



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**August 1, Small Farm -- Sustainable Ag Field Day**, sponsored by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Maine Agricultural Experiment Station, and Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, will be held in Old Town, ME. Contact: Rick Kersbergen, Waldo County Extension Office, (207) 342-5971.

**August 4, On-Farm Composting Conference** will be held at Penn State Harrisburg Campus, Middletown. **August 5**, a tour of on-farm composting operations in Lancaster County will be held. For both events, contact: Penn State Cooperative Extension, 191 Franklin Farms Lane, Chambersburg, PA 17201; (717) 263-9226.

**August 17** is the deadline for abstracts for a conference on agricultural research to protect water quality, sponsored by the Soil and Water Conservation Society, on February 21-24, 1993, in Minneapolis, MN. Contact: SWCS, 7515 Northeast Ankeny Road, Ankeny, IA 50211-9764.

**August 21-30, Permaculture Design Workshop**, taught by Dan Hemenway, will be held in West Olive, MI. Contact: David VanDyke, 15580 Stanton, West Olive, MI 49460; (616) 847-0560.

**September 11, "Train the Trainers Workshop"**, sponsored by Rodale Institute, Practical Farmers of Iowa, and Iowa State University, will be held at the Thompson Farm, Boone, IA. Contact: Barbara Bruno, Rodale Institute, 222 Main St., Emmaus, PA 18098; (215) 683-6383.

**September 19, New Jersey Organic Country Fair** will be held at the Watershed Reserve in Pennington. Contact: Natural Organic Farmers Association of New Jersey, (609) 737-6848.

**September 23-25, "Children, Youth and Families,"** the Twelfth Annual National Rural Families Conference, will be held at Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS. Contact: Conference, 141 College Court Cuilbind, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506-6015; (913) 532-5569 or 1-800-432-8222.

**September 25-27, Common Ground Country Fair**, sponsored by Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association,

will be held at Windsor Fairgrounds, Windsor, ME. Contact the Association at (207) 623-5115.

**October 6-9, "Biobased Products Expo '92,"** sponsored by the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Energy, and Commerce, and the New Uses Council, will be held in St. Louis, MO. Contact: Agricultural Research Institute, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814-3998; (301) 530-7122.

### ***New Report Fuels BGH Controversy in Vermont***

A new study by Rural Vermont, which reported cows have been harmed by injections of bovine growth hormone (BGH or BST), has fueled the BGH controversy in Vermont and prompted the state's Congressional delegation to request more information about BGH from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The report, based on previously secret data from the University of Vermont/Monsanto test herd, reveals that cows injected with BGH become ill, give birth to dead and deformed calves, and are sold for beef because of shortened milking lives far more frequently than other cows. The University has an agreement with Monsanto not to release these data until next summer; the information was given to Rural Vermont by confidential university sources.

BGH is the synthetic version of a hormone naturally occurring in cows, which increases milk production when given in higher than natural doses.

### ***New Sustainable Agriculture Coalition Forms in Illinois***

The Illinois Sustainable Agriculture Network has recently been formed as a cooperative effort of the Illinois Stewardship Alliance, Illinois Sustainable Agriculture Society, Southeastern Illinois Sustainable Agriculture Association, and University of Illinois, College of Agriculture. The network will conduct scientifically valid on-farm participatory research, and sponsor education projects such as on-farm demonstrations, farm tours, workshops, publications, regional meetings, and a farmer-to-farmer communication network. For more information, contact Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, On-Farm Research and Education Coordinator, ISAN, P.O. Box 648, Rochester, IL 62563; (217) 498-9705.