NOFA-VT Fall Workshop Series

FOR COMMERCIAL FARMERS

Practical Soil Science • Trades Skills
Successful production starts with feeding the soil. Learn how to work with natural processes taking place in the universe below our feet while keeping an eye on financial returns to improve ecological production. This two-day intensive will help you consider the elements of a practical, financially-sound, sustainable management plan to address nutrient needs and soil health on your farm. Presented by soil scientists and experienced farmers with homework & handouts, lecture & break-out groups. Cost: $50/workshop for NOFA-VT members, $60 for non-members. Lunch included.

Part I: Soil Nutrient Management  
Thursday, October 8, 10am-3:30pm  
New requirements about nutrient management based on the proposed water quality bill place new attention on soil fertility management. Dive into soil science to gain a better understanding of soil test results from pH to micronutrients, select and calculate amendments while keeping an eye on cost, source, timing and yield benefits. Bring your soil test results.

Part II: Supporting Biologically Active Soils  
Wednesday, October 28, 10am-3:30pm  
The sustainable farmer’s goal is to create soil biodiversity. Delve into the many ways to support the soil web with combinations of cover crops, rotations, animal manures, compost and appropriate equipment use. We’ll discuss practical considerations like timing, tillage and limited land access.
“Why Isn’t This Thing Working?”
Trades Skills Workshops

Whether you have years of suffering already under your belt gained by experience, or you’re in your first few years of farming, these workshops will teach you the tricks of the trades with practical farm-based applications. Learn how to think like a mechanic and a detective. Workshops include a hands-on component taking apart and examining the guts of broken equipment. **Cost:** $100/workshop for NOFA-VT members, $120 for non-members. Lunch included. Maximum 15 participants per workshop.

1. **Getting Intimate with Diesel Engines**
   **Wednesday, October 14, 9:30am-4pm**
   **Instructor: Roger Howes, Vermont Tech Professor**
   Ping-Rattle-Pop! Stall. Water in the fuel line? Clogged filter? Learn how diesel tractor systems work, from starter to fuel, power train to hydraulics. Assess the source of common problems and get trained in key maintenance to avoid them. Includes hands-on lab with multiple tractors of various vintages.

2. **Gas-Fueled Machines: Tractors, Pumps & Friends**
   **Thursday, November 5, 9:30am-4pm**
   **Instructor: Roger Howes, Vermont Tech Professor**
   The hip bone’s connected to the thigh bone. The cylinder’s connected to the carburetor. Or is it the piston? Learn how gas systems work with examples like small tractors, trucks, rototillers & pumps. Gain investigative & troubleshooting skills for all systems. Conduct preventive maintenance, and practice taking apart and putting parts back together in this hands-on lab.

3. **Why Doesn’t This Thing Turn On: Dealing with Electrical Problems**
   **Thursday, November 12, 9:30am-4pm**
   **Instructor: Jan Ruta, Master Electrician**
   Yikes, electrical. Serious stuff worthy of feeling wary. In order to troubleshoot or even hire an expert, it helps to know the basic concepts. Learn how electricity works and understand key on-farm electrical components like the anatomy of a circuit, panels, conduits, junction boxes & motors used in the greenhouse, barn & cooler. Troubleshoot common problems with our hands-on component.

4. **Tricks for Taking Apart & Fixing Rusted Parts**
   **Thursday, November 19, 9:30am-4pm**
   **Instructor: Roger Howes, Vermont Tech Professor**
   Every farmer has wanted to tear their hair out when that key piece of equipment doesn't work. Learn how common components function, then how to efficiently & systematically repair stubborn parts on equipment from manure spreaders to cultivators including bearings, seized bolts, bushings and gear boxes using essential tricks. Get on the road to becoming a grinder-wielding, torch-flame-throwing, torque-wrench-driving expert.

Location for trades workshops:
Vermont Tech, Randolph, VT

INSTRUCTORS

**Roger Howes** is professor of mechanical engineering at Vermont Technical College who holds a degree from Dartmouth College, but learned most of what he knows from experience.

**Jan Ruta** is owner and operator of Jan Ruta Electric and Master electrician with 15+ years experience. Jan has taught a variety of classes at Yestermorrow, Vermont Works for Women and area technical centers.
Registration Form (or register online at www.nofavt.org/fallworkshops)

Please use a separate form for each attendee. You may print additional forms at www.nofavt.org/fallworkshops.

Walk-ins are welcome on the day of the workshop, pending space availability; however, preregistration is required to guarantee lunch.

Name of Attendee:

Farm/Business:

Street Address:

City:        State:   Zip:

Email:

Phone:

Dietary restrictions:  □ Gluten-free     □ Vegetarian

Choose Your Workshops

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<th>Workshop</th>
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<td>Quick &amp; Dirty: Practical Soil Science — Part I: Soil Nutrient Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family (2 adults receive discount)</td>
<td>□ $55</td>
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<td>Farm (4 adults receive discount)</td>
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<td>Business &amp; Organization Partner (4 employees receive discount)</td>
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TOTAL:  

Please send checks made out to NOFA Vermont to:

NOFA Vermont Fall Workshop Series
PO Box 697, Richmond, VT 05477

Please visit www.nofavt.org/fallworkshops to register and pay online!