



Young Farmers Conference

Reviving the Culture
of Agriculture

December 1 & 2, 2011



STONE BARNs CENTER
FOR FOOD & AGRICULTURE™

Welcome to the 2011 Young Farmers Conference!

We're so pleased to have a wonderful lineup of speakers and presenters for our 4th annual gathering for young and beginning farmers. You'll find more information about workshops, lodging, and schedules throughout the brochure.

How to use this brochure:

In the following pages you'll find over 50 workshops covering 7 broad topic areas: vegetable cultivation, animal husbandry, permaculture, land access, nutrient management, business and marketing, and policy and community building.

Each workshop is labeled as *basic*, *intermediate*, or *mixed*.

If you're just starting out with your farming enterprise, you can attend all basic workshops, even focusing entirely on vegetable cultivation or animal husbandry. For more seasoned farmers, there are intermediate workshops to introduce you to new breeds and practices, or workshops that are a deeper dive on one specific area.

Choose the workshops that are right for the farming you do now or for the agricultural enterprise you plan to start in the future.

By offering workshops at varying levels of expertise, we hope to enhance the experience of both YFC first-timers and those of you who have come back to join us year after year.

SESSION A

Thursday, 9:15 AM – 10:45 AM

A1 Basic Soil Science

You may know how to change the pH of your soil, but do you know why it's important? The mechanisms of nutrient uptake? The elegance of the Nitrogen Cycle? Why all plants (except broccoli!) need a fungal partner? This workshop will focus on the basics of Soil Science: the physical, chemical, and biological origins, functions, and best management practices of the soil you grow in. You will learn where soil came from, what it's made of, and who lives in it. We will search for and ID many of the critters that live underground, as well as conduct hands-on soil texture tests that will enable you to assess your soil. *Basic.*
Rebecca McMackin, Mantis Plant Works, Brooklyn Bridge Park

A2 Let's Do the Numbers

Farming is a tough business; inputs are expensive and the margins are slim. Sustainable farming can't be sustainable unless farmers earn a decent living. What does a profitable farm business look like? Three successful farms of different sizes and models share their spreadsheets in this interactive workshop. What does it cost to grow X acres of vegetables? How do different marketing strategies affect the bottom line? How much should you budget for labor? What are the business implications of renting vs. owning your farm? For-profit vs. non-profit? We'll delve into the nitty gritty for a practical discussion

of what works and why with a focus on making it all add up. *Mixed.*

Caroline Pam, Kitchen Garden Farm; Benjamin Shute, Hearty Roots Community Farm; Ryan Voiland, Red Fire Farm

A3 Financial Management for CSA

This workshop will be an overview of how we create budgets, track payments, make financial reports, plan for infrastructure improvement, and analyze financial health. The workshop will include both paper copies and projected versions of actual financial documents that are used to successfully manage Brookfield Farm. The presenter will clearly demonstrate how to make choices based on careful record keeping that can also help participants create financially viable farm operations. *Mixed.*

Dan Kaplan, Brookfield Farm

A4 An Introduction to Backyard Beekeeping

This basic level class will cover the value of beekeeping, bee anatomy, castes and behavior, useful equipment and tools for beekeeping, the differences between Langstroth and top bar beehives, how to get started and work in the hive, and of course a little bit of Stone Barns' philosophy towards chemical-free beekeeping. *Basic.*

Dan Carr, Stone Barns Center

A5 Intro to Farm Leases and Leasing

We will focus on short-term and longer-term lease arrangements and discuss innovative leasing agreements. We'll get into what's in a lease, when to lease, types

of landlords, legal and financial considerations, as well as lease negotiating and communicating with landlords. There will be plenty of time for interaction and Q&A. *Mixed.*

Bob Bernstein, Land for Good

A6 USDA Funding Opportunities

This workshop will help participants learn about two USDA agencies and how to apply for the funding opportunities offered by them. Several USDA programs which offer funding and loans for small farms, specialty crops and organic farming will be discussed. Examples of programs discussed will be Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA), the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and the Farm Loan Program. *Mixed.*

