

February  
2016

# Northeast Hops News

Northeast Hops News is brought to you each month by Steve Miller, Hops Specialist and Sarah Ficken, Hops Program Assistant, Madison County Cooperative Extension. Steve researches, writes, and finds articles that would be useful and interesting to the hops community. If you have questions regarding content or would like to contribute to this newsletter, please contact Sarah Ficken at [sjs299@cornell.edu](mailto:sjs299@cornell.edu)

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Madison County

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[www.madisoncountyce.org](http://www.madisoncountyce.org)  
[www.northeasthopalliance.org](http://www.northeasthopalliance.org)  
Phone (315)684-3001  
Fax (315)684-9290

Cornell Cooperative Extension in Madison County provides equal program and employment opportunities. CCE does not endorse or recommend any specific product or service. This newsletter is solely intended to educate consumers about their choices.

## Hop Information from 2015: Did you miss these?

By Steve Miller

I thought this would be a great time to review some highlights of articles we had in the Hop Newsletter from 2015. Everyone gets busy and you may have not had a chance to read these in detail or at all. This is the reason we archive the newsletters or the northeast hop alliance website.

Each year we all learn more on doing a better job of producing and processing the hop crop. Please take some time to see what you've missed. Sarah has included links so you can go right to the month you are interested in.

### January 2015: Hop harvesting and processing safety webinar.

<http://www.northeasthopalliance.org/item/875161>

This webinar included information on dust and mechanical hazards. It is still available online

### February 2015: DVD sets available from the 2014 conference.

<http://www.northeasthopalliance.org/item/947799>

The 2015 conference DVD set should be available by the end of February, 2016

### April 2015: Hop Quarantine Important for Hop Powdery Mildew Control.

<http://www.northeasthopalliance.org/item/967581>

Hop producing states out west do not allow outside states to ship plants or rhizomes in. We need to pay more attention to what we are bringing in to our yards from out of state propagators

### May 2015: Crowning, Pruning, and Training, the art of growing hops

<http://www.northeasthopalliance.org/item/972840>

This is a must read! Crowning is a practice to reduce downy mildew infection. However, in our short growing season it also impacts yields. You may want to be crowning if you have not had systematic downy mildew infections.

### June 2015: Hop Downy Mildew Scouting and Management

<http://www.northeasthopalliance.org/item/987260>

We had more than 10 inches of rain in May and June of 2015 and growers who scouted and sprayed for downy were able to have a good crop. Others not so good.

### July 2015: Harvesting, Drying, and Processing Hops

<http://www.northeasthopalliance.org/item/993055>

Another must read article! Producing and maintaining quality pre and post harvest is crucial for you and the industry to be successful.

## **August 2015: Hop Trellis Construction**

<http://www.northeasthopalliance.org/item/996162>

This is a primer on designs for northeastern trellis. Your design or layout will have a major impact on yields and pest management.

## **Hop Powdery Mildew**

So far we have not had to be concerned with this disease, but it was introduced into some yards in 2015. Growers will need to pay close attention now. Learn more about it in this article.

## **September 2015: Hop Machinery dealers and manufacturers**

<http://www.northeasthopalliance.org/item/1000169>

The growth of small hop farms has triggered more innovation in harvesting and processing equipment. Here is a list of what was out there in 2015

## **Making your Own Hop Testing Compactor**

A useful tool for testing moisture. Hops must be compacted for the probe to read accurately.

## **Getting ready for Harvest: Smell, touch, hear, and measure**

An excellent article from Heather Darby at UVM

## **October 2015: Two new books on hop growing and history**

<http://www.northeasthopalliance.org/item/1007288>

The Hop Farmer's Year by Al Bullard and the Hop Grower's Handbook by Laura Ten Eyck and Dietrich Gehring. Both are fun and informative.

## **November 2015: Financing and Grant Opportunities**

<http://www.northeasthopalliance.org/item/1018147>

These are few and very competitive but some growers have been successful in obtaining both grants and low interest loans for improving their hop farms. Read about the options.

## **January 2016: What Should I Plant — Hop Variety Selection**

<http://www.northeasthopalliance.org/item/1030490>

This is one of the most common questions we get from prospective growers. We only have a few years of experience in evaluating varieties under eastern conditions, but this article gives you some characteristics to consider before making the decision.

## **Keeping Records in your Hopyard**

There are many ways of doing this, the most important of all is to actually do it. Seasonal records will be your most valuable tool for success. Record what you did, later go back and read them over, just like we are doing with these articles.



