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Commercial Fruit Growers School Features Presentations on the Impacts of Climate Change on Agriculture

The annual Commercial Fruit Growers School and Trade Show, hosted by Cornell Cooperative Extension Hudson Valley Regional Fruit Program on February 26th, 27th, 28th & March 2nd at the Holiday Inn, Kingston helps local fruit producers remain competitive in the worldwide market by providing them the latest production and marketing information. Classes are from 9 am to 4 pm each day with a mini trade show taking place in the Holidome on February 27th from 4 to 7 pm.

The first day researchers from Cornell University focus on berry growing, particularly brambles. Day two covers marketing strategies, labor issues, and techniques for controlling diseases, insects and pests affecting fruit trees and their crops. Wednesday features presentations on global climate change and its impacts on agriculture. Northeast indicators of climate change will be discussed by Dr. Cameron Wade from the Climate Change Research Center at the University of New Hampshire. Dr. Lewis Ziska from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in Beltsville, Maryland and Dr. Art Agnello from Cornell University's Department of Entomology will explain the impacts of climate change on tree fruit pests, and on weed growth and control. On Friday, there will be two tracks for grape growers one for those who are just beginning and a concurrent track for more advanced grape growers. Joint sessions begin and end the day.

NYSDEC pesticide re-certification credits will be available. Registration is \$25 per day in advance (includes lunch) and \$30 at the door. For more information about classes contact Mike Fargione, Commercial Fruit Extension Educator, at 845-691-7117 or go to: <http://hudsonvf.cce.cornell.edu>. For a registration form please call Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County at 845-340-3990.

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