

Program Update - Michael Fargione

Cornell Cooperative Extension Hudson Valley Regional Fruit Program (HVRFP)
Supervising County – Ulster Programming Period: 1/1/05 – 2/28/05

Highlighted Activities Completed During Reporting Period:

Seven apple growers and agriculture-related industry representatives attended the January 14, 2005 **EUREPGAP Training Session** held at the Hudson Valley Lab, Highland. This training assisted apple growers in preparing for EUREPGAP certification for UK markets.

A **draft report on the Roo-Guard Deer Damage Mitigation Project** was prepared and sent to collaborator Dr. Paul Curtis (Cornell DNR) for review.

I continued participation in the **Cornell PWT Committee on the Future of Fruit Extension**. This committee produced a draft plan to restructure the NY fruit extension program as a starting point for statewide discussions. The draft proposal was discussed on February 15 at the Fruit PWT meeting held in conjunction with the Empire State Fruit & Vegetable Expo. It is now being disseminated statewide for further discussion.

The **2005 Empire State Fruit & Vegetable Expo** was held February 14-17 in Syracuse, NY. I helped organize portions of the Wednesday, February 15 Tree Fruit Session and served as a moderator.

The annual **Hudson Valley Commercial Fruit Growers' School** was held February 22 and 23 at the Holiday Inn, Kingston. The School included 23 research/extension presentations and a 28-vendor Trade Show. Dr. Tom Burr, Director of NYS Agric. Experiment Station, Geneva, was the keynote speaker and spoke about "Future Directions for the NYS Agricultural Experiment Station and applied research at Cornell". There were 150 and 110 attendees at Day 1 and 2 of the event, respectively.

Highlighted Planning Efforts Underway During Reporting Period:

Apple Pest Control In-Depth Workshop for Hudson Valley Growers – This day-long workshop will be held at the Hudson Valley Lab, Highland on March 10, 2005. It is tailored to help Hudson Valley growers understand current apple insect and disease control options and to help them build effective season-long programs. Pre-registration is required. Information and registration materials are available at: http://www.cce.cornell.edu/hvfruit/meeting_announcements/applepest.pdf

Class 10 of LEAD NY - I am a program planning team member for the final working session being held in Newburg, Orange County on March 17-19, 2005. Topics to be covered include evaluation of the study trip, local leadership assignment reports, a written communication skills workshop, NY forest products industry tour and speakers, commencement preparations and program evaluation.

Special Permit Training Sessions - to be held on March 30 (Hudson), March 31 (Highland) and April 20 (location TBA). This training is to help growers deal with DEC requirements for on-site supervision of workers making applications of restricted use pesticides. Steve McKay and I are collaborating on these training sessions. Registration materials can be found at: http://www.cce.cornell.edu/hvfruit/meeting_announcements/specialpermittraining05.pdf

Planning for the Future Newsletter Series - I am working in collaboration with Steve Hadcock (CCE Columbia) to produce a newsletter series to help apple growers assess and redirect their businesses using materials derived from the Cornell Apple Growers' Workbook. Members of Cornell FarmNet and First Pioneer Farm Credit have agreed to contribute articles. This effort substitutes for the January 2005 Workshop Series "Planning for the Future" that was cancelled due to lack of enrollment.