Sarah Kron, USDA-NRCS; Carol Ronne, USDA Farm Service Agency

A7 Marketing Grass-fed Beef

This workshop will address key items to a successful small business strategy (i.e. identifying/fulfilling niche markets, leveraging core competencies, customer relationship management, vertical integration, diversification, sales, and marketing). The presenter will share his experience developing, building and managing his beef enterprises. *Mixed.*

Bryan Ulring, J Bar L Ranch and Yellowstone Grass-fed Beef

SESSION B

Thursday, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

B1 Understanding Soil Fertility Management

This class will be an overview of several topics related to soil including its formation, chemistry, soil test interpretation, amendment application calculations, management of soil organic matter and tillage practices. The intention of the class is to introduce attendees that have a basic understanding of soil chemistry and biology to some of the science related to soil to help better inform their management decisions. Attendees will also be given the specific tools needed to interpret soil tests and make amendment decisions. *Intermediate.*

Intermediate.

Zach Wolf, Stone Barns Center

B2 Pasture to Plate: the Re-Verticalized Meat Enterprise

Using the Farm 255 / Farm Burger / Moonshine Meats enterprise as an example, our intermediate-level lecture will present model business development for small-scale livestock producers that can be interpreted as the traditional verticalization of an agricultural system while keeping ethics, philosophy, and tenets of local, sustainable farming intact and illuminated. Our collective of businesses strives to provide a positive financial return on the efforts of local farmers via a diversified, nimble, adaptable revenue model. Moonshine Meats is our producer cooperative, an integrated meat community working to build dynamic relationships and

markets throughout the greater Southeast. Moonshine partners with farmers that meet rigorous production standards in order to provide the community with ethically-raised meat under one label. We operate in both wholesale and retail markets via our three affiliated restaurants, as well as other local food service establishments, and our CSA. *Intermediate.*

Olivia Sargeant, Farm 255/Farm Burger/Moonshine Meats/Grange Collective; Jake O. Francis, pig farmer/chef; Darla Synnestvedt, Moonshine Meats; Sean Stanton, North Plain Farm/Blue Hill Farm

B3 Safety Hazards on the Farm

In farming you need to conserve your most valuable resources- you, your family members and/or employees! According to the National Safety Council, agriculture is one of the most hazardous industries in the country. In this workshop you will have an overview of some of the most common types of farm work-related hazards that are present and how you can prevent injuries related to these hazards. This workshop will use a combination of presentation, demonstrations, and discussion. *Mixed.*

Jim Carrabba, Agricultural Safety Specialist, New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH)

B4 Handling Skills with Sheep

We'll cover body condition scoring, docking, ear tagging, FAMACHA scoring, hoof trimming, prepping for the shearer and vaccinations. Time will also be set aside to discuss health concerns of a flock. *Basic.*

Craig Haney, Stone Barns Center

B5 Farming Biodiversity: Integration of Wildlife Conservation and Productive Landscapes

This presentation will feature a range of agricultural lands designed by NBW in VA, CT, NY, CA and New Zealand in an effort to show the broad application of restoration ecology in the context of farmed landscapes. Attendees will learn how the integration of wildlife corridors, reforestation, insectaries and stream buffers can enhance the biodiversity of plants and animals on farms ultimately benefiting crops and livestock. Examples of constructed wetlands, stream restoration, and warm season grass meadow restoration in the context of productive landscapes including vineyards, livestock production and organic vegetable production will be shown. Holistic farm management designs applicable in a wide range of regions will be discussed. *Mixed.*

Thomas Woltz, Nelson Byrd Woltz
Landscape Architects

B6 Bringing Your Farm Down to Earth

Working on the land requires the development of special skills and capacities including a strong, heartfelt relationship to the natural world. But it also requires a honed strategic sense for how to respect and marshal your resources in order to develop a farming enterprise that is socially, ecologically and economically sustainable over a long period of time. We will discuss how to plan, develop and track growth and

finances of your farm. For a better understanding we will use a farm's first seven years as a case study. *Mixed.*
Rachel Schneider, Hawthorne Valley Farm

B7 Greenhouse Management

This workshop will outline and explain physical systems management strategies and tools as well as ecological growing practices beneficial to creating and maintaining a greenhouse. *Basic.*

