



2024 Grain Growers Workshop

As more Vermont dairy producers look to increase homegrown forage and reduce purchased feed costs, there has been an increased interest in corn and soybeans grown for grain in Vermont.

With the implementation of new crops come new challenges. Join UVM Extension for a workshop designed to provide practical information on growing, harvesting, and storing grains, as well as the impact on water quality and soil health. This is the second workshop in an ongoing series related to grain production for dairy farms.

This meeting is a collaboration among three UVM Extension teams — Ag Business, Northwest Crops and Soils, and Champlain Valley Crop, Soil and Pasture Team. It is co-hosted by the Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition. The day's agenda includes:

- Heather Darby and Northwest Crops and Soils team will discuss considerations on varieties of corn and soy optimal for the Northeast.
- Abby Augarten and Joshua Faulkner from the Champlain Valley Crop, Soil and Pasture team will present preliminary data on nutrient balances and the water quality impacts of growing soybeans.
- Mark Mordasky, Jack Kennett, Peter Briggs, George and Jeremy Foster, and Lorenzo Whitcomb are farmers who have integrated grain production into their operations. This producer panel will share the knowledge they have gained from their experiences. Read their bios on page 2.

Thursday
March 21, 2024
9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Middlebury Extension Office
23 Pond Lane, Suite 300
Middlebury, VT 05753

REGISTER BY MARCH 19

This is a free event and lunch will be provided.

In the event of inclement weather, this workshop will be rescheduled to March 28.

To request a disability-related accommodation to participate in this program, contact Whitney Hull at 802-279-7517 or whitney.hull@uvm.edu by Friday, March 1, 2024 so we may assist you. Contact Whitney with program questions or for additional information.

REGISTRATION

<https://go.uvm.edu/grainworkshop>

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Speakers

MARK MORDASKY, owner Mordasky Farm LLC, has been farming for more than 14 years in Brandon, Vt. He successfully grows a range of commodity crops — soybeans, barley, and corn — on over 1,000 acres.

JACK KENNETT, of Kennland Farms in Addison County, Vt., has been growing grains since 2010. Currently, they produce corn grain, soybeans, and dry hay on over 1,700 acres. They sell directly to local dairy producers, as well as other local markets.

PETER BRIGGS farms with his mother and father in Addison, Vt. They milk 170 cows on three robots. The farm raises 200 acres of corn for silage and grain, 330 acres of hay/alfalfa, 50 acres of soybeans, and 70 acres of winter wheat. The crops are grown for silage, grain, seed, and cover.

GEORGE AND JEREMY FOSTER manage Foster Brothers Farm, a 480-cow dairy in Middlebury, Vt. They grow about 2,000 acres of crops, including hay, corn silage, soybeans, and small grains. They grow around 300 acres of soybeans, including plenish beans. The Fosters have experimented with feeding their home-grown soybeans, and also sell their soybeans to local markets.

LORENZO WHITCOMB and his brother Onan operate North Williston Cattle Company, a 240-cow dairy in Williston, Vt. They manage around 500 acres of cropland, including 100 acres of soybean. They've been growing and feeding soybean for the past four years, and hire a custom mobile roaster to roast their soybeans.

