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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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91st Annual Meeting of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County celebrated its 91st Annual Meeting on October 28, 2004 at Twin Lakes Lodge in the Town of Hurley. Board President **John Fitzpatrick** conducted the meeting and the election of new Board and Program Committee members was held. Elected to The Board of Directors were **John Fitzpatrick**, Accord, **Donna Marie Ragonese**, Kerhonkson, **Carla Picayo**, Saugerties, **Len Cane**, Kingston, **Bradley Clarke**, Milton and **Michael Siegel**, Wawarsing. Elected to the Program Committee were **Kathryn Puglisi**, New Paltz, **Allyson Nichols**, Olivebridge, **Terri Ritter**, Accord, and **Barbara Davenport**, Kingston.

Awarded CCE UC's highest recognition for volunteer service, the **Friend of Extension Award**, were **Diane and Gary Kleitz** for their support of the 4-H Youth Development Family and Consumer Science Program, **Don Doyle** for his work with and support of the Family Budget Education Program and **Herb Hekler** for his outstanding support of Ulster County Agriculture and Open Space for the past 36 years.

Special recognition was given to the Master Gardener program for receiving First and Third Place in the **2004 Master Gardener Search for Excellence Awards**. The recognition was bestowed on Master Gardener projects and activities judged to have a significant impact on the community and environment. A Waterwise Garden: Xeriscape Garden at SUNY Ulster in Stone Ridge received first place and Garden Day 2003, an all day hands on and how to classes for gardeners, was awarded Third Place.

The **New York State Agricultural Society** has honored farms that have survived for more than 100 and 200 years in the hands of the same family. Awarded Certificates of Recognition as Century Farms were **Jayway Farms** owned by the Kelder Family in Accord since 1836, **Garrison Homestead Farm** owned by the Garrison Family in Walkill since 1878. and **M.G. Hurd's and Sons Farm** owned by the Hurd Family in Clintondale since 1891. Bicentennial Farms honored were **Trumpbour's Corners Farm** owned by the Trumpbour Family since 1732 and **Saunderskill Farm** owned by the Schoonmaker Family since 1680 (one of the oldest farms in New York State).

Donna Marie Ragonese, Board Member from Accord presented a program on her experiences as an Earthwatch environmental volunteer working with macaws in Peru, leatherback turtles in Costa Rica and elephants in Kenya.

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Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities. NYS College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, NYS College of Human Ecology, and NYS college of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University, Cooperative Extension associations, county governing bodies, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating.