

Cooperatives Track 2015 NOFA Summer Conference

The [Neighboring Food Co-op Association](#) (NFCA) is sponsoring this track of four workshops, taking place on Friday, August 14 and Saturday, August 15, 2015. They address a variety of ways in which co-operative enterprises can improve the food system in the Northeast and practical steps for farmers and other food system workers wanting to explore the cooperative model. *See listing below.*



NOFA
Northeast Organic Farming Association
41st Annual Summer Conference



August 14-16, 2015
University of Massachusetts Amherst, MA

What else is going this year?

- *** [Check out this 3 minute video to learn what this conference is all about!](#)
- **144 WORKSHOPS for adults:** Find complete listings of this year's workshop on organic farming, gardening and land care, homesteading, nutrition, food politics, and more [organized by CATEGORY here](#) OR [organized by TIME SLOT here](#).
- **FIVE PRE-CONFERENCE INTENSIVE SEMINARS:** On Friday, August 14, there will be [five simultaneous seminars](#) on these topics: 1) Healing Your Body with the GAPS Nutritional Protocol; 2) Creating Herbal Remedies for Digestive Wellness; 3) Carbon Farming: Regenerative Agriculture for the Climate; 4) Pastured Poultry: From Brooder to Bag; 5) Becoming a Backyard Beekeeper
- **OTHER EVENTS:** 100+ [exhibitors](#) from all over the Northeast, workshops and activities for teens and children, an afternoon fair with farm animals, [live music and dances](#), and an ALL-LOCAL dinner. Stay on campus in the dorms or camp in a tent under the stars.
- **KEYNOTE PROGRAMS:**
 - Friday Night, August 14 – [Keynote Address by Dr. Natasha Campbell-McBride.](#)
 - Saturday Night, August 15 – [Keynote Address by Ronnie Cummins.](#)

[Register Now!](#)

*** Register by July 17, 2015 and get a \$20 discount.

10) Northeast Dairy Challenges & Co-operative, Organic Solutions **COOP & SCC Tracks** *All levels*

Campus Center 903

Friday, August 14, 2:00-3:30PM

Regina and Brent Beidler: Farmer-owners, Beidler Family Farm & VT Rep, Organic Valley Co-operative.

We will address some of the challenges faced by family dairy farmers in the Northeast, and how organic agriculture and co-operative enterprise can help empower producers in the marketplace,

build soil health, and help mitigate climate change. We will share our experience as organic farmers and members of Organic Valley.

28) How to Start a Food Co-op in Your Community **COOP Track** *All levels*

Campus Center 903

Friday, August 14, 4:00-5:30PM

Bonnie Hudspeth: Membership & Outreach Manager for Neighboring Food Co-op Association.

Michael Faber: General Manager of Monadnock Food Co-op in Keene, NH.

In its first year, Monadnock Food Co-op sold products from 177 local farmers & producers.

We'll review resources available to guide the start-up process of a food Co-op, share examples of how food co-ops serve local farmers and producers, and present lessons learned from the organizing and recent opening of Monadnock Food Co-op.

68) Co-op Conversion for Business Success **COOP Track** *All levels*

Campus Center 903

Saturday, August 15, 10:00-11:30AM

Adam Trott: Staff, Valley Alliance of Worker Co-ops; Worker/Member, Collective Copies.

Erbin Crowell: Executive Director, Neighboring Food Co-op Association.

Co-ops are a great model for business succession, retaining jobs, and rooting businesses in communities. Why go co-op? How do co-ops strengthen our regional food system and economy? Learn about the process of conversion, and hear from representatives from a variety of businesses that have converted to the co-operative model.

94) Farmer Co-ops For Efficient Production & Marketing **COOP Track** *All levels*

Campus Center 903

Saturday, August 15, 1:00-2:30PM

Roger Noonan: President, New England Farmers Union.

Erbin Crowell: Executive Director, Neighboring Food Co-op Association.

Co-operatives benefit their member-owners, farmers, consumers, and the food system.

Learn how your operation could benefit by being part of a producer/marketing co-operative, and discover the steps involved in setting one up.