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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*(Image attached: John Kelder)*

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**Rondout Valley Graduate Receives Dominic Parise Master Gardener Scholarship**

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County Master Gardener Program has announced the recipient for the 2010 Dominic Parise Master Gardener Scholarship. This year's recipient is John Kelder of Accord.

John grew up on a family farm in Accord, NY and participates in several extracurricular activities. He currently is employed at Kelder's Farm where his daily duties include caring for the animals, a guide for educational farm tours, building maintenance and customer service. Academically, Kelder is a member of the National Honor Society and National Society of High School Scholars. He has volunteered his time to several community programs including "A Day at the Farm", a program for socio-economically disadvantaged students, the Rondout Valley Growers Association and Kerhonkson Accord Chamber of Commerce. He has also helped coordinate several fundraisers.

Kelder has excelled as an athlete and was named, Captain of Varsity Wrestling at Rondout Valley High School. He has received several awards in regional wrestling tournaments which ultimately gained him 2010's Most Outstanding Wrestler and the Daily Freeman's "Sportsman of the Week" in December 2009. He is NYS certified in Boater Safety, Hunter Safety, and Tractor Safety. John is also a former member of Ulster County 4-H.

In his spare time he enjoys restoring a 1967 Chevy C20 Pickup truck and plans to restore the truck to its original condition. Kelder will graduate in June and will attend Cornell University to study Animal Science beginning in the fall.

The Ulster County Master Gardener Program consists of a group of trained volunteers who help educate and assist the community in a variety of horticulture projects. The Dominic Parise Master Gardener Scholarship is a \$500.00 scholarship and is open to any college or college bound student in Ulster County pursuing a horticulture, agriculture or environmental biology degree. It was established in honor of former Horticultural Assistant, Dominic Parise, who played a critical role in revitalizing the program in Ulster County.

*Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities*

For more information about Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County's community programs and events call 845-340-3990 or visit us online at [www.cceulster.org](http://www.cceulster.org) or follow us on [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

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*Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County (CCEUC) is a 501(c) 3 subordinate government agency of the State of New York under Article 5, 224(b) of the NYS County Laws organization that utilizes research based knowledge through their partnership with Cornell University. This information is disseminated through their on-going community programming in the areas of Agriculture, Horticulture, 4-H Youth Development, Family and Consumer Science and Environmental programs held throughout Ulster County.*