Jack Algieri, Stone Barns Center

B8 A Guide to Food Systems Networks

Networks provide us with essential connections to other people working in different parts of the food system; networks take many forms, vary in size and focus. How do you decide how much time to devote to engaging in any given network? What can you do to make sure your network is accessible to everyone who could benefit from it, while at the same time being responsive to the needs of the current network members? In this workshop we will each map our personal food system networks. You will leave with action steps designed to deepen your networks and tools for connecting to the new people you need to know. *Mixed.*

Sam Stegeman, PV Grows; John Engel,
LifeMigrations

B9 Farming Rabbits for Meat

This workshop explains the benefits and market opportunities of rabbit farming. Rabbits can be grown for meat, fur and manure. A rabbit farm is inexpensive to

begin and easy to maintain and can be adapted to both rural and urban settings. Possible butchering demonstration. *Mixed.*
Chuck Benbrook, The Organic Center

SESSION C

Thursday, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

C1 Protect Your Working Body: Self-Care and Ergonomics for Farmers

In this activity-based workshop, participants will be up and moving often. Pantomiming work, practicing stretches and learning proper ergonomics they will quickly understand their most important tool: their body. Participants will learn the basics of anatomy and good body mechanics as they relate to farm work. We will also cover the five movement categories that dominate farm work and specific ways to prepare, maintain and restore the body for each. The workshop will be tailored to the questions and interests of the group including but not limited to: injury prevention, self-massage, restorative stretches and daily practices. *Mixed.*

Lydia Irons

C2 Pasture-Raised Laying Hens: From Start to Soup

This workshop will cover basic information on all aspects of raising laying hens on pasture, from brooding to soup chickens and all the steps in between. Areas will include feed and feeding, housing design, pasture rotation, general health, predator control and much more. Participants should be prepared to ask questions and contribute

from their own experiences. *Intermediate.*
Sean Stanton, North Plain Farm/Blue Hill Farm

C3 Compost 201

This class will briefly cover beginning basics to composting, focusing on small farm composting and taking your operation to the next level of production. We will take a look into resource management, on-farm recycling, testing and learning to perform your own quality control through the use of a microscope. We'll also cover windrow and forced air composting as used by Stone Barns Center. *Mixed.*

Gregg Twehues, Stone Barns Center

C4 Draft Animal Power

In this workshop we will journey through several seasons on our farm to see how we use workhorses as the sole source of draft power at Natural Roots. We'll also discuss our weed control and fertility systems in our vegetable fields through the seasonal cycles, and share slides of old, new, and custom-fabricated implements in use. The practical, philosophical, and financial considerations concerning horse-power will round out our discussion. *Intermediate.*

David Fisher, Natural Roots

C5 Resources for Creating an Effective Internship/Apprenticeship Program

As interest in farming continues to climb, so does the number of applications to apprenticeship programs at farms nationwide. In this workshop you will be

provided with a number of resources to help you create or improve your apprenticeship program. *Mixed.*
Anne Eschenroeder, Phillis Bridge Farm & Angela DeFelice, Poughkeepsie Farm Project

C6 Small-Scale CSA, Simplified

Join Pablo Elliott as he distills eight years of small-scale CSA experience into a fun, interactive, and practical workshop, beneficial for first year farmers and those exploring CSA as a possible farm enterprise. The session will provide an overview of Stoney Lonesome CSA and highlight the basic equipment, infrastructure and systems used to produce and distribute food at the farm. Participants in the workshop will be divided into small groups for an interactive exercise based on Pablo's simple approach to strategic crop planning for CSA, and for discussions around the benefits and challenges of small-scale farm operations. The session will close with Pablo's top ten tips for every beginning CSA farmer. *Basic.*

Pablo Elliot, Stoney Lonesome CSA

C7 Dirt-y Talk: A Hands-On Assessment of Your Soil

Attendees are encouraged to bring soil from their home turf and have the pH and carbon content tested in this interactive, activity-based session. The many advantages to cultivating healthier soil will be covered and there will be a visual demonstration of the effect carbon content has on water retention in varying soils. We will compare different soils by look and by feel, going over some of the most common soil

limitations. We will also offer practices and management that can improve their soil including using compost most effectively, managing for mycorrhizal fungi, and legume-based cover cropping. *Intermediate.*
Margaret Hodgkiss-Lilly & Rebecca Pfeufer, Rodale Institute

