

Program Update - Michael Fargione

Cornell Cooperative Extension Hudson Valley Regional Fruit Program (HVRFP)
Supervising County – Ulster Programming Period: 4/26/05 – 7/13/05

Highlighted Activities Completed During Reporting Period:

Peach Pruning Demonstration: On May 2, 12 growers attended a field meeting where pruning of 3 peach training systems was demonstrated by Steve Hoying (CCE LOFT) and Fargione. The meeting was held at the Mead Orchards peach research plots in Northern Dutchess / Columbia Co.

Petal Fall / Thinning Meetings: The annual pome fruit thinning meetings were held on May 18th at Fix Bros. Orchard (Columbia) and Dressel Farms (Ulster). Over 100 growers and fruit industry representatives heard presentations on pest management, nutrition and cropload adjustment from Cornell faculty (HVL - Rosenberger, Straub, Jentsch; Geneva – Robinson; Ithaca – Cheng).

Emergency Crop Insurance Meeting: Ten growers attended an emergency meeting relating to frost damage and crop insurance held at CCE Columbia County. Cooperators included CCE, Cornell Crop Ins. Edu. Program, NYS Hort Society, crop insurance providers and consultants.

Monthly Extension Publications: Three articles have been written and submitted to regional program extension associations for their monthly publications (Ag-Focus, News, Land & Living).

Meetings Attended: NYS Dept. Agric & Markets workshop, April 29, Poughkeepsie, NY
Cornell Fruit PWT Tree Fruit Subcommittee, June 15, Geneva, NY.
HV Regional Fruit Program 5-county meeting, June 16, CCE Kingston, NY
Cornell RMA educational planning meeting, June 23, CCE Voorheesville, NY.
Premiere Apple Coop. marketing meeting, June 27-28, Syracuse, NY.

Highlighted Activities Underway During Reporting Period:

Grower alert messages: Delivery of grower alert messages continued on a daily basis (Monday-Friday) through June 3rd. Since that date, messages are being sent out twice per week. Forty-two separate messages have been delivered by email or answering machine during this reporting period. E-mail messages are currently sent to 117 individuals, while the recorded telephone message continues to be used by other growers.

Individual assistance: Numerous grower, public and governmental inquiries were addressed relating to tree fruit production, pest management and agriculture during the reporting period via telephone, office visit or farm visits.

Ongoing research projects with activity during reporting period:

<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Collaborating Researcher(s)</u>	<u>Cooperating Grower(s)</u>	<u>County</u>
Enhancement of 'Gala' fruit size	Robinson & Schupp	W.G. Minard & Sons	Ulster
Peach planting systems trials	Hoying and Robinson	Mead Orch.	Columbia
Apple thinning trial with BA	Robinson	Crist Bros.	Ulster
Expansion of NEWA weather stations into E. NY	Carroll & Iungerman	Doubrava Farms	Ulster
		Rose Hill Farm	Dutchess
Evaluation of apple rootstocks	Robinson	Crist Bros.	Ulster
Survey of plastic deer enclosure fence designs	Curtis	multiple growers	multi-county
Survey of problem orchard weeds	Breth	multiple growers	multi-county