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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%

- *Completed- Small Farm Rural Living Expo, Oct. 13 and 14th 2007, Ulster County Fairgrounds. Attended by approximately 1500, over two days. I co-chaired Commercial Horticulture Track and thought seminars on vegetable pests and nursery licensing.*
- *In progress- Farm Energy Program. Energy costs are one of the largest production expenses on many farms in the Hudson Valley. (Typically second to labor costs). In an effort to reduce energy expenditures and decrease production of greenhouse gases, we are focusing efforts on providing resources to farmers on alternative and renewable energy as well as energy efficiency measures that can be employed at the farm. As part of a 10K grant from Cornell University, I am developing a farm energy page on CCEUC website. The site includes information on energy efficiency and renewable/alternative energy, meetings/events, funding opportunities, local farms using alternative/renewable energy, and fact sheets. Mike Fargione is developing an energy survey for farmers that will be distributed in December. Audrey Reith (livestock /equine educator) is working with us to develop the webpage and survey. There will be a session on cutting greenhouse energy costs at January's Greenhouse /Nursery Growers School. We are currently identifying potential pilot projects for energy audits and alternative/renewable energy farm installations.*

Community Horticulture

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

- *CCE Ulster awarded 30 K over the next three years to implement Stormwater Management using Raingardens program in Ulster County. This is a USDA grant; we have contracted with Rutgers University to conduct training, outreach and installations of raingardens. In each of the three years, we will be training a minimum of 30 people including: master gardeners, landscapers and the general public. The program includes the installation of three raingardens as demonstration in the first two years. We are looking for public sites, preferably visible and where there will be buy in for maintenance, e.g. Town Hall, buildings and grounds staff do maintenance, CCE provides expertise.*
- *Master Gardener Training began in September. Sixteen people are enrolled; they will graduate in March after completing 120 hours of training in horticultural topics.*
- *Boxwood Holiday Tree and Kissing Ball Workshops coming up in December. In January we will be taking orders for our annual Seedling Sale.*