C8 Can Twitter Help Grow Food? Can Web 2.0 Help Conquer Weeds? Learn How Social Media Can Grow Community, Advocacy, and a Consumer Base

In this session we will discuss best practices for using social media (Twitter, Facebook, blogs, email) to engage people in advocacy around food/agriculture policy; to build community; and to build a consumer base for your food/farm business. We'll explore what is being done presently, share successful case studies of social media helping farmers and brainstorm new ideas for the farm. *Mixed.*

Kerry Trueman; Leslie Hatfield, GRACE Communication Foundation

SESSION D

Thursday, 3:45 PM – 5:15 PM

D1 Winning a Farm Bill for the Next Generation

The session will present the results of the National Young Farmers' Coalition's national survey and report, "Building a Future with Farmers: Challenges Faced by the Next Generation of American Farmers" and explain the details of the Beginning

Farmer and Rancher Opportunity Act of 2011. The presentation will be followed by an active discussion that will lead into a later session, (E2) “Empowering the Young Farmer Movement: Local Organizing Can Cultivate And Empower The Next Generation Of Farmers.” *Mixed.*

Lindsey Lusher Shute, National Young Farmers Coalition

D2 Generation Organic

Young farmers are taking a new look at American agriculture. Generation Organic is a network of nearly 200 young Organic Valley farmers with a mission to lead the way to an organic and sustainable future. Hear the story of how two Gen-Os and their family’s diversified organic dairy farm in New York got involved in the organic food revolution and how they envision the future of agriculture in America. *Mixed.*

Adam Holter; Blaise Knapp, Cobblestone Valley Farm

D3 Training Apprentices, Interns and Volunteers

At Stone Barns, we welcome students, teachers, families and adults to learn about sustainable agriculture and build connections to the food we eat. The farm is the center of our education programs: we provide the opportunity to engage with our farmers, participate in activities and programs, and learn through action. So that we can effectively engage with visitors, we provide intensive training, mentoring and shadowing for interns, apprentices, and

volunteer docents who work with us and with the public. *Mixed.*

Judy Fink, Stone Barns Center

D4 A Bachelor Farmer's First Year

This workshop serves as a guide to beginning a farm and provides an overview of the challenges of a farm's first year through the anecdotes of a single man running a diverse livestock and vegetable farm. The presenter will discuss how to start a business, including purchasing land and forming an LLC. and address the obstacles faced in marketing, livestock, labor, land use, and equipment. *Basic.*

Michael Grady Robertson, Robertson Farms, LLC

D5 Mobile Poultry Slaughter: From Under the Radar to Writing Regulations.

This lecture will discuss the origins of Island Grow Initiative’s Mobile Poultry Processing Unit (MPPT), comparing costs and orientation with a similar project based on government grants. The regulatory framework of the time will be examined and the strategies employed to get from cease-and-desist orders to licensed approval from the state in less than eight months will be explained. Finally, the presentation will talk through "regulatory speak" and how best to respond to inspection inquiries and concerns. *Mixed.*

Jefferson Munroe & Emily Palmer, The Good Farm; Ali Berlow, Edible Vineyard

D6 Lender’s Panel: Learning About Credit

Considering a loan for land or equipment? Ever wonder where to go to access credit for your business? Heard of a few farm lenders but not sure what they offer? Want to know how to prepare your business to be ready to access credit? This panel discussion will provide a 20-25 minute overview of three credit options available in the Northeast: The Carrot Project, Farm Credit East FarmStart Program, and USDA Farm Service Agency Farm Loan Programs. Attendees will be asked to consider instances where credit would be useful to their business in the near future. Ample time will be left for questions.

