

Soil Carbon and Climate Track 2015 NOFA Summer Conference

These workshops provide information on farming practices that return carbon to the soil from the atmosphere, and build humus for the long term, as well as organizing efforts to promote this way of farming. *See listing below.*

NOFA
Northeast Organic Farming Association
41st Annual Summer Conference



What else is going this year?

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

- *** [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, 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.

34) Productive Riparian Buffers **PC & SCC Tracks** *Intermediate*
Campus Center 162-75

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

Connor Stedman: Ecological designer, agroforester, and educator based in the Hudson River Valley. Climate change is increasing the severity and frequency of flooding throughout the Northeast. This workshop explores agriculturally productive buffers as an emerging option for river lands and beyond. We will discuss the science and functionality of riparian buffers as well as planning, potential crops, and funding considerations for productive buffers.

78) Soil: the Climate-Cattle Connection **SCC Track** *Intermediate*

Campus Center 165-69

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

Ridge Shinn: Grass-fed beef expert. Called “Carbon cowboy” in TIME magazine.

The same management practices that fatten cattle for 100% grass-fed beef also increase soil fertility and combat climate change. I will explain how you can build topsoil, provide cattle with essential nutrients, and take carbon from the air and put it deep in the ground with managed rotational grazing.

104) Raising High Quality Vegetables While Building Carbon **SCC Track** *Intermediate*

Campus Center 162-75

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

Julie Rawson: Vegetable Farming 30 years, \$30K/acre, lots of livestock too.

My goal is to have the best tasting, highest yielding, most nutritious produce possible. This improves farm profitability and personal health. We'll cover in detail 8-10 practices for building soil carbon that garnered our farm the highest marks in a 2014 carrot trial with 13 other farms. Techniques applicable for many annual crops.

119) Improving Soil Health with Cover Crops **SCC Track** *All levels*

Campus Center 165-69

Sunday, August 16, 8:00-9:30AM

Thomas Akin: State Resource Conservationist with NRCS in Amherst, MA.

Cover crops are not just for soil erosion mitigation; they provide a great food source (lots of fresh carbon!) for your soil's bacteria, fungi, and other critters. Learn how to make your soils healthier by planting cover crop cocktails throughout the growing season! Presentation aimed toward vegetable farmers.

147) Movements for a Regenerative Organic Future **SCC Track** *All levels*

Campus Center Auditorium

Sunday, August 16, 10:00-11:30AM

Ronnie Cummins: Author, lifetime activist, Founder and Director Organic Consumers Association.

Regenerating the Earth's 28 billion acres of managed land requires an unprecedented global Movement of Movements, embracing everyone concerned about health, climate stability, animal welfare, rural development, green jobs, renewable energy, conservation, economic justice, peace, and democracy. Single-issue silos must give way to "connecting the dots" between the climate crisis, deteriorating public health, militarism, resource wars, poverty, factory farms, GMO crop production, biodiversity loss, and corporate control over politics and the mass media. I will sketch out local to international "populist" strategies to catalyze this Global Regenerative Revolution.

165.5) Envisioning a Restored Planet & Livable Climate **SCC Track** *Intermediate*

Campus Center 168C

Sunday, August 16, 1:00-2:30PM

Seth Itzkan: Africa Center for Holistic Management Volunteer. Citizen Scientist. TEDx Speaker.

Grassland restoration offers hope for replenishing water tables, enhancing livelihoods and reversing global warming. As an Environmental futurist, I'll report from the front lines of restoration: ranchers using livestock to increase the carrying capacity and carbon capture of grasslands & restoration efforts for forests and wetlands. A greener planet may be more tenable than imaged.