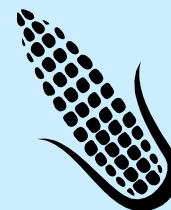
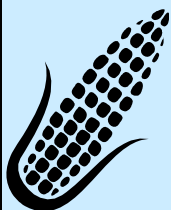


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# Piscataquis Farming Newsletter



## Strawberry Bed Renovation Review

The first step in the bed renovation process is to determine which beds should be carried over for another year and which should be plowed down and put into a crop rotation. Beds that do not appear to have suffered much from winter injury, had good production, and a good plant stand with no major weed, insect or disease problems should be carried over for another year.

Renovating a strawberry bed is basically a thinning process to promote healthy new growth that can support a heavy crop next spring. While some of the general renovation scheme may need to be modified for individual situations, all beds should undergo the following steps once harvest is complete.

- **Broadleaf weed control:** Manually or with herbicides.
- **Leaf mowing:** mow off the leaves of the strawberries about 1 1/2 inches above the crowns. *If the planting is weak, it is recommended that this step of the renovation process be skipped this year.*
- **Fertilization:** Apply 40 to 60 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre. Phosphorus and potassium applications should be made according to soil test recommendations. Soil testing kits and information are available from your county Cooperative Extension office.
- **Plant thinning:** After mowing off the leaves, till the sides of the rows to narrow the beds back to a width of 12 to 18 inches. Set the tiller so that it incorporates the mowed leaves and spreads about one inch of soil over the remaining crowns at the same time. This will reduce leaf disease and mite problems, and help stimulate new root growth on the remaining plants.
- **Pre-emergent weed control:** If you are not using herbicides, regular cultivation, before weeds are more than 2" tall, will be needed throughout the summer.
- **Subsoiling:** Soil compaction caused by tractor and picker traffic in the field can cause soil drainage problems and interfere with good root development. Using a subsoiling blade between the rows will break up compacted layers of soil and improve water infiltration.
- **Irrigation:** To encourage rapid plant growth and get the most out of fertilizers and herbicides, irrigate the beds regularly. Strawberries will

University of Maine Cooperative Extension is the major educational outreach program of the University of Maine, with offices statewide. UMaine Extension provides Maine people with research-based educational programs to help them live fuller, more productive lives.

### Goal:

The goal of the Piscataquis Farming Newsletter is to provide timely information on the production and marketing of crops and livestock grown in Piscataquis County. Upcoming events and programs of interest will also be included.

You can receive this newsletter electronically. To sign up for the electronic version go to [www.umext.maine.edu/piscataquis/farming/newsletter/htm](http://www.umext.maine.edu/piscataquis/farming/newsletter/htm).

If you have a question, feel free to contact me and I can include it in our farming question section.

Sincerely,



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grow best if they receive 1 1/2 inches of water per week during the growing season.

●**Observation:** Don't forget your plants once these renovation steps are completed. Check the strawberry fields regularly during the summer for pest problems. Finding and managing problems early can prevent major problems next spring.

*Source: Handley, D., Strawberry IPM Newsletter, No. 6, July 2009*

## **LEOPOLD CENTER RELEASES GLOSSARY OF CLIMATE CHANGE TERMS**

Just as the science of climate change evolves, so does the way we describe it. A new glossary from the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture defines terms like milankovitch cycles and eutrophication, which could become just as common in climate change discussions in the near future as carbon footprint and acid rain are now.

*Understanding Common Terms Used in Discussions about Climate Change and Agriculture* is the name of a new resource from the Leopold Center. The glossary was written by Rich Pirog, Leopold Center Associate Director and leader of the Center's Marketing and Food Systems Initiative, and Rebecca Rasmussen, an MBA student in the ISU College of Business. They saw a need for a readily accessible, straight-forward glossary with the most common conversational terms that could be used by educators, farmers and students.

Following each of the terms are definitions and their sources, as well as places to get more information on the Internet. The glossary is available on the Leopold Center web site at:

[www.leopold.iastate.edu/research/marketing\\_files/glossary.pdf](http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/research/marketing_files/glossary.pdf) or in hard copy by request, (515) 294-3711, [leocenter@iastate.edu](mailto:leocenter@iastate.edu).

*Source: Leopold Center Newsrelease, June 3, 2009*

## **America's Recovery Capital (ARC) Loans**

If your small business is stressed meeting expenses during these economic times, the U.S. Small Business Administration has a new loan program designed just for you.

SBA's America's Recovery Capital Loan Program can provide up to \$35,000 in short-term relief for viable small businesses facing immediate financial hardship to help ride out the current uncertain economic times and return to profitability. Each small business is limited to one ARC loan.

