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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE *(see image attached)*

Image Details: Auctioneer Chuck Garrison with Erica Bell and Victor Churchill from Sickler, Torchia, Allen & Churchill CPAs PC

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Marketing & Production

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County's Annual Dinner a Huge Success

The Hillside Manor in Kingston was the setting for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County's Annual Dinner and Silent Auction on Saturday, November 14, 2008. CCEUC teamed up with the Ulster County Farm Bureau once again for a combined annual event.

Each year, CCEUC recognizes individuals for their immeasurable hours of volunteering and honors them with the Friends of Extension Award. This year's Friends of Extension honorees were Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT) for their dedication to the Master Gardeners Plant-A-Row Program, Chuck Garrison of Wallkill, NY for his involvement in the annual 4-H Livestock Auction held each year at the Ulster County Fair, and Crist Brothers Orchards Inc. for their countless hours dedicated to Cooperative Extension's agricultural programs throughout the years. The business and organization honoree for philanthropic support was Sickler, Torchia, Allen & Churchill CPAs PC of Hudson and Lake Katrine for their support of the Ulster County Fair, the 4-H Livestock Auction, the annual 4-H Golf tournament and other Ulster County 4-H programs.

The silent auction, a fund raiser for CCEUC, took place throughout the evening and included an array of items and services from local businesses. One of the highlights of the evening was the live auction which featured a frozen farm fresh turkey raised by Erica Bell. The money from the live auction was donated to Erica Bell, 15 who is an 8 year Ulster County 4-H youth member who was diagnosed with a fast growing sarcoma cancer in 2007. Bell is currently undergoing treatment. The live auction proceeds will help with the costs of Erica's medical care and a trip to the North American International Livestock Expo in Louisville, KY. Erica placed second overall at the 2007 Avian Bowl competition in Syracuse at the New York State Fair. This qualified her to represent New York State at this National Conference. The Bell family was in attendance and the auction was called by none other than professional auctioneer and one of the evening's honorees Chuck Garrison. The winning bid for \$375 came from Sickler, Torchia, Allen & Churchill CPAs PC.

CCEUC raised \$1200 at the event for the association.

For more information about Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County's community programs and events call 845-340-3990 or visit online at <http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/ulster>

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