

Grass-Fed Dairy Workshop

Nutrition for the Grass-fed Dairy Cow:

How forage quality and management impact milk production and quality

Date: October 31, 2024 **Time:** 10:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m.

Location: South Minden Fire Hall, 1029 Hwy 163, Fort Plain, NY 13339

Join independent dairy nutritionist Kurt Cotanch, and agronomists Heather Darby, Sara Ziegler, and Sarah Flack for a workshop and discussion on grass-fed dairy nutrition. Topics will include how to make and use a forage inventory, and how to take, read, and use forage tests to make best use of forages you have to optimize milk production and quality. Bring your forage tests, your farms forage inventory, and your questions with you!

AGENDA

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|---------------------------|--|
| 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. | Rumen biochemistry |
| 11:00 - 12:00 p.m. | Forage quality assessments: analytical, visual, and sensory |
| 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. | Lunch provided (<i>please register so we can accommodate you</i>) |
| 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. | Managing winter feed– matching your forages to your animals |

A more detailed description of each of these sessions are provided on page 2.

Interested in attending? This event is free of cost, but **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**

Please register by October 28, 2024 so we can provide adequate accommodations.

To **register by phone**, please contact **Susan Brouillette at (802) 656-7611.**

To **register by mail**, please return the bottom portion of this flyer to the Northwest Crops and Soils Program at the address listed in the yellow box below.

First Name: _____ **Last Name:** _____

Address Line 1: _____ **How many attendees:** _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Phone Number: _____ **Email:** _____

Dietary restrictions (if any): _____

To request a disability related accommodation to participate in this program, please contact Susan Brouillette at (802) 656-7611 by October 10, 2024 so we may assist you.



NORTHEAST

DAIRY BUSINESS
INNOVATION CENTER

Northwest Crops and Soils Program | 278 South Main Street, Suite 2 | St. Albans, VT 05478

802-524-6501 or 1-800-639-2130 (toll-free in Vt.) | cropsoil@uvm.edu

uvm.edu/extension/nwcrops



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COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES

Grass-Fed Dairy Workshop

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How forage quality and management impact milk production and quality

10:00—11:00 a.m. Rumen biochemistry

Kurt will lead a deep dive into how exactly the rumen works from a biochemical perspective and connect that functionality to meeting the nutritional needs of the grass-fed cow and the forages we have as tools to do so.

11:30—12:00 p.m. Forage quality assessments: analytical, visual, and sensory

As a grass-fed dairy solely relying on forages to support cow nutrition, knowing the nutritional value of your forages will help you feed them to the right animals in the right amounts to optimize productivity and health. We'll walk through a forage lab analysis and discuss the meaning of each metric and provide target ranges. We'll also do some hands-on activities using visual and sensory analyses to help discern forages of different qualities.

12:00—1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00—2:30 p.m. Managing winter feed– matching your forages to your animals

Successfully matching herd nutritional needs with the qualities and quantities of forages you have available to feed through the winter is the real trick to optimizing milk production and quality. In this session, we'll provide practical information on developing a forage inventory for your farm and how to make decisions about which forages to feed to which animals to support milk production, herd health, and milk quality. Consider bringing with you an inventory of the different lots of forage you have available on your farm including quantities and corresponding forage tests so you can follow along using your farm's information.

Kurt Cotanch is an independent dairy nutritionist in Vermont with extensive experience in producing, analyzing, and feeding high-quality forages in dairy cattle rations.

Heather Darby is an Agronomy Specialist with the University of Vermont Extension.

Sara Ziegler is an Agronomy Research Specialist with the University of Vermont Extension.

Sarah Flack is an independent grazing consultant from Vermont.