## **Farm Storage Facility Loans are now Available**

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program provides low-interest financing so producers can build or upgrade permanent facilities to store commodities. Eligible commodities include grains, oilseeds, peanuts, pulse crops, hay, honey, renewable biomass commodities, fruits and vegetables. Eligible facility types include grain bins, hay barns and facilities for cold storage. Hop growers are now eligible for this loan, which can include the structures and equipment required to get fruited and vegetables washed, treated, and packed along with the cold storage that had been previously excluded. For more information:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/price-support/facility-loans/farm-storage/index>

## **Southern Tier Agricultural Industry Enhancement Program**

This program will assist farm operations located in the Southern Tier Region of New York State implement part(s) of a farm business plan or environmental plan that will increase farm production, enhance profitability and/or increase environmental sustainability of the farm operation. The four open application periods run January 19—March 7, 2016; July 11—September 19, 2016; January 16—March 6, 2017; July 10—September 18, 2017. For more information: <http://tompkinscountyny.gov/swcd/Grants>

# Climate change and uh, hopperburners? — arriving

From the Northeast IPM Center

The villain: the adult potato leafhopper, a winged, pale, green, wedge-shaped insect about 1/8-inch long. In hopperburn—the yellow, wilted area at the tips of alfalfa leaves, the plant’s characteristic response to leafhopper feeding—entomologists see a kind of climate footprint.

A toxin in the insect’s saliva causes hopperburn. The leafhopper reproduces on over 200 plant species in 25 different families, including alfalfa, potatoes, beans, peanuts, and woody ornamentals. The potato leafhopper feeds on many different crops, causing millions of dollars of damage every year. It migrates to northern climates in spring in high winds. Researchers in Maryland and New York examined six decades of data on leafhopper arrival dates and infestation. They found that the hopperburners are arriving to eastern U.S. farms earlier than in the 1950s, by as much as ten days. That’s roughly a day every six years.

“Prepare for the effects of climate change on migratory pests,” wrote *Utah Pests News* in the summer of 2015.

## NeHA Membership Renewals are Due

The Northeast Hop Alliance welcomes anyone who supports our mission to reintroduce hops on a small commercial scale in the Northeast United States.

### Benefits of membership include:

- Discounts at Hop Institute courses and NeHA events
- Ability to use NeHA branding on marketing material
- Invitation to Annual Member Dinner
- Cooperative purchasing of coir, rhizomes, etc.
- Ability to use shared equipment (harvester)
- Access to NeHA’s member only online community
- Listserv, calendars, contacts, forum
- Ability to list farm/brewery on NeHA website
- Potential marketing cooperative

For more information, visit  
[www.northeasthopalliance.org](http://www.northeasthopalliance.org)



DVDs from the 2015 Cornell Hops Conference will be available at the end of February. If you are interested in receiving a conference DVD, please complete and return the following to Cornell Cooperative Extension of Madison County Attn: Hops DVD PO Box 1209 Morrisville, NY 13408.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

2013 — \$60      2014 — \$60      2015 — \$70

2015 Conference Attendees receive 50% off of the 2015 Conference DVD set.

Please include your check made payable to Cornell Cooperative Extension with this order form.

# 2016 South Atlantic Hops Conference

March 4th-5th in Richmond, VA



## Early- bird discount tickets available through Wednesday!

\*\*\*We are now sold out for the Friday brewery and hop yard tours, but tickets still remain for the Saturday educational sessions.\*\*\*

**\$69.57:** early- bird ticket price through **Feb. 3rd**

**\$95.94:** regular priced tickets starting **Feb. 4th**

**For more details and to purchase tickets go here:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2016-south-atlantic-hops-conference-tickets-19730934757>

This event is organized by:

**North Carolina State University, Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, and  
the Old Dominion Hops Cooperative**

And is applicable for:

**all types of growers, nurseries/ farmers that want to diversify their current operation, experienced hop growers, brewers, home brewers, educators, and beer enthusiasts of all kinds!**

## Saturday educational sessions will include:

- Growing Hops in Non-traditional Areas, *James Altwies, Gorst Valley Hops*
- New Opportunities, Best Practices Self-Certification Program, & IPM Field Guides, *Ann George, Hop Growers of America*
- Hops and Beer Chemistry in the South Atlantic, *Ken Hurley, Virginia Tech*
- Managing Downy Mildew on Hops in the South, *Lina Quesada-Ocampo, NCSU*
- Harvesting Hops and Quality Issues-*James Altwies, Gorst Valley Hops*
- Growing and Marketing Hops on a Diversified Farm, *Dan Gridley, Farm Boy Farms*
- The Status of the Industry, *Ann George, Executive Director of Washington Hop Commission*
- Small-scale Hop Yard Construction, *David Goode, Piedmont Hops*
- Brewer and grower informal meet and greet
- What Brewers Want and Experiences with Local Hops-panel of brewers, *Brian Nelson, Head Brewer Hardywood Park Craft Brewery*
- Processing Hops-*James Altwies, Gorst Valley Hops*
- Buying clean starter plants- panel of speakers
- Updates from University Research and Extension and the Old Dominion Hops Cooperative