This new program which appears to be available

to farmers as they are small businesses and fit these guidelines. Highlights of the program include the following:

- 100% Guarantee
- Interest free to the Farmer
- No SBA Fees
- Deferred Payments
- Used to pay P&I on small business debt including mortgages, term and LOC's, capital leases, credit card obligation, notes to vendors, suppliers and utilities
- Repayment starts 12 months after final disbursement
- 5 years to repay \$35,000

If you would like to speak directly to a customer service representative about the ARC Loan Program, please call our toll-free number (866-947-8081) Monday through Friday during the hours of 8am to 9pm (Eastern Time).

*Source: Small Business Administration web site at <http://www.sba.gov/>.*

## **Late blight has been found on tomato plants from several garden centers around the state**

Growers should assume that late blight inoculum is present in the area. ALL home gardeners and potato producers should be actively checking tomatoes and potatoes for late blight.

Late blight is a plant disease that infects potatoes and tomatoes. It is most destructive during cool, moist weather. Late blight--which was responsible for the Irish potato famine of the 1850s--can rapidly destroy an entire crop, because of its ability to produce a large number of spores that can travel long distances.

A listing of all approved fungicides (including organic pesticides) for late blight is located in the 2009 Pest Management Guide at <http://www.umaine.edu/umext/potatoprogram/>. These materials must be sprayed on the plants to protect them from infection. Fast growing plants may double their leaf area in a week so it is important to follow the spray schedule that is recommended for your area.

Updates on late blight in Maine are available via our hotline at 888-873-8623. If you have plant samples that you would like to have diagnosed, please bring the samples to the Pest Management office in Orono or the Piscataquis County Cooperative Extension office.

## Maine Farms for the Future

They have a new interim website located at <http://www.maine farms for the future.com/> that covers the 2009 program information. The official request of proposals (RFP) will be opened some time in October. You need to request an application from the Maine Department of Agriculture during the RFP time period.

## Extension Publications:

The following Agricultural Extension Publications are available or can be ordered at the Extension office nearest you. You will notice some publications are free and some have a cost recovery charge. Many publications are available for free online at <http://extensionpubs.umext.maine.edu/>.

## Guide to Efficient Irrigation of the Wild Blueberry

Item #2006. Publisher: UMaine Extension. Although wild blueberries have been shown to be relatively resistant to drought stress, very dry periods can result in shorter plants with fewer buds. And weather trends show that wild blueberries, on average, get sufficient water in August in only one year out of five. This bulletin provides a step-by-step explanation of how to improve irrigation efficiency without expensive monitoring equipment. 11 pages, 2009. Free download available, color printout available for \$0.75.

**Hatching Your Own Chicks** Maine Poultry Facts series, Item #2072. Publisher: UMaine Extension. This expanded and updated edition of our classic bulletin provides a thorough discussion of hatching chicks, from where to obtain eggs for hatching and how to store/care for them, to hatching chicks with a "broody" hen, hatching with an incubator, and troubleshooting hatching problems. Includes information on making an egg candler and candling eggs, as well as determining relative incubator humidity. 7 pages, 2009. Free download available, color printout available for \$1.00.

## Calendar

July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 **Sheep Field Day** 2009 at Crystal Spring Farm in Brunswick, Maine. The field day will focus on effective pasturing. A FAMACHA workshop (parasite monitoring) for sheep and goat producers is scheduled in the morning of the same day as a pre-field day workshop. For more information contact: Richard J. Brzozowski, Extension Educator – Agriculture, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, PO Box 9300, Portland, ME 04104-9300, 1-800-287-1471 (toll free in Maine only) 207-780-4205

July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 **Maine Highlands Farmers Meeting** 7 pm at Deb Armstrong's 442 West Etna Road, Etna. From West: Rt. 2 from Newport to Etna. Just After Hill View Mini Barns and Lupo Construction/Gym, turn right onto

West Etna Road. Go approximately 1 mile. Farm is on the left. Yellow antique cape. From East: From Center of Etna and the Etna Village Variety Store ( Corners of Rt 2 and Rt 143) go west toward Newport. Travel approximately 2.75 miles to West Etna Road on the left. Farm is on the left approximately 1 mile. Yellow antique cape.

