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Cooperative Extension
ULSTER COUNTY

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Little Ones Library Awarded "Little Red Barn" From NY Farm Bureau Foundation

The Little Ones' Library, located at the Rochester Reformed Church, 5142 Rte. 209, Accord is pleased to announce that it is one of just 12 New York libraries to receive a "Little Red Barn" from the New York Farm Bureau Foundation for Agricultural Education. Filled with a collection of twenty of the top agricultural education resources for the pre-Kindergarten through grade three audience, the award is made possible through a grant from the northeast Farm Credit AgEnhancement Program. This wonderful resource will be presented to the library in a special ceremony on Saturday, May 17, 2003 at 10:30 am as part of Mother Goose Express activities.

Local fruit and vegetable grower, Chris Kelder will present the award to Little Ones' Library Program Director, Susan Matson. Kelder is a representative of District 10 to the New York Farm Bureau Board of Directors, and is a member of the New York Farm Bureau Foundation for Agricultural Education Board of Directors. He was the Ulster County Farm Bureau President for six years. He and his wife, Jackie, operate Kelder's Century Farm and U-Pick in Accord.

Applications far outnumbered the Barns available for distribution through this grant. The Little Ones' Library's event, *The Farm Wakes Up*, held March 22, 2003 aided in the success of the application. According to the award committee it was a creative and effective way for the community to become better acquainted with one of New York's leading industries...agriculture. *The Farm Wakes Up* focused children's attention on all the things that happens as a farm wakes up from its winter slumber. It was a day of pure magic. Farmers made it possible for children and adults to play with a lamb, savor local popcorn popped on the cob and plant both seeds and seedlings. A long time maple syrup producer brought an array of display items, stories and demonstrations from years of his family's syrup making business, and delicious samples of sweet sap and even sweeter syrup. Another farmer did a portion of the program about bees. Donations of a variety of fruit and vegetables by a local

market enabled children to learn about and sample the kinds of foods that will be harvested on local farms in the coming months. Parent's reports following the event include:

"Our popcorn exploded in microwave at home. We got to discuss *Farm Day* all over again."

"Our seeds from *Farm Day* are growing daily. We discuss Farm Day because of this."

"While reading counting book at home, child saw a sheep and recalled the *Farm Day* sheep. Reads it a lot now. Also other farm animal books, and books on growing things. LOL sparks discussion of these topics"

The Little Ones' Library is delighted to be the recipient of the "Little Red Barn" collection that has a retail value of more than \$250. Located at the Rochester Reformed Church, 5142 Rte. 209, Accord, and the library serves children from birth through early elementary age. Established by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, with help from community partners, it provides library experiences for children in the rural Accord/Kerhonkson area. For more information about Library hours, storytimes and activities, please contact Marie Ulmer at 626-4112 or Sue Matson at 340-3990.

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