

28th Annual NOFA Summer Conference 2002

Hampshire College
Amherst, Massachusetts
August 9 – 11, 2002

General Information about the NOFA Summer Conference:

The conference offered approximately 200 workshops, debates and discussions, and a number of thought-provoking videos and entertainment options centering on the themes of organic farming, family and community. Throughout the conference, there were special children's, preteen, and teen conferences to help encourage participation from the younger generation. Special events and exhibits, like a children's potato sack race, dunk tank and parade and an adult's organic blueberry pie-eating contest, ensured that the weekend would be fun for the whole family. Each day, organic meals were offered to patrons and visitors, along with "solar smoothies" to help cool you down in the 90 degree heat.

Public Seed Initiative Exhibit:

The PSI booth was a huge success! Teri Ferrin, John Oughterson, Bill Garman (all USDA-ARS, PGRU employees) and Michael Glos (NOFA-NY) spent Saturday afternoon from 3:00pm to 6:00pm handing out literature, answering questions and demonstrating the various equipment used when traveling with the Mobile Seed Processing Unit. Most of the spectators' interest was centered on the wet vegetable seed separator and the tomato processing, the *Brassica* threshing, and the clipper mill seed separator. Spectators were walked through all the steps necessary for both tomato and *Brassica* seed processing.

Some spectators were interested in processing their own seed. A girl from Amherst, MA brought her chamomile seed to separate using the handscreens provided and another gentleman from Belchertown, MA brought over twenty pounds of his certified organic barley to run through the clipper mill to rid his mix of weed seeds. The PSI exhibit and demonstration was visited by an interested audience of over 500 on Saturday.

Pictures from the NOFA Summer Conference:



John Oughterson demos tomato processing



A local farmer separates his barley seed using the Clipper mill



Bill Garman and Michael Glos demo the belt thresher with *Brassica* seed



Michael Glos demos the Clipper mill



Spectators gather information about PSI, (center: CR Lawn and John Oughterson)