

Program Update - Michael Fargione

Cornell Cooperative Extension Hudson Valley Regional Fruit Program (HVRFP)
Supervising County – Ulster Programming Period: 5-7-08 through 7-10-08

Highlighted Activities Completed During Reporting Period:

Pest Management and Cropload Adjustment Meetings were held in Ulster and Columbia Counties on May 20, 2008. Over 100 growers learned how to adjust pest management and thinning strategies to the season's insect, disease, and weather conditions. Some Cornell faculty talks were video taped and placed on the Regional Fruit Program web site for growers to review or see for the first time.

Highlighted Efforts Currently Underway:

34 Grower Alert Messages were delivered to 158 commercial growers, extension and research staff in 4 NE States during the reporting period. Prepared in collaboration with Cornell staff, these e-mail messages keep growers informed of pest management, horticulture and other production issues at critical times to enhance their decision making capabilities. Messages included web links to additional resources such as web sites, photographs, integrated pest management data and scouting summaries and video clips produced in collaboration with Cornell staff.

Numerous **farm visits** were conducted throughout the growing region to provide growers with hands-on training in pest scouting, insect and disease control practices and horticultural techniques.

Enhanced web resources for Fruit IPM continue to be provided this year in collaboration with Cornell research staff. The IPM "Scouting and Models" page of the Regional Fruit Program web site (<http://hudsonvf.cce.cornell.edu/scoutingreport.html>) has been enhanced to further assist growers in making insect pest management decisions. Cornell Entomologist Peter Jentsch determines the presence and pressure of insect populations at 5 regional farms. Observations about insect presence or thresholds for treatment are updated on the web site each week to better aid growers in determining if and when pesticide treatments are needed in a localized area.

Efforts continue on the **NY Tall Spindle Training System Video Project**. The project, funded by the NY Farm Viability Institute, is being conducted in collaboration with Cornell researchers T. Robinson and S. Hoying. The end result will be a CD distributed to apple growers throughout NY, video clips placed on the Cornell Fruit web page, and interpretive signs placed in existing cooperating grower demonstration plantings. Efforts so far have involved obtaining and learning how to use the video equipment and editing software, and to develop interpretive signage for demonstration plantings. Quarterly progress reports were submitted to Farm Viability Institute.

Preparations are underway with Cornell Horticulturalist Steve Hoying to conduct a **pre-meeting farm tour for international scientists attending the 9th International Symposium on Integrating Canopy, Rootstock and Environmental Physiology in Orchard Systems** (the actual meeting will be held in Geneva, New York from Aug. 4 to Aug. 8, 2008). The pre-tour will take place August 2, beginning with a professional NY City tour, followed by a visit to the Tribeca Greenmarket. Attendees will then travel to Ulster County and visit 6 fruit farms, including 2 Cornell apple demonstration plantings. The day's events will conclude with an "American-style barbecue" hosted by the Clarke family of Prospect Hill Orchards in Milton.

Activities Related to the Supervising County:

Farm Labor Housing Project – participated in tour of applicant housing and in the decision process to identify acceptable applicants.

Agricultural District Inclusion Reviews – provided support to the Ulster Agricultural Farmland Protection Board in their work on the annual Ag District Inclusion process.

Participated in the 2-day **CCE staff retreat at Omega Institute** on May 27th.

Participated in the **Red Cross First Aid Training Course** held on May 30th.