

# Workshop for Growers



## Saffron:

### From Production to Processing

Friday, March 16, 2018

Burlington, VT

Brought to you by

*North American Center for  
Saffron Research and Development*

The University of Vermont (UVM)

#### PROGRAM

- 8:00 - 9:00 **Registration & Saffron Coffee**
- 9:00 - 9:15 **Welcome & Introduction**
- 9:15 - 9:30 **The Culture of Saffron**  
*Agrin Davari, UVM*
- 9:30 - 10:15 **Saffron Biology & Production in Cold Climates**  
*Arash Ghalehgalab, UVM*  
Production cycle and Vermont results
- 10:15 - 11:00 **Corm Production & European Saffron Cultivation**  
*Hans Rotteveel, Roco Saffron*  
Where do corms come from?
- 11:00 - 11:15 **Coffee Break** (Saffron cookies will be served.)
- 11:15 - 12:00 **Marketing Saffron Products in the US and Europe**  
*Peter Johnson, Director, Amish-Mennonite Ctr. For Sustainable Agriculture*  
*Steve Leach, Red Thread Farmstead*  
*Hans Rotteveel, Roco Saffron*  
What are the local and international markets?
- 12:00 - 1:00 **Lunch** (Time to chat with growers and experts and view poster presentations)
- 1:00 - 1:45 **How does Your Saffron Grow?** Round Table Discussion among growers about Diseases, Rodents, Weeds, Watering and other burning questions.  
*Margaret Skinner, facilitator, UVM*
- 1:45 - 2:15 **Drying and Storing Saffron \***  
*Peter Johnson, Director, Amish-Mennonite Ctr.*  
*Arash Ghalehgalab, UVM*  
*Hans Rotteveel, Roco Saffron*  
How hot? How Long? How dry?
- 2:15 - 2:45 **Saffron Extraction and How to Use it \***  
*Agrin Davari, UVM*  
*Khalil Mirza, Champlain College*  
Cooking with saffron, including some taste testing.
- 2:45 - 3:15 **What Does the Future Hold?**  
*Margaret Skinner, Arash Ghalehgalab & Bruce L. Parker, UVM*

## WELCOME!

The *North American Center for Saffron Research and Development* is a collaboration among growers, specialists and companies involved with production, processing and marketing of this high value crop from the US and beyond. We offer this workshop in response to the great interest generated in this “new” crop. This event will provide background about saffron in general and specific information about how to grow and process it. These workshops are for growers of all types who think saffron could be a viable crop for their operation.

### *The Speakers:*

**Hans Rotteveel**, Owner, *Roco Saffron* ([www.rocosaffron.com](http://www.rocosaffron.com)), The Netherlands. They are one of the largest producers of saffron corms, selling in Europe, Canada and the US, as well as Southern Hemisphere markets like Australia. This 4<sup>th</sup> generation family business has cultivated and sold flower bulbs and saffron corms since 1882.

**Peter Johnson**, Director, *Amish-Mennonite Center of Sustainable Agriculture*, Wenham, MA, has been growing saffron in the fields of Mass., Penn. and Maine for several years. He serves as a distributor of corms in the US.

**Steve Leach**, owner, *Red Thread Farmstead*, (<https://redthreadfarmstead.com/>) Swanton, VT. He grows saffron in a high tunnel in Vermont and operates an on-line company selling saffron and tea.

**Arash Ghalehgalab**, Post doc, *UVM*, has many years of experience growing saffron in Iran, and has been conducting research at UVM for the past two years.

**Agrin Davari**, Post Doc, *UVM*, is an insect pathologist working on biological control, but has been cooking with saffron every day for over 32 years.

**Khalil Mirza**, Undergraduate intern, *Champlain College*, has been working at the Saffron Center on various aspects of saffron production and marketing.

**Hope you can make this historic event.**

**Margaret Skinner, Bruce L. Parker & Arash Ghalehgalab**  
Entomology Research Laboratory, Univ. of VT (UVM)  
661 Spear Street, Burlington, VT 05405-0105 Tel: 802-656-5440

For more about our research go to:

<http://www.uvm.edu/~entlab/Saffron/Saffron.html>

**Share this brochure with your staff and other growers.**

Individuals requesting a disability-related accommodation to participate should call Cheryl Sullivan: 802-656-5434 by March 1, 2018.

**Support for this workshop is provided by:**

*Roco Saffron, Red Thread Farmstead, Univ. of VT Extension System, and College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, USDA Hatch Program, Vermont Specialty Crops Block Grant Program, Amish-Mennonite Center for Sustainable Agriculture.*

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

**Where and When:**

**March 16, 9:00 am – 3:15 pm**

Davis Center, Silver Maple Ballroom, 4<sup>th</sup> floor  
UVM Campus, 590 Main Street, Burlington, VT 05405

**Registration Fee:** \$55 (includes handouts, coffee and UVM handling fees). Bring your lunch or add \$6 for lunch by us (pizza, salad, drinks, fruit, cookies).

**To ensure a place, register early. Pre-registration required.**

**YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER ONLINE!**

**By March 5, 2018**

**Registration link:**

<https://www.regonline.com/saffron2018>

If on-line registration presents a problem for you, contact:  
Cheryl Sullivan, Entomology Research Laboratory  
1-802-656-5434

**Sorry NO REFUNDS.**

**Registrants will receive notice of their place in the workshop, a map with directions, and information about parking and shuttle services.**

**Need a place to stay on March 15 and 16?** Twenty rooms have been reserved at a discount rate for workshop attendees at three nearby hotels (you must reserve rooms by February 22). When you reserve the room, tell them you are with the UVM Saffron Workshop. Room rates vary among hotels so you may want to check them all for comparison.

**Best Western:** Tel: 1-802-863-1125 Group #: 2391  
1076 Williston Rd., So. Burlington, VT 05403

**Holiday Inn:** Tel: 1-802-863-6363 Booking code: ESW  
1068 Williston, Rd., So. Burlington, VT 05403 Booking link:  
[www.holidayinn.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=HI&localeCode=en&regionCode=1&hotelCode=BTVVT&PMID=99801505&GPC=ESW&viewfullsite=true](http://www.holidayinn.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=HI&localeCode=en&regionCode=1&hotelCode=BTVVT&PMID=99801505&GPC=ESW&viewfullsite=true)

**La Quinta:** Tel: 1-866-527-1498 Confirmation # 20361905  
1285 Williston, Rd., So. Burlington, VT 05403

These hotels are 5 minutes from the airport, and all offer free airport shuttle services. Additional information on transport to the workshop site will be sent to registrants. View on-campus visitor parking info at: [www.uvm.edu/~tpswww/parking/visitor/](http://www.uvm.edu/~tpswww/parking/visitor/)

**Questions?** Call Cheryl Sullivan at 1-802-656-5434; Fax: 1-802-656-5441 or Email: [cfrank@uvm.edu](mailto:cfrank@uvm.edu)

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