



SESSION DETAILS - 2021 NEVF CONFERENCE

SOIL HEALTH

Session Chair: Mark Hutchinson, UMaine **Co-moderator:** Caleb Goossen, MOFGA

Approved CEUs: 1 Soil & Water, 1 Crop

Pesticide Credits: 1.5 for New England states; 1.5 for New York (1A, 10, 22, 23)

Using Permanent Beds in Combination with Different Mulching Strategies and Tarping to Improve Soil Health and Crop Yields. A work in Progress - Dr. Peyton Ginakes

The speaker will discuss ongoing research from a field that has been in a permanent bed system for over seven years. This research will explore how different mulching and tarping strategies have impacted crop yields and soil quality. They will also discuss the impact on weed pressure.

About Peyton: Dr. Ginakes is a Research Associate at the University of Maine.

Soil Steaming in High Tunnels - Becky Maden

Soil steaming is a relatively new practice in New England high tunnels, but a promising and cost-effective way to manage weeds and diseases. This talk will focus specifically on chickweed control for winter greens production, examining both short- and long-term impacts of soil steaming on soil ecology.

About Becky: Becky Maden works with UVM Extension supporting vegetable farmers in improving soil health practices. She has a background in vegetable production and currently farms with her family in Orwell, Vermont.

Incorporating Soil Health Management Practices into Cropping Systems to Reduce Soilborne Diseases, Improve Productivity, and Increase Economic Vitality - Dr. Robert Larkins

The speaker will discuss how soil health management practices integrates with the entire cropping system, specifically exploring soilborne diseases and improved productivity.

About Robert: Research Plant Pathologist, USDA-ARS, New England Plant, Soil, and Water Lab

Soil Health Benchmarking - Franklin Egan & Sarah Nawa

Farmer participatory soil health benchmarking project.

About Franklin and Sarah: Franklin holds a PhD in Ecology from Penn State University, and he has led research on topics including biodiversity conservation on farmland, environmental risks from genetically-modified crops, and soil health. Franklin has also worked as a research ecologist for the USDA Agricultural Research Service, and on vegetable and dairy farms in New York and Wisconsin. Sarah has more than a decade of combined farming and farm-advising experience from [New Morning Farm](#), the [Fulton Farm at Wilson College](#), and Tuscarora Organic Growers Cooperative. Sarah holds a B.S. in environmental science.