

Program Update - Michael Fargione

Cornell Cooperative Extension Hudson Valley Regional Fruit Program (HVRFP)
Supervising County – Ulster Programming Period: 3-24-08 through 5-6-08

Highlighted Activities Completed During Reporting Period:

A **meeting of the Fruit Program Administrative Oversight Committee** took place on April 10, 2008. I compiled and presented data for use in allocating county program costs for the Regional Fruit Program in preparation for revision of the program agreement.

A 3rd and final **Special Permit Training Session** was held on April 23 at the Hudson Valley Lab. A total of 10 farms and 18 workers were represented at the training. Combined with 2 earlier sessions held in March, we helped 24 farm operators and 98 workers comply with DEC requirements for on-site supervision of workers handling and making applications of restricted use pesticides.

I presented **seminars on Fruit Tree Pruning and Wildlife Damage Mitigation** for Tri-County Landscaper Association on April 29, 2008 at the Hudson Valley Lab, Highland. The event was organized and facilitated by T. Rusinek.

Highlighted Efforts Currently Underway:

30 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.

Enhanced web resources for Fruit IPM are being provided this year in collaboration with research staff from Cornell. 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.

A **draft demonstration video on "How To Topwork (graft) Apple Trees"** was produced and placed on the Regional Fruit Program web site in April 2008. Clips used to produce the video were recorded in collaboration with Cornell Pomologist S. Hoying during May-December 2007.

Efforts have begun 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 and video clips placed on the Cornell Fruit web page.

Activities Related to the Supervising County:

4/8/08-4/9/08 - attended "Rising Waters Project" multi-stakeholder scenario planning meeting designed to develop specific adaptation *strategies and actions* to deal with HV climate change.

4/18/08 participated in the Agricultural District Annual Inclusion farm survey with Rusinek (CCEUC) and Craft (UC Planning).

Assisting with implementation of Farm Labor Housing Project.