

Vermont Vegetable and Berry News May 7, 2008
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TWILIGHT MEETING AT FOOTE BROOK FARM, May 20th, 4-7 pm

Registration for the morning session costs \$15 and is limited to 36 people. Mail your 05301, so it arrives no later than May 30. The afternoon session is free but please register by calling Vern Grubinger at 802-257-7967 x13 or email: vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu.

ZONE-TILLAGE AT CECARELLI FARM, NORTHFORD CT, June 5, 6-8 pm
Sponsored by the UConn Cooperative Extension System and Northeast SARE

Zone tillage is a promising reduced tillage option for vegetable growers. Travel to the wilds of Connecticut, just 90 minutes south of Vermont, to hear Nelson Cecarelli describe his transition to zone-till. He grows 100 acres of mixed vegetables; after seeing severe soil erosion he adopted strip tillage plus subsoiling in his corn and winter squash. This produces a slightly-raised, narrow seedbed (5-conventional fields, but still protects the soil between rows with a surface residue. When combined with use of winter cover crops, the system replaces organic matter lost through years of conventional tillage and improves soil structure.

Nelson made fewer trips across his fields using deep zone-tillage, saved on fuel, and had his best yields ever. He had better plant stands than in bare-ground fields, had clean winter squash and pumpkins, and started to break up the plow pan, reducing risk of diseases like Phytophthora. Nelson and others will describe their experiences with deep zone tillage and demonstrate the system. An equipment dealer will be on hand to describe the hardware.

Directions: Go south on I-91 to Wallingford and take the E. Center Street Exit (for Rt. 150). At the top of the ramp, take a left onto E. Center St. and cross back over the highway. Go 0.6 miles and turn right onto Northford Rd. Go 2.2 miles to the stop sign at Rt 17. Go right on Rt. 17 for 0.2 miles and take your first right onto Old Post Rd. The farm is ½ mile up on the right. Questions? Jude Boucher, jude.boucher@uconn.edu, (860)875-3331.

SIGN UP FOR ON-FARM NEMATODE SURVEY

Bao Yong, a graduate student in the UVM Dept. of Plant and Soil Science at UVM, will be conducting a state-wide survey of plant-parasitic nematodes on lettuce, tomato and snap bean. These three crops, as well as many others, are susceptible to damage by

