



Cornell Cooperative Extension Telephone: 845-340-3990  
Ulster County Fax: 845-340-3993  
10 Westbrook Lane E-mail: [ulster@cornell.edu](mailto:ulster@cornell.edu)  
Kingston, NY 12401-2928

Cooperative Extension  
ULSTER COUNTY

# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: Lisa M. Berger, Marketing, Production & Public Relations  
845-340-3990

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## **School for Area Commercial Vegetable & Onion Producers Offered**

The 2005 Vegetable & Onion Producers School, presented by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orange and Ulster Counties, on Thursday, March 3, 2005 at the Holiday Inn in Middletown features a full day of educational classes for all those involved in commercial vegetable production. The morning session focuses on labor, marketing and farmland protection issues, while the afternoon session will be broken into two separate commodity tracks; one for onions and the other for vegetables such as sweet corn, pumpkins and tomatoes. Both tracks include timely, important information on production methods, and updates on the latest, most effective pest and disease management techniques. The registration fee is \$45 per person if received by February 25, 2005 and includes a continental breakfast, lunch, and all conference material. Registration at the door is \$55 and subject to availability. 3.5 pesticide re-certification credits in categories 1a, 10, & 23 are available. Registration forms are downloadable at our website: [www.cce.cornell.edu/ulster](http://www.cce.cornell.edu/ulster) (click on *Agriculture Programs*) or to receive more information, please call 845-340-3990.

Commercial vegetable production is a big business in New York State with a value totaling \$332 million in 2004, according to the New York Agricultural Statistics Service. New York's leading vegetable crops are cabbage, sweet corn and onions with pumpkins and tomatoes playing an increasing role. Orange and Ulster Counties rank among the top 10 counties in the state in the production of sweet corn, onions and tomatoes. Currently, New York ranks sixth in the nation for the value of principle fresh market vegetables and seventh for the value of principle processed vegetables. The value of the Empire State's principle fresh market vegetables totaled \$292 million this year.

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