Benneth Phelps, The Carrot Project; Carol Ronne, USDA FSA; and Ryan Hrobuchak, Farm Credit East

SESSION E

Friday, 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

E1 Rethinking Farm Planning, Management, and Record Keeping

Our workshop will guide participants step-by-step through the farm planning and management process necessary for building a sustainable farm enterprise. By digging deeper into selected examples, we will illustrate the principles that underlie informed decision making and effective implementation on the farm. As a group, workshop participants will map information flow on the farm to visualize the key decisions that make up the farm planning process, and to identify the information

needed to make those decisions effectively. Finally, participants will discuss how to organize their record keeping practices to ensure that they have all the information they need at their fingertips when developing subsequent season plans. Participants will also receive a guided, interactive live tour of AgSquared – our free online farm planning and management software created especially for small farms. *Basic.*

Jeff Froikin Gordon, Ph.D. & Giulia Stellari, Ph.D., AgSquared

E2 The Young Farmer Movement: Organizing to Cultivate and Empower the Next Generation of Farmers

Across the country alliances and coalitions are forming to unite, educate, and promote agriculture for a new generation of farmers. This session will include brief presentations on what some of these groups are doing and then will become a roundtable conversation with workshop attendees. Bringing organizers and farmers together to share and learn about state and regional organizing for and by new and young farmers offers unique opportunities. With the goal of raising a collective voice for our generation this workshop aims to provide inspiration and practical support as we farm in a new culture of agriculture. *Mixed.*

Shannon Raider, Common Ground High School; Lindsey Lusher Shute, National Young Farmers Coalition; Benjamin Shute, Hearty Roots Community Farm; Jennifer

Hashley, New Entry Sustainable Farming Project

E3 Grow Excellent Field Tomatoes!

Growing high-quality field tomatoes can be tough, but it's not impossible. In this session, we will consider all aspects of smart organic tomato production – choosing varieties and growing your own starts, staking systems, pruning, nutrient and moisture requirements, diseases, insect pests, harvesting and storage methods, marketing, and seed saving. Come ready to discuss all of your tomato-related questions, issues, and success stories. *Basic.*

Rebecca Lay, Ten Speed Farm

E4 Permaculture for Farmers 201: Carbon Farming

Carbon Farming captures carbon in your farm soil to enhance productivity, increase profitability, and combat climate change. Integrating the best practices from Holistic Management, Keyline Design, Agroforestry, Soil Foodweb and Terra-Preta/Biochar, Carbon Farming gives you the tools to design and manage economically and ecologically regenerative farms and examines the current carbon markets, propose a structure for local carbon cooperatives, and discuss their implications for local food systems and economic resilience. *Intermediate.*

Ethan Roland, Appleseed Permaculture

E5 Healthy Herds, Healthy Markets: Raising Heritage Breed Livestock and Poultry

With the recent surge of public interest in heritage breeds, marketing opportunities are opening up for farmers interested in diversifying production through the use of these unique animals. In this session participants will learn about the biological and marketing advantages of farming with traditional or heritage breeds within sustainable agricultural systems. Topics include breed selection, multitasking animals on the farm, attaining quality stock, maintaining breeding animals, organic considerations, and educating your customer base to open niche market opportunities with rare breed products. After this presentation attendees will be able to understand how to choose appropriate breeds of livestock and poultry that suit the land and production needs for their farms. *Basic.*

Jeannette Beranger, American Livestock Breeds Conservancy

E6 Helping Farmers and Landowners Find Common Ground

This workshop consists of a panel of presenters, each of whom has experience managing a “land link” program to help farmers locate and lease. The panelists will describe their background and experience with their individual programs, and will offer an overview of what has been successful and what have been some challenges. After the presentation, the attendees will have an understanding of the

basics of land leasing, including how to locate land, how to negotiate a match with the landowners and how to negotiate lease agreements. They will also better understand the resources available to them, including how to find sample lease agreements, volunteer assistance and mentorships. *Basic.*

Marissa Codey, Columbia Land Conservancy; Eileen Hochberg, Westchester Land Trust

E7 School Food and Cook for America®

Farmers play an essential role in a new paradigm in which school food becomes a powerful and effective tool in the fight against childhood obesity. Learn how “lunch ladies” in school kitchens across America are learning to cook the food you grow, and discover how you can help transform schoolchildren into your most important customers. *Mixed.*

