

Legislative Update



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ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Friend of Extension Awards**, given in recognition of outstanding volunteer support of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County programs over the years, were bestowed on *Herb Heckler*, former Ulster County Planning Director; *Diane & Gary Kleitz*, 4-H volunteers; and *Don Doyle*, Financial Education Program volunteer at CCEUC's Annual Dinner held in October at Twin Lakes Lodge, Kingston.
- **Agriculture Program staff** have completed a profile of Ag District 1 ascertaining current agricultural use of land in the towns of New Paltz, Lloyd, Esopus, Plattekill & Marlboro. Information gathered led to a resolution by the Ulster County Legislature continuing the district with some modifications.
- A 14-page handout developed by CCEUC **Financial Education Program** has been distributed to more 1500 individuals through the Ulster County One Stop Job Center in the last 12 months.
- **Little Ones' Library**, established in 2000 as a community resource providing library experiences for very young children in the Accord-Kerhonkson area, has successfully transitioned to community ownership becoming *Little Ones Learning Center* under the direction of Friends of Little Ones, Inc., a private 501c3 organization.
- The **Feathered Friends 4-H Club** received nationwide recognition by being featured on the national 4-H website highlighting 4-H events for their *Sandals for Iraqi Children Campaign*. To view the listing go to: www.4husa.org, click 4-H State News: New York.
- **Eat Smart New York** and the **Expanded Food & Nutrition Youth Nutrition Education Programs** reached new audiences in 2004 through the Ellenville YMCA Schools' Out Programs; the New Paltz YMCA Camp Wiltmeet; Kingston Parks & Recreation Summer Program at Forsyth Park; and St. John Bosco's home for boys in New Paltz.

IN PROGRESS

The **Master Gardener Program** is holding its annual *Spring Seedling Sale* now through Feb. 28th. The 10 varieties of bareroot evergreen seedlings are perfect for providing privacy, shade or to create windbreaks. Deer resistant varieties, blueberry, blackberry and ever bearing strawberry seedlings are also available.

Beginning March 5th, our **4-H Youth Development** & SUNY Ulster's Vet Tech Programs will offer a 5 week *Veterinary Science Series* designed to give young people a chance to explore the broad scope of veterinary medicine. The program is a hands-on learning experience taught, in part, by area Veterinarians.

A full day of classes for commercial greenhouse growers, landscapers and others in the commercial horticulture industry, the **2005 Hudson Valley Bedding Plant School**, taking place January 26th at the Villa Borghese includes timely, important information on growing & marketing bedding plants, perennials, herbs and landscape ornamentals.

The **2005 Hudson Valley Commercial Fruit Growers School** happening Feb. 22nd & 23rd at the Holiday Inn, Kingston will cover cutting edge information on pest management, production issues, post-harvest handling of fruit, marketing opportunities, and farm labor issues.

The **Human Development Program**, with the Rondout Valley Early Childhood Workgroup, hosts the 2nd Annual *I Just Loved That Book!* on March 11th at the Town of Rochester Community Center. Volunteers from the community honor the importance of early literacy by reading a book they just loved as a child to area youngsters.

WHAT'S NEXT

Landowners seeking to have their predominately viable agricultural land included within a **certified ag district** can make a request during a 30 day review period occur March 1-30th. Forms are available on our website: www.cce.cornell.edu/ulster

A conference addressing the issue of childhood obesity, "*Our Overweight Children: What Educators, Schools and Communities Can Do*," sponsored by **Extension Associations in Ulster, Dutchess & Orange Counties** will take place April 7th at the Fishkill Holiday Inn. The most recent research information about childhood obesity will be shared and participants will explore ways parents, educators and communities can respond.

The **8th Annual 4-H Golf Tournament** will be held on Thursday, May 19, 2005 at Apple Greens Golf Course. Funds raised support 4-H programs and volunteer efforts. The \$75/person fee includes a continental breakfast, 18 holes of golf, cart, lunch and numerous prized and awards.

For more information about any of the items listed in this publication please call Lisa M. Berger, Marketing & Public Relations, CCEUC at 340-3990 or via email at lp41@cornell.edu.