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Program Highlights
Community and Commercial Horticulture, Ag Issues

Commercial Ag Production and Marketing

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

Over one hundred growers from the Hudson Valley region attended **The Hudson Valley Nursery and Greenhouse Growers School** presented by Cornell Cooperative Extension Regional Horticulture Program at Ulster BOCES in New Paltz, on January 15, 2008. This year the program focused on production and energy issues. Growers learned intergraded pest management methods such as improved air circulation, cultivar resistance and monitoring techniques to prevent and reduce insect and disease damage in their crops. A grower panel on farm energy alternatives provided participants an opportunity to hear first hand how renewable fuel sources are being used to heat greenhouses in the Hudson Valley.

Hudson Valley Vegetable School was held for commercial farmers at the new Orange County Cooperative Extension building in Middletown. The program covered eleven timely topics including: Choosing Cover Crops, Restaurant Marketing Opportunities, Soil Health Assessment and Renewable Energy on the Farm and much, much more. The program was organized by my colleague Maire Ulrich in Orange County and me.

Farm Energy Program Update. CCE Ulster has launched a new webpage dedicated to farm energy issues. This webpage is designed to help Hudson Valley farms reduce energy needs, improve farm profitability and learn about innovative farm energy projects taking place in the region. Information on energy conservation practices, alternative energy options, educational opportunities, and funding sources are provided. A summary of a recently completed Hudson Valley Farm energy survey conducted by CCE of Ulster is available for viewing on the site. This effort has been supported by a grant from Cornell Cooperative Extension Director's Grant Program and is part of an ongoing farm energy educational project.

Community Horticulture

Supervise and provide leadership for the Community Horticulture- Program Effort 25%

Rain Garden Update CCE Ulster has been awarded 30 K over the next three years to implement community storm water management in Ulster County. This is a USDA grant; we have contracted with Rutgers University to conduct training, outreach and installations of rain gardens on public and residential sites. In February Dona Crawford and I, along with master gardeners, and Rain Garden specialists from Rutgers Extension, toured potential rain garden demonstration sites in Ulster County. On March 15, with assistance from Rutgers specialists, we conducted four hour Rain Garden training for 33 Master Gardeners. In May we will be installing our first rain garden- at Town of Ulster, Town Hall.

Master Gardener Training Sixteen new Master Gardener volunteers graduated on February 28 after completing 120 hours of extensive training in the art and science of gardening and horticulture. Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who provide the public with gardening programs and activities that draw on the horticulture research and experience of Cornell University. It is this tie to Cornell that provides Master Gardeners with state of the art gardening knowledge to provide to the community.