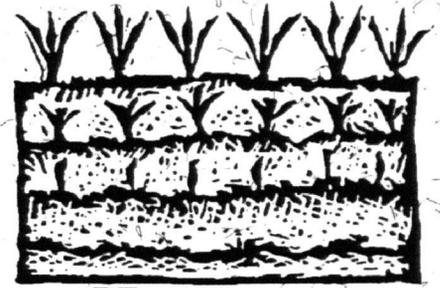


# Practical Partnerships

## A New England Sustainable Agriculture Conference

NOVEMBER 17-18, 1997  
HOLIDAY INN BY THE BAY  
PORTLAND, MAINE

Farmers, extension and agency personnel, and other agriculture advocates are invited to come together to explore practical steps to sustain New England agriculture at **Practical Partnerships: A New England Sustainable Agriculture Conference**.



The conference will be an opportunity for you to learn about and share information on existing and emerging sustainable farming practices and strategies to build community support for regional agriculture. Join us and take part in interactive workshops that pair farmers with public and private agency representatives who will lead discussions on practical tools and approaches in four workshop theme areas: Whole Farm Approaches, Sustainable Commodity Production, Beyond the Farm Gate: Community Connections, and Economic Vitality.



## NESAWG's 4th ANNUAL RESOURCE HARVEST

NOVEMBER 16-18, 1997

The Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (NESAWG) is pleased to hold this year's Resource Harvest in conjunction with **Practical Partnerships: A New England Sustainable Agriculture Conference**. **NESAWG's Resource Harvest** is an annual event, drawing members and others together to exchange resources and information, learn from one another and engage in constructive dialogue. We invite you to a tasty and stimulating reception Sunday evening, November 16. Please join us! A buffet of Maine-grown and -produced delicacies and a local micro-brew will be featured, along with a presentation about Maine food system initiatives and a keynote address by Marty Strange.

# Program Schedule

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

5:00 - 6:00 pm  
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

6:30 - 9:30  
NESAWG RECEPTION  
at the Danforth Inn  
163 Danforth Street, Portland, Maine  
(5 blocks from the Holiday Inn by the  
Bay, on the corner of Danforth and  
Winter Streets)

7:45  
KEYNOTE ADDRESS  
Marty Strange, *Grassroots  
Organizations and Government  
Agencies: Working Together for  
Sustainable Agriculture*

### Workshop Themes

-  WHOLE FARM APPROACHES
-  SUSTAINABLE COMMODITY  
PRODUCTION
-  BEYOND THE FARM GATE:  
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
-  ECONOMIC VITALITY

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17

8:00 - 10:00 am  
NESAWG ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING

8:00 - 10:30  
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

10:30 - 10:45  
WELCOME  
Gary Anderson, Agriculture Program  
Director, University of Maine  
Cooperative Extension

10:45 - 11:45  
KEYNOTE ADDRESS  
Dr. Ann Clarke, *Re-Orienting  
Agricultural Research Back to the Farm*

12:00 - 1:00 pm  
LUNCH

1:15 - 2:45  
CONCURRENT SESSION I

-  Whole Farm Planning: What's  
Working on Farms
-  Innovations in Fruit Pest Research:  
A Collaborative Approach
-  Growing the Farmer/Chef  
Connection
-  Next Generation Farmers

3:00 - 4:30  
CONCURRENT SESSION II

-  Fertile Ground: How to Assess  
and Improve Soil Health
-  Going Grass: Making the  
Transition to Intensive Pasture
-  Developing Local Food Systems
-  Farmer-Friendly Record-keeping  
Systems

4:30 - 6:00  
BREAK

6:00 - 8:00  
RECEPTION AND BANQUET

7:30  
KEYNOTE ADDRESS  
Senator Sue Sosnowski, *A Future for  
Farming in New England*

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

7:00 - 8:30 am  
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:45 - 10:15  
CONCURRENT SESSION III

-  Bio-Intensive IPM: The  
Massachusetts Sweet Corn  
Example
-  Alternative Health Management  
for Livestock
-  Farming Comes in All Shapes and  
Sizes: Scale & Structure in New  
England Agriculture
-  Capturing High Value Markets

10:30 - 12:00  
CONCURRENT SESSION IV

-  Grazing into the Future: A  
Participatory Model
-  Cover Crops are a Many  
Splendored Thing
-  Connecting Consumers,  
Marketing & Practices
-  Starting and Growing New Ag  
Enterprises

12:15 - 1:45 pm  
LUNCH AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS  
Dr. Molly Anderson, *Links between  
Sustainable Agriculture and Food  
Systems: Implications for New England*

2:00 - 3:30  
CONCURRENT SESSION V

-  Cross Farm Cooperation for Land  
Use and Nutrient Management
-  Research/Grower Partnerships in  
Greenhouse/ Ornamental IPM
-  Watershed-scale Water Quality  
Protection
-  Keys to Co-op Success in New  
England

3:45-4:15  
WRAP-UP AND BEN & JERRY'S

4:30  
ADJOURN

# Concurrent Workshops



## WHOLE FARM APPROACHES

### WHOLE FARM PLANNING:

#### WHAT'S WORKING ON FARMS

Whole farm planning sounds like a good idea but what does it really mean and how do producers do it? This workshop will be a panel discussion about the concepts and challenges of whole farm planning.

