keynote speakers—sustainable agricultural economist John Ikerd, and Indiana dairy farmer Dave Forgey—to talk about the economics of grass-farming. Contact the Center for Sustainable agriculture at 802-656-5459, or e-mail sustainable.agriculture@uvm.edu.

January 30, 31 and Feb. 1 NOFA-NY's Organic Farming & Gardening Conference

Syracuse, NY. Featuring Keynote Speaker: Danish Organic Farmer Thomas Harttung, running a multi-farm box delivery business with over 38,000 customers weekly. Full Day Pre-Conference CSA Production Training, Saturday afternoon Dairy Roundtable. Info at (518) 734-5495
www.nofany.org

January through March--4 Session Soils Course

Central NY. Will be a combination of different speakers at each meeting and some videos. Contact Fay Benson for more info afb3@cornell.edu, (607) 753-5213.

February 5-7, 2004 – (PASA) 13th annual Farming for the Future Conference

State College, PA. "Pathways to Prosperity: The New Face of Agriculture" will feature keynotes by Paul Hawken and Anuradha Mittal Workshops of special interest to organic dairy producers include:
1) Jack and Anne Lazor, VT organic dairy farmers, well-known for their creative value-adding marketing strategy, presenting "Developing and Marketing Value Added Organic Dairy Products"

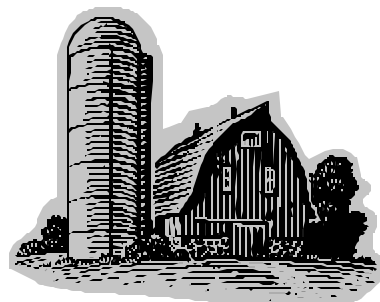
and "The care and keeping of an organic dairy farm."

2) Vicki Dunaway, Creamline News Editor will present "Home-scale dairy processing" and "Basics of Cheesemaking"

3) Hue Karreman, Holistic vet will present "Treating Dairy Herds Naturally" Call 814-349-9856 or sign-up at www.pasafarming.org to receive the complete brochure.

March 1 - 4 Pennsylvania Grazing Conferences

3/1- Troy, PA, contact: Craig Williams, 570-724-9120
3/2- DuBois, contact: Gary Swope, 814-375-2125 ext 114
3/3-3/4 Grantsville, contact: Marvin Hall, 814-863-1019.



Advertise With Us!

Half Page Ad (7.5" W x 4.5" H) = \$75

Quarter Page Ad (3.5" w x 4.75" h) = \$40

1/8 Page Ad or Business Card (3.5" w x 2.25" h) = \$25

Classified Ads: Free to Northeast organic farmers

All others \$5 for the first 30 words; \$.05 per word over 30

Deadline for the next issue is January 15, 2004

Please send your ad and check (made payable to NOFA-VT) to: Lisa McCrory, NODPA Newsletter, 341 Macintosh Hill., Randolph, VT 05060 For more information, call 802-234-5524 or email lmccrory@together.net

• **Note:** Ads requiring typesetting, xeroxing, statting, size changes or design work will be charged additional fees, according to the service (minimum charge \$10.00). Please send a check with your ad.

NODPA Membership Form

In order for NODPA to continue as a viable organization, it is necessary for NODPA to raise fund through grants and membership contribution. If you enjoy this newsletter, visit our web page, and / or benefit from the education and farmer representation the NODPA has been providing, please let us know by making a generous contribution to our efforts.

____ \$20 to cover NODPA NEWS Name: _____
____ \$50 to become a Friend of NODPA Farm Name: _____
____ \$100 to become a Sponsor Address: _____
____ \$500 to become a Patron member City: _____ State _____ Zip _____
____ \$1000 to become a Benefactor Phone: _____ Email _____

Please make checks payable to NOFA-VT & send to Lisa McCrory 341 Macintosh Hill Rd, Randolph, VT 05060

Resources

Visit NODPA's website

www.nodpa.com (or)
www.organicmilk.org
For up-to-date news, classifieds, events, resources, and political actions.

Ask a Sustainable Agricultural Expert

Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (ATTRA), the national sustainable agriculture information service Web site, www.attra.ncat.org. The research services are free to U.S. farmers and those who serve them.. Questions and requests for literature can also be made by calling ATTRA's toll-free number, (800) 346-9140.

