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MANCHESTER, N.H. – The New England Vegetable & Berry Conference and the New England Fruit Meeting have officially merged into the **New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference**, which will be held every two years. The conference will be held this December 13, 14, 15 at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester, NH and will include 24 educational sessions over 3 days, covering major vegetable, berry and tree fruit crops as well as various special topics. A Farmer to Farmer meeting after each morning and afternoon session will bring speakers and farmers together for informal, in-depth discussion on certain issues.

This conference is put together with close collaboration between growers and Extension from across the region. The steering committee gathers the best speakers from within our region and across the country to let you know about the latest innovations and advances in the fruit and vegetable industry.

Twenty-five educational sessions over three days will mix the best theory and practice regarding major fruit, berry and vegetable crops. Virtually every session – from “Strawberry I” on Tuesday morning to “Sweet Corn School” on Thursday afternoon will include the perspective of both farmers and Extension staff and researchers.

A “Farmer to Farmer” session will be held after each morning and afternoon session to allow speakers and farmers the opportunity for informal, in-depth discussion of the issues they find to be most critical.

There is also an extensive **Trade Show** with over 100 exhibitors. We hope that you will enjoy your time here, and meet with fellow growers, advisors, researchers, and industry representatives. We want you to leave with new ideas and new information that will have a positive impact on your farm.

The event is sponsored by the New England Vegetable & Berry Growers Association and the Massachusetts Fruit Grower’s Association in conjunction with the Universities of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont and Maine, as well Cornell University and the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station – in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The 3-day educational program offers 4 concurrent sessions each morning and afternoon. On Tuesday, December 13 the sessions are on strawberries, tomatoes, biorational and biological pest control, potatoes, leafy greens, root crops, and tree fruit. On Wednesday, December 14 sessions are on tree fruit, pumpkins, blueberries, soil health, greenhouse tomatoes, and organic. The sessions on Thursday, December 15 are on viticulture, sweet corn, cucurbits, brambles, winter growing, sweet corn, peppers and eggplant, and cut flowers.

The Annual Banquet of the New England Vegetable and Berry Growers Association will be held during the conference, on Wednesday evening. The speaker will be Roger Swain from 'People, Places, and Plants'. Roger also hosted 'Victory Garden' for many years.

The pre-registration fee to attend any part or all of the conference or trade show is \$60 for the first member of a farm business and \$30 for each additional member (family or employee) when pre-registered with first member. The pre-registration fee for students (high school or college) is \$20 each when pre-registered by the instructor. There is an additional fee of \$10 for 1st/2nd person for late registration or walk-ins. Pre-registration must be received by November 30, 2005. An earlier distribution of this press release contained inaccurate information on registration fees. The fees list above are accurate.

Additional information on the New England Vegetable and Berry Conference and the New England Fruit Meeting, including downloadable registration material, may be found at <http://www.newenglandvfc.org/>.

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