Kate Adamick, Cook for America

E8 Four Season Farming

This presentation will address the benefits of operational diversity on the farm. Jack will cover the importance of ecological diversity and natural habitats, the importance of integrated support mechanisms, and labor methods and practices. *Basic.*

Jack Algieri, Stone Barns Center

E9 Poultry Processing

You’ve kept the poultry healthy and alive and now it’s time for the harvest. From

readying for the processing to the bagging of the chilled carcasses, this hands-on workshop will cover the basics of harvesting poultry. Each participant will have the opportunity to kill, scald, pluck and eviscerate a turkey or chicken. Space is limited. *Basic.*

Chris O’Blenness & Dan Carr, Stone Barns Center

SESSION F

Friday, 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM

F1 Learn About Small Engines

Through a basic understanding of small engines attendees will learn how to maintain farm machinery. This workshop will explain the internal workings of small engines, how to disassemble and reassemble small engines as well as provide troubleshooting tips. *Mixed.*

John Di Marco Jr., Stone Barns Center

F2 Agriculture 3.0 – The Future of Farming

Moving from Agriculture 1.0 (traditional peasant wisdom agriculture) and Agriculture 2.0 (Industrial agribusiness) to Agriculture 3.0 will require a dramatic widening of our context, almost a “redefinition” of farming. We will look at the ecological/biological foundation of agriculture, its economic context and its cultural implications. Participants will walk away with renewed enthusiasm, a beginning understanding of some “Presencing” principles and a good sense of scope of the change we are driving for. *Mixed.*

Steffen Schneider, Hawthorne Valley Farm

F3 Growing and Incorporating Herbs into the Farm and Market

We will discuss the herb program that we have developed at Stone Barns Center from propagation to processing, marketing and educating. We successfully sell fresh and dried herbs to restaurants and farmers markets. We will go over the structure and function of promoting your product according to federally regulated laws, and talk about the benefits of growing herbs in the farmscape. Learn which herbs are best to cultivate and what is available to wildcraft in the Northeast as well. *Basic.*

Shannon Algieri, Stone Barns Center

F4 Caterpillar Tunnel Workshop – Protected Cropping & Season Extension with Minimal Investment.

We will cover the real benefits of protected cropping – season extension, reduced disease pressure, higher-quality produce, greater marketable yield, etc., the different styles of caterpillar tunnels, approximate cost/ft. for each, associated benefits, various coverings available, and why growers might choose one style over another. Group participation includes bending pipes, completing hoops, and partial tunnel assembly. We will review all the components used to construct the tunnels and how easy it is to get them. After this presentation, attendees will know more about the options available to them in protected cropping and will come away with the ability and confidence to build their own

caterpillar tunnels from easily attainable lower-cost materials. *Basic.*

Adam Lemieux, Johnny's Selected Seeds

F5 Silvopasturing: Sustainable Woodland Grazing for Optimal Benefits to Land, Livestock and People

This presentation will provide participants with a basic overview of the concepts of silvopasturing to increase awareness, knowledge and interest in the topic. Attendees will leave with an accurate understanding of silvopasture systems, their potential and their suitability for the Northeast. Attendees will also learn where to find additional information and assistance to help with future silvopasture endeavors. *Mixed.*

Brett Chedzoy, Cornell Cooperative Extension

F6 Assessing Farmland

You can turn a gravel pit into a successful farm operation, but it is easier to start with land with greater potential! This session focuses on what qualities you should look for when assessing potential farmland, including soils, limitations to crop growth, and other operational challenges. This session also includes a discussion on how to address common problems that arise when turning underutilized land into production. The format will be a small panel bouncing between two farmers at different points in their farming careers (a newer farmer who is just starting their own operation on leased land this season, and

an older farmer who started two farm operations and is beginning a search to buy farmland). *Basic.*

Maryellen Sheehan & Jenny Elliot

F7 Crop Rotation Planning

Crop rotation plans can be considered the foundation of productive vegetable growing systems. A good crop rotation can be an effective tool to use to help control pests and diseases, build soil organic matter, moderate the negative effects of tillage, reduce weed pressure and maximize productivity. In this class attendees will be guided through the steps of planning rotations and participate in group exercises of designing a rotation that fits their own farming needs. Participants will learn the basics of rotation design and be introduced to the tools to use to avoid problematic cropping sequences. *Intermediate.*

