

Legislative Update

Cooperative Extension
ULSTER COUNTY

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Ulster County

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ACHIEVEMENTS

- The HV Regional Fruit Team hosted a series of grower training sessions regarding *EUREPGAP* certification requirements. The set of production and handling standards for fruit vegetables, potatoes, salad, cut flowers and nursery stock, guarantees the use of best practices and is needed to gain access to some European markets.
- 57 youth participated in 4-H Public Presentations at the Ulster County Fairgrounds. Presentations on a wide variety of topics incorporating demonstrations, illustrated talk, dramatic interpretation and formal speech were evaluated by adult volunteers from local government, experts, and the Association's Board and Program Committee.
- The Family Resource Management Program has created a homeowners packet for participants who close on a home in Ulster County's *Homebuyers Program*. The packet provides a wealth of information on home maintenance, finances and basic repairs. Topics such as electrical, plumbing, heating, structural, safety, energy efficiency, bill paying, gardening and lawn care advice are all included.
- A five part *Garden Design Series* hosted by the Master Gardener Program sold out nearly immediately upon its offering. The new program taught the essential elements of garden planning, design, plant selection and planting, with participants creating their own garden plans. There is a waiting list for the next set of classes.
- CCEUC offered a four part interactive distance learning seminar series from Cornell's *Community and Rural Development Institute* addressing marketing for small businesses; rural poverty and residential mobility; main street revitalization; and economic security of households. A partnership with SUNY Ulster allowed the BRC to be one of only five sites throughout the entire state delivering this unique professional development opportunity.
- More than 30 property owners sought to have their predominately agricultural land included in a certified ag district during the 30 Day Review sponsored by the *Ag Farmland Protection Board*.

IN PROGRESS

As a part of the *Community Heart Health Coalition* the Nutrition & Family Resource Management Program is initiating a program encouraging people to walk or increase their walking on a regular basis. *Kingston Walks*, seeks to enroll at least 20 groups or agencies that will exercise at or near their worksite during the months of May and June.

The Master Gardener Program is helping the *City of Kingston Parks Commission* in its renovation efforts at the *Forsyth Park Zoo* by providing technical and hands-on assistance in replanting perennial beds. In return for their help with plant selection, soil amendments and planting, the Master Gardeners will host their annual *Great Plant Swap & Sale* on June 5th, at the zoo.

The Human Development Program is holding daylong training session on the *National Extension Parenting Education Framework*, which provides a system of best practices for professional parenting educators to employ in their work. Senior Extension Associate, Jennifer Brickmayer, Cornell University will lead the session.

The 4-H TOPs program is teaching 1st-3rd graders at JFK and George Washington schools about the science of growing herbs and the art of selling the products they've grown. With herbs they've planted from seeds the children have formed and named businesses and are responsible for all aspects of marketing including advertising and sales. Proceeds from their entrepreneurial endeavors will be used to purchase books for their school libraries.

The HV Regional Fruit Program is providing specific and timely information about growing conditions to commercial fruit growers via the daily grower alert messages system. Messages are sent via email and through a recorded answering system to hundreds of growers daily.

WHAT'S NEXT

A Volunteer Recognition Reception, acknowledging the valuable contributions of all who serve our Association will be held at 7 pm on April 29th at the Ulster County Fairgrounds. Delicious desserts and a fascinating presentation by local historian, Susan Stessin-Cohen about the Ulster County Poorhouse are on the menu for the evening celebration.

Environmental Awareness Day, a 4-H Youth Development school enrichment program, on May 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. will focus its hands-on environmental education activities on the biodiversity of the Hudson River Valley. Nearly 400 sixth grade students from throughout the county will participate in this event being held at Robert Post Park in the town of Ulster.

The advisory board for the Little Ones Library has formed *Friends of the Little Ones' Library*, an independent group of supporters who are looking at a variety of means for raising funds to continue the library's operation into the future.

For more information about any of the items listed in this publication please call Lisa M. Berger, Marketing & Public Relations, CCEUC at 340-3990.