

Beyond the Organic-Conventional Rift

Convergence = Sustainability

Workshop

Sponsored by:

Maine Farm Bureau

With support from

Maine Department of Agriculture
Maine Vegetable and Small Fruit Growers Association
MOFGA?
Maine Potato Board
AGCOM
Maine Wild Blueberry Commission
Dairy Industry Council

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Augusta Civic Center

Augusta, Maine

Goal: To remove the distrust and build bridges between the permaculturists, organic and conventional farmers in Maine, and to allow for the co-existence of organic and conventional practices.

Objective of Workshop: To bring together the organic and conventional farmers to discuss the future of working together for the common good and to come up with a set of guiding principles for future work on this issue.

The Message: The message will be that the world's population will need better use of ALL agricultural technology to ensure that food is available to all. Organic practices and genetic engineering can coexist so long as the research is driven by the needs of the farmers, and so long as policy makers and society understand that the two types of practices can and typically do coexist at the farm level.

Project Timeline: We will have a kickoff meeting of interested farmers in December, followed by a workshop at the Agricultural Trade Show. In addition, a group will convene in the winter to discuss policy issues and possibly outline a strategic plan. We will have a follow-up conference in October to set the stage for the new State administration.

Collateral Materials/Booth: We will have a booth at the Agricultural Trade Show that will showcase and provide information on all farm technology, including, organic, permaculture, genetic engineering, and conventional

practices. There will be a signup form for folks to get further information or if they want involvement.

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Draft Agricultural Trade Show Program

1:00 pm Film of Bill Gates – Feeding the world in the 21st Century

1:15pm Dr. Jonathan Foley
Director, Institute on the Environment (IonE)
Professor, McKnight Presidential Chair in Ecology, Evolution and Behavior
University of Minnesota

Setting the Stage: The need for a new green revolution, why and what it could look like for Maine

2:00 pm Margaret Elizabeth Smith Einarson,
Faculty Member, Department Extension Leader,
Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics,
Cornell University

New Developments in Corn and other crop breeding development to help the small farmer – implications for Maine farmers and policymakers

2:45 pm Break

3:00 pm Leonard Gianessi
Director, Crop Protection Research Institute

SO, does that meanNew Directions in Pesticide Research, Biotechnology?...Some thoughts and impact on Maine

3:45 pm Grower Panel

Open Discussion – How do we come together for the common good in Maine?

A new strategy for policy, research, and businesses

ALL THESE TO BE DETERMINED

Moderator: Rob Johnston, Johnnys Select Seeds

Panelists: Lisa Turner, Marilyn Meyerhans, Vaughn Chase, Rob Johanson, Tom Leach, Ben Dobson, Maine Permaculture Representative, ???

4:45 pm Break and Reception

5:30 pm Convergence Dinner Serving Organic and Genetically Modified Foods.

6:30 -8:00pm Evening Speakers

Pamela Ronald and Raoul Adamchak
University of California, Davis

Tomorrows Table
The Marriage of Organic Farming and Genetically Modified Crops?
Maine could lead the nation