July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 at 2:30 pm. **Maine State Pomological Society** summer business meeting followed by a barbeque at Highmoor Farm, Monmouth. Cost of the meal is \$10/person. You don't need to send \$, but please respond to Margie Hansel if you plan to attend. (mhansel@maine.rr.com; 829-6136)

July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009 **Roger's Farm Field Day** (tentative) 1 pm to 4 pm. Come and learn about the research being conducted on this University of Maine Research Farm. CCA credits applied for. For more information contact John Jemison at 581-3241 or [jjemison@umext.maine.edu](mailto:jjemison@umext.maine.edu)

July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009 **Sheep and Goat Production** at 1 pm EDT by ATTRA – National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service will host this FREE webinar. Experts in sheep and goat production will cover the following topic areas: Multiple benefits of raising and marketing sheep and goats, Selecting breeding stock, Evaluating animal health, and Marketing meat, milk and wool products, including organic products. There will also be time to ask and get answers to your questions about sheep and goat production. You must register at [www.attra.ncat.org/webinars2009/sheepandgoat](http://www.attra.ncat.org/webinars2009/sheepandgoat). You will receive the web address and on the day of the seminar, join 15 minutes early to allow the required software to download. You can then listen to the webinar through your computer's speakers and see the presentation slides on your computer screen. You may also listen to the webinar by calling a phone number provided after you register online.

July 30<sup>th</sup> - August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 **Third Annual Kneading Conference and First Annual Artisan Bread Fair and Trade Show** Skowhegan, Maine For updates and information on workshops & presentations please check the website: [www.kneadingconference.com](http://www.kneadingconference.com). 1.0 Continuing Education credit by University of Maine: please contact Dusty Dowse, [dowse@maine.edu](mailto:dowse@maine.edu)

August 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 **Beef Basics workshops** at Aldermere Farm in Rockport, Maine in cooperation with the Maine Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension and the Maine Beef Producers Association. Workshops are designed for both people just starting out raising beef cattle as well as the experienced producer. By attending the whole weekend producers can complete the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program certification.

**Piscataquis County Office**  
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### **Piscataquis Farming July 2009**



In complying with the letter and spirit of applicable laws and pursuing its own goals of diversity, the University System shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, including transgender status or gender expression, national origin, citizenship status, age, disability, or veteran's status in employment, education, and all other areas of the University System. The University provides reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities upon request.

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Topics to be discussed include proper vaccination and injection techniques, pharmaceutical care and handling, facilities for proper cattle handling, and proper record keeping. Spaces are limited for most of the workshops so early registrations are encouraged. For more information, please contact Heidi Baker at Aldermere Farm, 70 Russell Ave, Rockport, ME 04856, Phone: (207) 236-2739, Fax: (207) 230-2582 or e-mail at [hbaker@mcht.org](mailto:hbaker@mcht.org).

August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 **HIGHMOOR FARM 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY AND SUMMER TOUR** Approximately 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM Rain or Shine. There will be a formal celebration in the morning followed by a Maine food products lunch around noon. A short tour of the research plots will be in the afternoon. Warren Stiles and Jim Schupp have been invited as special guests. Specific details regarding the celebration activities will be forthcoming.

August 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 **Maine Farm Days** at Barker Farm, Leeds, ME. Theme for 2009 is Renewable and Alternative Energy Sources. Pesticide recertification credits will be available. For more information go to [www.MaineFarmDays.com](http://www.MaineFarmDays.com) or call Jane Heikkinen at 753-9400 Ext. 3. The Barker Farm is at 9 Barker Rd. It is located in North Leeds just east of Rt. 106 and just north

of where the railroad tracks cross Rt. 106 [also called the Leeds/Livermore Falls Rd].

To get to the farm, the Leeds Road [Rt. 106] leaves Rt. 133 and goes south to Barker Rd. and the Barker Farm. Or, Rt. 106 leaves Rt. 219 on Livermore Falls Road [Rt. 106] and goes north to the Barker Farm.

August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 **Organic Wheat Seminar: Learning from the European Experience to Increase Wheat Production and Quality in Maine** 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. MOFGA's Common Ground Education Center, Unity. With Dr. Anders Borgen. Anders is a Danish organic farmer and organic wheat breeder. Dr. Borgen will discuss how to improve small-scale cereal production under organic, low input conditions, in terms of economy, seed quality, markets and farmers' skills. He will present an overview of organic seed production in Europe and issues of seed certification. Participants will briefly present their work so everyone can discuss our interests on that basis. The seminar will focus on developing wheat varieties best suited to organic systems by drawing on the rich genetic resources of heritage wheat populations, and developing genetically diverse 'composite-cross' gene pools for on-farm selection to improve the yield and quality of wheat. Funded by NESARE. More information at: <http://www.growseed.org/>