Zach Wolf, Stone Barns Center

SESSION G

Friday, 1:15 PM – 2:45 PM

G1 Electric Fencing

Find out how to choose an electric fence and how to configure a fence to do what you need it to do—psychologically contain different types of livestock or keep out different types of wild animals. We'll also discuss common electric fencing mistakes and highlight temporary electric fencing used for rotational paddocks. *Mixed.*

Craig Haney, Stone Barns Center

G2 FarmHack: Grassroots Inventions and Innovations by and for Young Farmers

In this workshop we will take a look at some of the inventions that have been shared on FarmHack.net and report back from some of the recent brainstorming sessions between farmers and engineers, designers and other allies. The participants will divide into a few groups to work on the next steps for some of the projects that have been prototyped recently at FarmHack events and our development will then be shared with the broader young farmer community on FarmHack.net. Attendees will be introduced to DIY farm technology resources and projects. *Intermediate.*

Benjamin Shute, Hearty Roots

G3 Farmer as Conservationist

This workshop is an exploration of the many considerations necessary to succeed in creating a farming system that is ecologically sustainable. We will use our experience as a case study, sharing what worked, what doesn't, and what questions and challenges still persist. Some of the areas we will cover are reading your land, managing invasive species, creating habitats, cropping the forest, and making it pay. *Basic.*

Laura Perkins, Stone Barns Center

G4 Providing Access to Local, Organic Food to Low-Income Families through CSA

How do we make organic food accessible to the people who need it most—low-wage

earners and the poor? The organic premium in pricing is necessary to ensure that organic farming is sustainable for the long term. CSA projects are finding creative ways to provide fair payments to organic farms while including lower-income families and individuals. This workshop will provide you with tools for involving low-income or variously able people in your CSA. *Mixed.*

Elizabeth Henderson, NOFA and the Agricultural Justice Project

G5 Value-Added Adding Profits: What to Consider when Considering a Product

This workshop will present the possible benefits and costs of a value-added product line. It will lead participants through a basic understanding of all of the pieces to consider when launching a product (capital needs, labor needs, regulation, timeline, etc.). We will then brainstorm on resources, alternative markets and unique commercial kitchen space ideas in participants' own areas. Participants will leave with the resources they need to determine if a value-added products line is right for them and how to start the process. *Mixed.*

Ellen Roggemann, McEvoy Ranch

G6 Farming on Leased Land: Pros, Cons, & Real Life Lessons

This panel session is intended to explore the opportunities and challenges of farming on leased land, presenting both farmer and landowner perspectives. Presenters will establish the overall market opportunity for leasing, describe the selection process for

farmers, and explain personal experiences of the decision-making process and their progress. *Mixed.*

Marilyn Anthony, Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture; Chris and TJ Costa, Turning Roots Farm @ CSA; Laura Siena, Lundale Farm

G7 Worksongs

In this small-group, hands-on, sing-out workshop we'll learn six songs useful in the small farm setting, and try them out as we work the soil at Stone Barns. We will cover worksongs as a technology, a tool you can use to improve your crew's efficiency and effectiveness in the field. Based on our experience singing and growing on Shelter Island in 2011, we'll cover simple call-and-response songs and rounds, and we'll explore the careful steps you can take with your crew to introduce songs into the field setting. Over the course of the workshop we'll discuss details such as leader/group dynamics, field layout, working patterns, and the history and modern practice of work songs in America and farming and herding cultures in Africa, Asia and Europe. *Mixed.*

Bennett Konesni @ Creek Iversen, Sylvester Manor

G8 Perennial Crops and Polycultures for Commercial Production

Innovative agriculture and agroforestry models provide examples of productive on-farm multicrop systems called polycultures, but which examples are being implemented in the Northeast right now and could be used on your farm? This workshop explains

uncommon perennial fruits, vegetables & nuts ready for commercial production, and explains how to grow them in polyculture systems, including integrating animal and crop systems for multiple yields. We will focus on the establishment, management, and economic outlooks of each polyculture. This workshop is presented through the lens of advanced Permaculture techniques, combining the best practices of ecological agriculture through a holistic design system that enhances farm productivity and profitability while regenerating our local ecosystems. *Intermediate.*

Benneth Phelps, Mosaic Farm

G9 Whole Animal Butchering Demo

Chef Adam Kaye will be breaking down a pig for restaurant service, Blue Hill style. We'll run through the parts of the animal, how they are used at both Blue Hill and Blue Hill at Stone Barns and offer basic butchering tips. Adam will be assisted by Jose.

