

**BASICS OF ORGANIC FARMING
&
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION**

**MOFGA's Organic Farming Short Course
Royal River, Freeport, Maine
March 3, 2011**

Lectures by Eric Sideman
(unless otherwise noted)

Thursday, March 3, 2011 (9:30 am -4:30 pm)

I. Properties of Soil

What is soil?

Soil texture and structure

Organic matter, plant nutrients and pH

II. Testing soil

Taking the sample and reading the results

III Soil Husbandry and Sources of Plant Nutrition

Managing soil organic matter and fertility

IV. Composting

Biology and Chemistry of the pile

How to make and use compost

Lunch

Purchase at Royal River or Bring Your Own

V. Adding Value to Crops and Marketing Them (Cheryl Wixon)

BEFORE choosing which crops to grow, determine what would sell well and how to sell it, and if adding value to it makes sense.

VI. Organic Certification

Who needs to get certified and how to do it.

Friday, March 4, 2011
(9:30- 4:30)

VII. Green Manures

Benefits of green manure

Choosing which one for what

VIII. Insects and Diseases

Understanding Pest Control

Using crop rotation, sanitation, barriers, microbial pesticides,
botanical pesticides , copper and other materials

IX. Farmer Presentation

A farmer (TBA) will give an over view of her farm and discuss the ins
and outs of growing and marketing crops.

Lunch

Purchase at Royal River or Bring Your Own

X. Weed Management

Weed Ecology

Crop rotation and cover crops

Mulches

Cultivation tools; hand and tractor

XI. Livestock

Diane Schivera, MOFGA's livestock specialist, will present the
basics of feeding, breeding and healthcare of livestock on an
organic farm.

XII. Open Discussion and Wrap Up