For all up-to-date information, agenda, and to purchase tickets:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2016-south-atlantic-hops-conference-tickets-19730934757>



# 2016 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Hop Conference

## HIGHLIGHTS

Join us for our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Hop Conference. You will learn about agronomics and fertility management from Sarah Del Moro of John I. Haas, Inc. in Washington. Several hop growers will be guest speakers including Nathan L'Etoile from Four Star Farms, MA who will share information on scaling-up production, Dan Wiesen from Empire Hops, MI who will present on efficient hop yard management, and hop grower and British Hop Association Board Member Richard Phillips will talk about disease management strategies used in Europe.

You will also hear updated research information from Heather Darby and the UVM Extension Northwest Crops and Soils Team, as well as from Steve Miller from Cornell University. Register today!



## DETAILS

Friday, February 19, 2016  
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
[Hampton Inn VT Event Center](#)  
[42 Lower Mountain View Drive](#)  
[Colchester, VT 05446](#)

The Hampton Inn is holding a block of rooms at \$109/night until Jan. 25, 2016. Call 1-802-655-6177 or use this [reservation link](#).

**Registration starts at 8:15 a.m.**  
**Conference starts promptly at 9:00 a.m.**

Registration fee: \$70  
Registration fee for NeHA members: \$60  
Hops Live Broadcast: \$35

If you have questions, call Heather Darby or Susan Brouillette at 802-524-6501 or 1-800-639-2130 (toll-free in Vermont only).

*\*To request a disability-related accommodation to participate in this program, please contact Susan Brouillette at 802-524-6501 or 1-800-639-2130 or [susan.brouillette@uvm.edu](mailto:susan.brouillette@uvm.edu) by January 29, 2016 so we may assist you.*

Please RSVP by February 16, 2016 by going to [www.regonline.com/hopconference](http://www.regonline.com/hopconference)

Current Conference Sponsors are below – if you wish to be a sponsor or exhibitor, please call Susan at 802-524-6501 before January 15, 2016.



*UVM Extension helps individuals and communities put research-based knowledge to work. Crop insurance and other risk management strategies help to preserve and strengthen Vermont's farmers. More information is available at [www.rma.usda.gov](http://www.rma.usda.gov). Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, University of Vermont Extension, Burlington, Vermont. University of Vermont Extension, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating, offer education and employment to everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status.*

# THE Beyond Brewing

APRIL 7-8, 2016  
BLACK HOPS FARM  
LEESBURG, VA

FORUM 2016

## Grower Track, Day 1:

- 8:00-9:00: Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 9:00-10:00: Opening Keynote — Industry Overview
- 10:00-10:45: From the Senate to the Field: How Bill 579 and 430 Makes Small MD/Va Farms, Big Cash
- 10:45-11:00 Refreshment Break in Solution Center
- 11:00-11:45 Dollars & Sense: The Cost of Growing Green
- 11:45-12:30: Challenges, Opportunities, and Fatal Flaws for Family Farms
- 12:30-1:15: Lunch! Brews and Bites Supplied
- 1:15-2:00: Disease, Draught, & Bugs, Oh My! Strategic Steps to Ensure a Healthy Harvest
- 2:00-2:14: Out of the Field and Into the Glass: Harvest Techniques to Yield Gold
- 2:45-3:00 Refreshment Break in Solution Center
- 3:00-3:30: Innovations create Hop-ortunities! Beyond Brewing and Expanding your Crop
- 3:30-4:00: Future of East Coast Hop Production: Boom or Bust
- 4:00-5:00: Q&A Panel with Experts
- 5:00-6:00: National Beer Day Power Hour at Vanish Brewery

## Grower Track, Day 2:

- 8:00-8:45: Continental Breakfast & Registration
- 8:45-9:15: Opening Keynote: Field Day Overview
- 9:15-10:00 Organarchy Tour
- 10:00-11:30: Guided Tour of Flying Dog Brewery and Hop Yard
- 11:30-1:30: Lunch at Milkhouse Brewery
- 1:30-3:00: Guided Tour of Pleasant Valley Hop Yard
- 3:00-5:00: Vanish Brewery Hoppy Hour

Speakers for the grower's track include: Sean-Thomas Pumphrey, Tom Barse, Brian Tennis, Dan Carroll, Dylan Kryzywonski, Solomon Rose, Steve Miller, Ben Savage, Kellie Bowles, and more.

