

Program Update - Michael Fargione

Cornell Cooperative Extension Hudson Valley Regional Fruit Program (HVRFP)
Supervising County – Ulster Programming Period: 11/1/05 – 3/3/06

Highlighted Activities Completed During Reporting Period:

Crop Insurance educational programs for fruit growers were held in coordination with the Cornell Risk Management Program and the NY State Horticultural Society at the Hudson Valley Lab in Highland on November 2, 2005 and at the CCE Columbia office on November 3, 2005. A **Risk Management Workshop** was held in cooperation with Rose Bagalia (organizer) at the CCE Orange Co. office on December 14, 2005.

Master Gardener Training on Tree Fruit Production was held for Orange and Putnam Counties at the Hudson Valley Lab on November 10, 2005.

The **2006 Empire State Fruit & Vegetable Expo** was held February 14-16 in Syracuse, NY. I helped organize the February 14 AM Tree Fruit Session, served as the session moderator, and presented "Building and Maintaining Political Strength in the Fruit Industry" during the afternoon session.

The annual **Hudson Valley Commercial Fruit Growers' School** was held February 21-23, 2006 at the Holiday Inn, Kingston. The School was expanded to a 3rd day with concurrent grape and berry programs. I oversaw advertisement, registration and written program production for the 3-day event so as to provide a seamless, multi-crop learning opportunity for growers. I hosted the first 2 days' programs and the trade show on Day 1. I assisted with hosting Day 3 which was organized and run by S. McKay. During the 3-day meeting, 50 research/extension presentations and a 34-vendor Trade Show were held. There were 204 and 100 attendees at Day 1 and 2 of the event, and approx. 50 and 35 attendees at the grape and berry sessions, respectively on Day 3.

Highlighted Planning Efforts Underway During Reporting Period:

Apple Pest Control In-Depth Workshop for Hudson Valley Growers – This day-long workshop will again be held at the Hudson Valley Lab, Highland on March 15, 2006. 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.

Special Permit Training Sessions - to be held on March 28 (Highland), March 29 (Hudson) and April 19 (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.

Search Committees for HVL Staff Positions – I am serving on the search committees for the Entomologist and Horticulturalist positions to be refilled at the Cornell Hudson Valley Lab in Highland, Ulster County. Both committees have met several times. The Entomologist committee has selected final candidates for interviews while the Horticulturalist job description is being prepared for advertisement.