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Conference on Value Added Processing of Agricultural Products

Hudson Valley Agribusiness Development Corporation (HVADC) and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia, Dutchess, Orange and Ulster invite all growers and ag-prenuers to a conference on value added processing.

The "Innovations & Diversification Adding Value to Your Products" conference will take place on February 5, 2010 at the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home in Hyde Park, NY. The cost to attend is \$15 including a continental breakfast and lunch. For more information on the agenda and to obtain registration material, please visit www.hvadc.org or contact Mary Ann Johnson at 518-828-4718 or majohnson@hvadc.org. Reservations are required and space is limited so please register by January 29, 2010.

Are you interested in processing your berries into juice, tomatoes into sauce, milk into cheese or pork into bacon for additional income? This conference features speakers with expertise on food entrepreneurship, market development, food safety, product development, ethnic markets, small scale processing and state regulations governing value added processing for dairy, livestock and fruits/vegetables.

The morning session will begin with keynote speaker Olga Padilla Zakour from the New York State Food Venture Center discussing how to add value and safety to your agricultural product. Afterwards, a panel of local resources will describe existing opportunities which you can capitalize on, including: the Small Scale Food Processors Association, Nelson Farms, and how to tap into New York City markets. Inspectors from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets will provide an overview of the regulations you should be aware of and farmers currently engaged in value added processing will share their experiences.

The conference has been sponsored by HVADC, Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Orange County Farmland Protection Board.

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