

## ORGANIC DAIRY FIELD DAYS TO BE HELD IN VERMONT THIS SUMMER

The Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance's (NODPA's) Fourth Annual Summer Field Days Event will be held Friday, August 20th and Saturday, August 21, 2004 at Jack & Anne Lazor's Farm (Butterworks Farm) in Westfield, Vermont, and John and Judy Clark's farm (Applecheek Farm) in Hyde Park Vermont.

Friday afternoon will feature a field trip to Butterworks Farm, followed by a NODPA Member meeting and dinner at Applecheek farm. Saturday's field day will be at Applecheek farm. Speakers will include Jerry Brunetti on animal health and Heather Darby on Soils. Heather Darby of UVM Extension is a dynamic speaker with a holistic approach to creating healthy, biologically active soils and growing quality feed for livestock. Jerry Brunetti is managing director of Agri-Dynamics, a 22 year old firm that specializes in creating products for farm and livestock. Jerry works with such materials as seaweeds, herbs, enzymes, probiotics, vitamins, chelated minerals, "rare-earth" minerals and more. He will speak on the use of medicinal herbs for livestock. Jerry's approach to livestock health is holistic, and his knowledge of plants as medicine and nutrition is extensive. There will also be a pasture walk, a trade show, and resources for sale.

Meals at Applecheek farm will be catered by Just Delicious Catering (Jason Clark) and will feature local, organic fare with plenty of time for discussion and a visit to the trade show. In addition to the trade show, there will be a raffle featuring an organic heifer calf donated by John Stoltzfus of Whitesville, New York and a number of products donated by some of our Field Days sponsors.

Butterworks Farm, the host of the Friday field trip, is one of the oldest organic dairy farms in the Northeast. They milk about 40 Jerseys and produce yogurt, cream, cottage cheese and other cheeses when they have extra milk. Cows and heifers are rotationally grazed in summer and fall and housed in a straw bedded solar barn in winter. The bedded pack is composted in windrows and is spread on the pastures, hay meadows and grain crops. Butterworks produces all the grain for their dairy herd, grows some grain for seed, and surplus grains and forages are sold.

Applecheek farm, the host of Friday night's member meeting and Saturday's Field Days Event, is a certified organic dairy farm, shipping milk to Horizon. They milk 65 registered Holsteins, which are rotationally grazed during the grazing season and they make dry hay and silage. They have been farming since 1965 and have been organic since 2000. The farm is diversified and includes maple sugar products, educational activities, school field trips, horse drawn sleigh and wagon rides, llama treks and emu products. They built a large hall (capacity up to 100 people) and small meeting room with a kitchenette which they rent out to the community at large for a variety of events.

For more information, or to receive a NODPA Field Days Brochure, contact the NOFA-VT office 802-434-4122, or visit NODPA's website: [www.organicmilk.org](http://www.organicmilk.org)