*Concurrent Session I, Monday, 1:15-2:45*  
Pauline Pare, USDA NRCS, Vermont  
Farmer TBA

### FERTILE GROUND: HOW TO ASSESS AND IMPROVE SOIL HEALTH

Soil fertility involves the chemical, physical and biological attributes of soil, so sustainable management of soil is much more than just soil testing and applying nutrients accordingly. This workshop will describe a variety of scientific tests that have been assessed at Rodale in an effort to understand the health of soil. We will also hear from an experienced grain and dairy farmer about the practical implications of building and maintaining soil health.

*Concurrent Session II, Monday, 3:00-4:30*



Laurie Drinkwater, Rodale Institute  
Jack Lazor, Butterworks Farm,  
Westfield, Vermont

### BIO-INTENSIVE IPM: THE

#### MASSACHUSETTS SWEET CORN EXAMPLE

Integrated Pest Management is moving beyond the "scout and spray" approach of pest control, increasingly emphasizing cultural practices and whole farm management as well as timing and efficacy of pesticide applications. This workshop features a researcher and grower who have collaborated for many years with on-farm testing of new materials, techniques and approaches to sweet corn production and pest management. They will describe how they work together and how information flows between them.

*Concurrent Session III, Tuesday 8:45-10:15*  
Ruth Hazzard, University of Massachusetts  
Steve Mong, Applefield Farm, Stow,  
Massachusetts

### GRAZING INTO THE FUTURE:

#### A PARTICIPATORY MODEL

Transitioning to intensive pasture poses special economic, ecological and social challenges. Supportive information is not

always readily available. To address information needs, networks of producers and agency people are forming around the country. This workshop will focus on an innovative partnership to assist graziers which includes the University of Vermont, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Vermont Grass Farmers' Association.

*Concurrent Session IV, Tuesday, 10:30-12:00*  
Sarah Flack, University of Vermont Center  
for Sustainable Agriculture  
Representative from the Vermont Grass  
Farmers' Association

### CROSS FARM COOPERATION FOR LAND USE AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

Within a particular commodity such as dairy or potato farming, it can be difficult to rotate land as much as one would like. By swapping land with nearby farmers who grow different crops, soil quality can be enhanced. The presenters will discuss how such arrangements have been developed among farmers in Maine, how they work and the potential benefits and obstacles of these partnerships.

*Concurrent Session V, Tuesday, 2:00-3:30*  
John Dorman, Double D Farm, Exeter, Maine  
Bob Fogler, Stonevale, Inc., Exeter, Maine  
Tim Griffin, University of Maine  
Cooperative Extension



## SUSTAINABLE COMMODITY PRODUCTION

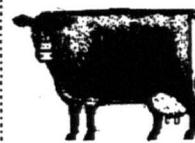
### INNOVATIONS IN FRUIT PEST RESEARCH: A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

Fruit crops have both many pests and high cosmetic standards, so it is difficult to reduce pesticide use. This workshop will focus on how researchers and growers have worked together to explore new practices such as manipulation of the crop environment and nearby habitat in an effort to complement reduced use of pesticides while maintaining production and consumer acceptance.

*Concurrent Session I, Monday, 1:15-2:45*  
Bill Broderick,  
Orchardist, Sterling,  
Massachusetts  
Ron Prokopy, University  
of Massachusetts



### GOING GRASS: MAKING THE TRANSITION TO INTENSIVE PASTURE



To make the switch to a pasture-based production system requires certain types of technical information,

and an understanding of the social and economic implications for the farm family. How do farmers acquire sufficient technical support, and how do they deal with a major change in their production practices as well as cope with economically trying times until the new system becomes fully operational? An extension agent and a farmer who have dealt with these issues will share their experiences.

*Concurrent Session II, Monday, 3:00-4:30*  
Speakers TBA

### ALTERNATIVE HEALTH MANAGEMENT FOR LIVESTOCK

As many human health care givers are becoming open to alternative medicine as a supplement or replacement for conventional treatments, so too are animal health practitioners increasingly considering practices such as homeopathy as part of their treatment options. This workshop will feature a researcher conducting trials on homeopathic treatments and a farmer who uses alternative practices on her farm.

*Concurrent Session III, Tuesday, 8:45-10:15*  
Mia Morrison, Clovercrest Farm,  
Charleston, Maine  
Woody Pankey, University of Vermont

### COVER CROPS ARE A MANY SPLENDORED THING

Cover cropping is a key practice to sustainable production of row crops, including vegetables. The potential benefits of cover crops are numerous, but making the right choice depends on matching covers to crops, soil and farm needs. This workshop will feature a farmer adept at cover cropping and a researcher who has worked extensively with on-farm trials to fine-tune the cultural practices that optimize cover crop benefits.

*Concurrent Session IV, Tuesday, 10:30-12:00*  
Hank Bissell, Lewis Creek Farm,  
Starksboro, Vermont  
Frank Mangan, University of Massachusetts  
Cooperative Extension