For more information:  
[www.beyondbrewingforum.com](http://www.beyondbrewingforum.com)

Register by March 31 and  
receive a \$100 discount

# Pesticide Certification, You should obtain it

Have some down time right now? Why not look into taking the pesticide applicator certification training and exam. Many hop growers in NY (and other eastern states) have relatively small plots under cultivation and often think they do not need pesticide applicator certification. Many of the agricultural pesticides that are labeled for hops carry a restricted label, meaning you cannot purchase or apply them without certification as a private applicator. If you were to want to apply **any pesticide** on another farmers field for a fee, you would need commercial certification, but I do not know of any individual growers who fit that situation. Back to the private category. DEC has ruled that they prefer that hop growers obtain private certification under the fruit category because hops are grown more similarly to fruit than other crops. Certification is a good idea not just from the standpoint of what you can legally apply but it comes with training, experience and an exam, all of which help protect you as the applicator, your crop and those who consume it, and our environment. Another good reason is that you will learn how sprayers operate and how they should be calibrated so that you do not apply too little or too much to achieve the desired results in managing the pest. Don't put it off, having the certification gives you more flexibility to protect your crop. The following link will take you to DEC's webpage where you can learn more about the requirements and pesticide training opportunities. <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/209.html> Good Luck steve

## Classifieds:

Are you a grower looking to sell a piece of hops equipment? Do you provide harvesting or processing services to other growers? Are you looking for equipment or services? Is there a unique opportunity on your farm that you would like to share? If so, send in your information to Sarah ([sjs299@cornell.edu](mailto:sjs299@cornell.edu)) for inclusion in next month's newsletter.

### For Sale

Alcott's Garden Center has hop plants available for Spring planting. Call (315)841-8285

Bundschuh's Greenhouses has hop plants available for Spring planting.  
Call (315)986-8872 and ask for Ellen

Massi's Greenhouse has hop plants available for Spring planting.  
Call (607)329-7459

Zerrillo's Greenhouse has hop plants available for Spring planting.  
<http://madisoncountycce.org/agriculture/hops-program/potted-hop-plants-for-sale>

### Services

HOPS HARVESTING: The 2015 season may have just ended, but it's never too early to start thinking about next year. The Bineyard provides full-cycle services for hops farmers - from harvesting, to drying, to pelletizing. Contact us at [hops@thebineyard.com](mailto:hops@thebineyard.com) or [www.thebineyard.com](http://www.thebineyard.com) to learn more.

# Upcoming Events

**February 15-16, 2016**

## **Plow to Pint: Intensive 2-Day Micro-Malting and Farm Brewery Seminar**

*Owego, NY*

Spend two intimate days with the malster/brewer and his wife/business partner, learning the ins and outs of owning and operating a NYS farm brewery and on-site micro Malthouse. Topics covered include: Farmer relations, Malthouse operations, Malt Quality Control, and NYS Farm Brewery Primer.

<http://www.thefarmhousebrewery.com/events/2016/2/15/plow-to-pint-2-day-intensive-micro-malting-farm-brewery-seminar>

**February 19, 2016**

## **7th Annual UVM Hops Conference**

*Colchester, VT*

At this one day conference you will learn the latest on agronomics and fertility management, disease management strategies in Europe, and updated research information. You will also hear from hop growers on scaling-up production and efficient hopyard management. <http://www.uvm.edu/extension/cropsoil/wp-content/uploads/2016-Hop-Flyer.pdf>

**March 4 & 5, 2016**

## **2016 South Atlantic Hops Conference**

*Richmond, VA*

This two day conference features a series of speakers and hopyard tours in and around Northeast Virginia. For more information, check out: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2016-south-atlantic-hops-conference-tickets-19730934757>

**March , 2016**

## **Western NY Hops Workshop in Ontario County**

Save the date! More details to follow!

**Renew your NeHA Membership today!**

Membership is \$40 per farm

Visit [www.northeasthopalliance.org](http://www.northeasthopalliance.org)

for more information or to download our membership form



Northeast Hop Alliance  
Madison County, New York  
1000 Eaton Street  
Morrisville, NY 13408  
(315)684-3001 ext 127

Steve Miller, NYS Hops Educator — Newsletter Editor

Sarah Ficken, Hops Program Assistant — Newsletter Production and Design

### **Mission**

The Cornell Cooperative educational system enables people to improve their lives and communities through partnerships that put experience and research knowledge to work