

Legislative Update

Cooperative
Extension
ULSTER COUNTY

Volume 3 Issue 10

Ulster County

Winter 2004

ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Little Ones' Library** has received a \$3,000 grant from *Target Corporation* in support of its continuing operation. Exceptional support for young children in the rural Accord/Kerhonkson area has also been demonstrated by generous contributions recently received from the *Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union* and *Revenue Markets, Inc.* ensuring continuation of high quality children's programming in 2004.
- In 2003 CCEUC's nutrition programs reached 870 youth, and 227 adults impacting 723 household members throughout Ulster County. And through a variety of educational outreach efforts including the Farmer's Market Nutrition Education Program, after-school programming, fairs and expos a total of 84,304 people were reached.
- 4-H member **Jaime Churchill** made New York State history when she and four other girls representing Ulster, Ontario and Steuben Counties became the first 4-Hers from New York to compete at the *4-H Poultry Nationals* held in Louisville, Kentucky. The team finished in 9th place.
- 57 commercial growers participated in **CleanSweep NY**, a DEC program allowing commercial growers to dispose of unwanted and outdated agricultural pesticides. Outstanding educational outreach efforts regarding this voluntary program resulted in a total of 48,726 pounds of pesticides, and 106 pesticide containers collected.
- With a \$5,000 grant from Sen. William Larkin, CCEUC's **Financial Budget Education Program** created a handbook for UC Human Service agencies to help their staff answer basic financial questions. In 2003, financial educators gave presentations on money management & community resources at the UC Dept. of Labor reaching 2,265 recently unemployed.
- \$652,745 has been awarded through the **NYS Farmland Protection Fund** to preserve development rights on a 268-acre farm in Hurley with prime soils growing high yields of sweet corn.

IN PROGRESS

The **2004 4-H Youth Veterinary Science Series**, designed to give young people a chance to explore the broad scope of veterinary medicine, begins January 29th at SUNY Ulster. This brand new hands-on learning program will be taught by area Veterinarians covering a variety of topics. Overwhelming demand has the course sold-out.

The **Master Gardener Program** is hosting a five part *Garden Design Series* teaching the essential elements of garden planning, design, plant selection and planting, with participants creating their own garden plans. Classes begin March 6th at the Extension Education Center. To register or receive more information call 340-3478 (DIRT).

On Feb. 4th CCEUC & SUNY Ulster present an **interactive distance learning seminar series** from Cornell's *Community and Rural Development Institute* addressing the consequences frequent residential mobility among low-income families has for schools and other community institutions. Other topics in this series include main street revitalization; and economic security of households.

The **Northeast Small Farms & Rural Living Expo** takes place at the Ulster County Fairgrounds in New Paltz on Sept 18th & 19th. This tri-state event, hosted jointly by CCE of Ulster, Orange & Dutchess Counties, will attract more than 11,000 with its mixture of exhibits, educational workshops and hands-on demonstrations.

The **Little Ones' Library** will join the Rondout Valley Early Childhood Workgroup at the town of Rochester Community Center for *I Just Loved That Book!* on Fri., April. 16th where community members will share their favorite childhood storybooks and the memories that go along with them.

WHAT'S NEXT

The **Master Gardener Program, ESNY & EFNEP** are joining together to develop a *Plant A Row For the Hungry (PAR)* program. **PAR** enlists the help of local home gardeners in feeding the hungry by asking them to plant an extra row of fruit and vegetables in their gardens. The harvested food will be dropped off at CCEUC for distribution to soup kitchens, food banks and for use by CCEUC nutrition educators in their education programs.

4-H Tractor Safety Certification Course for youth aged 14-19 who may operate a tractor at any job outside of the home will begin on March 23rd and continue with a Tues/Thurs. schedule through April 17. Principles taught in class will be practiced in tractor driving sessions. Call Jenny to register, 340-3990.

A **30 Day Review** for those seeking the inclusion of their predominately agricultural land within a certified ag district will take place from March 1-30, 2004. Requests must include a tax map ID #, the relevant portion of the tax map, and a description of the land. For more information or to receive submission forms call, Teresa Rusinek, 340-3990.

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