

Nutrient Management Solutions for Small Farms

MARCH 20, 2026

2:30 PM ET, 1:30 PM CT,
12:30 PM MT, 11:30 AM PT

This webinar will examine practical nutrient management strategies tailored for small and diversified farms. **Presenters will explore how organic operations can meet National Organic Program (NOP) requirements for manure, compost use, and soil fertility, followed by a look at the real-world challenges facing small-acreage livestock properties.** We will discuss additional considerations and solutions for effective nutrient stewardship on small farms. Whether you're a producer, educator, conservation professional, or simply looking to improve land management on limited acreage, this session will offer actionable insights to support sustainable and environmentally sound practices.

An application for continuing education credit for Certified Crop Advisors (CCAs) and members of the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) will be submitted.

Additional Information

- Allowed and prohibited substances, methods, and ingredients in organic production and handling. <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/part-205/section-205.105>
- Soil fertility and crop nutrient management practice standard. <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/section-205.203>

Rhonda Miller is the Agricultural Environmental Quality Extension Specialist and an Associate Professor in the Agricultural Systems Technology and Education (ASTE) Department at Utah State University. Dr. Miller works with animal waste management, water quality, and air quality issues. **She serves as an agricultural liaison for many state committees and actively works to help agriculture remain economically viable while preserving the environment.** Her research focuses on environmental impacts in agricultural systems. She received her Ph.D. in Agronomy from Iowa State University. Email: rhonda.miller@usu.edu



Rhonda Miller
Utah State University

Karla Melgar Velis is the small acreage management specialist for CSU Extension in the Front Range Region. **Her job involves educating new landowners and hobby farmers in making sustainable land management decisions, from controlling noxious weeds, creating grazing management plans to best management practices for manure.** Karla has a background in nutrient management, soil health, and environmental sciences. She obtained her master's degree from UNL where she studied soil biological activity under manure and woodchip applications on corn fields. Email: Karla.Melgar_Velis@colostate.edu



Karla Melgar Velis
Colorado State University



Amy Talarico
OneCert - Lincoln, NE

Amy Talarico is a Certification Specialist at OneCert, Inc., an organic certification agency. She has worked with OneCert for 8 years and an additional 14 years in organic farming and certification industry. **Her expertise includes guiding organic Crops, Livestock and Handling clients through the certification process, performing on-site inspections, and reviewing materials for use on organic operations.** Amy holds a degree in Horticulture from Temple University and has operated organic farms in the northern & southern regions of the US and the Caribbean. Amy has also trained future inspectors through the International Organic Inspectors Association. Email: amy@onecert.com



Heather Darby
University of Vermont

Dr. Heather Darby is an Agronomic and Soils Specialist for the University of Vermont Extension. She was raised on a dairy farm in Northwest Vermont. This has allowed her to play an active role in all aspects of dairy farming and gain knowledge of the land. These practical experiences, complemented by her education, have focused her attention towards sustainable agriculture and the promotion of environmental stewardship. **Dr. Darby's research interests and outreach programs are in the areas of fuel, forage, and grain production systems in New England.** Email: heather.darby@uvm.edu

How do I participate?

If it is your first time joining us for the LPELC webinar series, follow the steps at: lpec.org/how-do-i-participate-in-a-webinar/

If you are a returning viewer, go to lpec.org/live to download presentations and connect live.



Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Community

The LPELC is a project dedicated to the vision that individuals involved in public policy issues, animal production, and delivery of technical services for confined animals systems should have on-demand access to the nation's best science-based resources. See our website at: lpec.org