The Organic Decision: Transitioning to Organic Dairy Production Workbook

Download a free copy as a pdf file: www.organic.cornell.edu. To receive a copy via mail, please call Faye Butts at 607-254-7412 or email fsb1@cornell.edu. \$12 cost to cover printing and postage.

Web-Based Map of Local Farms

www.foodroutes.org

OFARM's website: www.ofarm.org

The Milkweed website:
www.TheMilkWeed.com

Organic Agriculture at Cornell:

www.organic.cornell.edu

New Farm Online Magazine:

www.newfarm.org

Tails and Tassels Newsletter

Contact Mary-Howell Martens, 315-536-9879 or kandmhfarm@sprintmail.com

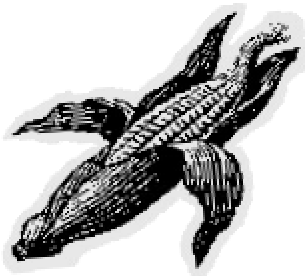
Organic Ag. Info Web Site

www.organicaginfo.org: is an on-line database of research reports, farmer-to farmer information, and outreach publications.

Raw Milk Chat Group

RawDairy - For dairy farmers, involved in, or interested in, a share program or consumers of raw dairy products, this list is for all to come together and share stories, information and support. Join "RawDairy"

RawDairy-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
Visit <http://mailhost.groundspring.org/cgi-bin/t.pl?id=44490:980966>



Grants for Northeast Farmers

Farmers in the Northeast who are interested in conducting innovative production and marketing projects are encouraged to apply to the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program for grant funds for projects starting in the spring.

Applications can address a broad range of agricultural issues such as pest management, soil and water conservation, aquaculture, marketing, grazing, bee health, no-till, pasture management, agroforestry, and other sustainable farming techniques. Northeast SARE defines sustainable agriculture as agriculture that is profitable, environmentally sound, and good for the community. In 2003, the average grant was about \$5,200

Any full- or part-time farmer in the Northeast SARE region can apply. Applications and more information about the requirements of the Farmer/Grower Grant program are available on the Northeast SARE web site at www.uvm.edu/~nesare/. You can also call 802/656-0471 to request a printed application.

The proposal deadline is December 8, 2003.

NOFA-Vermont
Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance
(NODPA)
P.O. Box 697
Richmond, VT 05477

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 37
Richmond, VT

Classified Ads

Send classifieds to: **Lisa McCrory** 802-234-5524 ph, 802-234-9448 fax,
341 Macintosh Hill Rd, Randolph, VT 05060 lmccrory@together.net

PRODUCTS

Neptune's Harvest Organic Fertilizer and Animal Feed Products include liquid hydrolyzed fish, seaweed, blends, dry kelp meal, crab shell and humate. Pest controls include liquid garlic spray and hot pepper wax. **"Our Products Work!"** Free Catalog 1(800) 259-4769, www.neptuneharvest.com

OPPORTUNITIES

Certified Organic Dairy available for rent or sharemilking. 59 cow tiestall barn, 90 acres pasture and house, Nichols, NY 607/699-7968.

Wanted: partner or partners in Vermont's only organic route sale business providing alternative health products and more for livestock operations. Buy into a 9 year old, fast growing business! call 1-888-293-1200 for more information.

ORGANIC FEED

Baleage for Sale: 4th cutting orchard grass and ladino clover, 4 X 4 round bales and 3 X 5 1/2 large square bales. Tom & Sally Brown Groton, NY 607/898-4401.

Dry Cow Hay, 4 X 4 bales, \$25/bale, Nichols, NY 607/699-7968.

Small square bales of hay. Loyal Martin, Philadelphia, NY, 315/642-3604.

LIVESTOCK

Wanted Ayshire, guernsey and brown swiss weaned heifer calves, North Carolina, naiduyogi@hotmail.com 910-578-3538

2 certified organic cows for sale. Holstien Normande cross from a seasonal grass based farm. Due in June 2004. Contact Mark, in MA, at 978-544-6327.



Get Your NODPA Gear Today!

Hat = \$15.50

T-shirt = \$13.50

Bumper Sticker = \$1.25 each (or) 25 for \$19.75

Shipping Included

Make check payable to: NOFA-VT.

Send to: NODPA,
c/o NOFA-VT
P.O. Box 697,
Richmond VT 05477