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Marketing & Production

Zachary and the Giant Blueberry at the Ulster County Fair
Ulster County Youth Grows Largest Blueberry in the United States

Each year Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County's Master Gardeners host a fruit, vegetable and flower contest in the Horticulture Building at the Ulster County Fair.

The building is brimming with horticulture exhibits from local gardeners including brightly colored gladiolas, huge asparagus beans, perfect purple onions and more! This year all eyes are on a pint of blueberries grown by Zachary Wightman age 12 of Kerhonkson. At the very top of the pint of blueberries lies a humongous blueberry weighing in at a whopping 6.8 grams just two tenths of a gram shy of making the Guinness Book of World Records. The blueberry was weighed on a certified Mettler Balance Scientific Scale at the Cornell Cooperative Hudson Valley Fruit Laboratory.

Wightman has had an interest in fruit growing as early as five years of age, when all he wanted for Christmas was a picking bucket so he could join his family in harvesting berries and fruit on their farm. Wightman Fruit Farm is located on Cherrytown Mountain in Kerhonkson. Wightman was very excited to learn how close he came to reaching the record, and is very enthused that next years blueberries will be even bigger and will shatter the record for the largest blueberry grown weighing in at 7.0 grams which is held in the United Kingdom.

This exciting news proves how suited the Hudson Valley is for production of nutritious fruits that are of the highest quality.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County's Master Gardeners will be hosting Garden Talks in the Horticulture Building at the Ulster County Fair each day at 1:30pm beginning Wednesday, July, 30 in the Horticulture Building at The Ulster County Fair Grounds located on Libertyville Road in New Paltz. In addition to the Garden Talks, our Master Gardeners will provide fair-goers with state of the art gardening knowledge and information regarding the Master Gardener Program at the "Ask the Master Gardener" table, also located in the Horticulture Building.

The Ulster County Fair located on Libertyville Road in New Paltz opens Tuesday, July 29 and continues through Sunday, August 3.

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