Adam Kaye @ Jose Morquecha, Blue Hill at Stone Barns

HAY LOFT PLENARY SESSIONS

Thursday 6:30 PM Evening Keynote: Annette Hartvig Larsen, Aarstiderne

Stone Barns is pleased to welcome agronomist and farmer Annette Hartvig Larsen, CEO of Aarstiderne. Aarstiderne (Danish for "seasons") delivers boxes of organic, fresh vegetables to 45,000 households and businesses in Denmark

and Sweden during the growing season, sourced from three farms. Additionally, the farms host schoolchildren and interested eaters for education programs and farm meals, helping to spread the word about resilient agriculture and good food throughout the region. Annette will share with us the evolution of the company as well as her perspective on the future of food and agriculture globally.

**Friday 7:30 AM Tool Roundtable:
Eliot Coleman, Four Season Farm;
Adam Lemieux, Johnny's Selected
Seeds**

Grab your coffee and join four season farming expert Eliot Coleman and Johnny's tools manager Adam Lemieux for a roundtable discussion on innovations in tools for small scale agriculture.

**Friday 12:20 PM Seed to Skillet:
Michael Mazourek, Cornell
University; Jack Algieri, Stone Barns
Center; Dan Barber, Blue Hill & Blue
Hill at Stone Barns**

Listen in over lunch as Executive Chef/Co-Owner of Blue Hill and Blue Hill at Stone Barns Dan Barber interviews farmer Jack Algieri and plant breeder Michael Mazourek about their current flavor-focused collaborations and plant trials at Stone Barns.

**Friday 3:00 PM Closing Address:
Fred Kirschenmann, Stone Barns
Center and the Leopold Center for
Sustainable Agriculture**

Stone Barns Board President Fred Kirschenmann will address the future faced by young farmers – including both the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

CONFERENCE DETAILS

Registration

Fee: \$180/person
To register, visit our [website](#).

Hotel Accommodations

Sheraton Tarrytown
600 White Plains Rd.
Tarrytown, NY 10591
914 460 2003 or book [online](#).
Discounted room rate for conference attendees: \$119/night. Follow the link from the online registration form or mention the annual Young Farmers Conference when reserving by phones. This rate is guaranteed only to those who reserve by November 14, 2011.

Meals

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included on Thursday; breakfast and lunch are included on Friday. All meals are provided and prepared by Blue Hill at Stone Barns.

Scholarships

There is a limited number of scholarships available at this year's conference. If you'd

like to apply, download an application from our [website](#) and email it to [Nena Johnson](#) before registering. All scholarships and work exchange slots include conference lodging, free of charge.

Pre-Conference Screening and Meet-Up!

Join us on Wednesday 11/30 for a 6:30PM screening of AMERICAN MEAT in our Hay Barn. RSVP when you register for the conference.

Screening sponsored by:



Entertainment

Join us for a lively contra dance after dinner on Thursday night with music from the Sylvester Manor Worksongers and caller Rebecca Lay!

General Questions

For general questions about the Young Farmers Conference, contact Nena Johnson, Growing Farmers Initiative Director, at 914 366 -6200 x112 or via [email](#).

Sponsorship Inquiries

To learn about sponsorship opportunities, contact Erica Helms, Director of Marketing and Philanthropy, at 914 366 6200 x121 or via [email](#).

Press Inquiries

For Conference press inquiries, contact Mara Flanagan, Marketing and Communications Manager at 914 366 6200 x118 or via [email](#).

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

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Wallace Genetic Foundation



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Special thanks to our in-kind sponsors:

