

July 19, 2005

Community and Commercial Horticulture, Ag Issues

Ag Issues:

Support Ulster County Farmland Protection Board Activities- Program Effort 25%

Ag District 2, 8 Year Review- assess data base, provide outreach materials to landowners, process and summarize farm profiles, field inquiries. (working with Planning Dept., M. Fargione as needed) Ag District 3 and 4 are also up for review this year.

Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Implementing first phase of five year communication strategy for Ulster County AEM Program. AEM is a mechanism to address agricultural land as a possible source of non-point pollution. This is a collaborative ongoing effort with CCE, Soil and Water Conservation District and Natural Resource Conservation Service. Two articles on AEM have been published in the Current and Ag Focus. Presentations were made at Fruit School and Vegetable School. Farmer participation in the program is increasing. CCE receives funding from NRCS for this work.

Purchase Of Development Rights (PDR)- Provide outreach materials to the public, field inquiries, assist with grant application and negotiations process.

Other issues: right to farm, GMOs, pesticides (field calls on these on a regular basis)

Written Publications:

Ag Focus, published monthly, I write one full article as well as a shorter column

Commercial Ag Production and Marketing:

vegetables, ornamental horticulture-(floriculture, nursery, turfgrass and greenhouse) production and horticultural business management – Program Effort 50%

Grower Twilight Meetings Growers and other industry professionals learn Integrated Pesticide Management techniques on various vegetable crops. I run at least one twilight meeting a year specifically for veg. producers. This year I am holding two: one on August 15 at Huguenot Street CSA Farm (Organic Production/Potato demo and starch based mulch demos), the other will be held at Wallkill View Farm on August 10th (pumpkin variety trial and veg disease workshop).

Winning Fields on a Limited Budget – This program will run on July 27, 2005 This is a day long workshop for school and park groundskeepers and other turf professionals. Seminars focus on athletic field construction, renovation and maintenance practices that yield winning results on and off the athletic field. Working with the HV regional hort team and Cornell turf specialist, Joanne Gruttadaurio. This is the first year we are running this program.

Individual Grower Consultations: *(by telephone, office visit and on-farm as requested)*

Written Publications:

Hudson Valley Horticulture, I am the editor of this monthly e newsletter that is distributed in 5 HV counties.

Muck and Mineral: I contribute articles to this monthly publication

Crop Management News is under re-construction, I am working with a grower to create a platform for growers to send me regional field info on a weekly basis. This information will be combined and summarized with my field observations and distributed to growers in Ulster County via email on a weekly basis. I will apply for a SARE grant to help fund this effort.

Community Horticulture:

I supervise and provide leadership for the Community Horticulture Program, the program coordinator and 45 Master Gardener Volunteers. Program Effort 25%

Diagnostics: I assist the Master Gardeners and the Coordinator with the identification of specimens and pests brought into our lab.

Written Publications:

Gro News, published monthly, I write one article per month.

Mohonk Garden Walk: June 30, 128 people attended, the event was hugely successful