

May, 2008

Teresa Rusinek

*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%

Nuisance Wildlife Management and Fruit Tree Pruning Seminar was held on April 29th in conjunction with the Tri County Landscapers' and Nurserymen's Association Spring Meeting. Guest speaker, Mike Fargione, presented a variety of techniques that could be integrated to reduce wildlife damage to landscape ornamentals and nursery stock. Mike also gave a short lesson on fruit tree pruning. Thirty four landscape and nursery professionals attended the program.

Farm Energy Program Update. Currently, I am working with an energy efficiency and renewable energy consultant group to review the results of the Farm Energy Survey that Mike Fargione and I conducted this past December, and to explore potential areas to develop energy sustainability programs for farmers in the Hudson Valley.

Pasture Walk for Equine and Livestock Owners I will assist Equine and Livestock Educator, Audrey Reith, in providing participants with hands on sampling and demonstration related to soil fertility and identification of common grasses, weeds and toxic plants. This program is taking place on June 2, 1-4PM at Loosetrife Farm in Kerhonkson.

Zone Tillage Twilight Meeting- I am in the process of planning this "on farm" meeting in late June at Gill Farms in Hurley. Zone tillage is a reduced tillage method that is gradually gaining prominence in the Northeast. This method minimizes the adverse effects of intensive farming on the environment and improves the quality of the soil. Gill farms recently purchased a zone tiller and I have been working with them assessing soil health on the farm.

Community Horticulture

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

The long awaited vegetable planting season has arrived, and the Master Gardener program is looking for gardeners to help feed the hungry in Ulster County by joining their **Plant A Row** for the Hungry (PAR) campaign. We are asking vegetable gardeners to grow a little extra this season, or bring their excess produce to CCEUC. Our nutrition program educators will use and distribute the produce collected when they go out to teach their hands-on programs that work with low-income families, children, and seniors residing in Ulster County. Donated produce will also be given to food pantries in Kingston and New Paltz. Home gardeners participating in this years program will receive one free soil test, an informative packet with suggestions of what to grow, and how to plant them, and free Plant A Row veggie markers for their garden.

Rain Garden Update -We will be excavating at The Town of Ulster, Town Hall on May 13 and installing our first rain garden there on May 22. Just as a reminder, this raingarden installation is part of a 30 K USDA grant project awarded to CCEUC over the next three years to implement community storm water management in Ulster County. We have contracted with Rutgers University to conduct training, outreach and installations of rain gardens on public and residential sites.

