

## Program Update - Michael Fargione

Cornell Cooperative Extension Hudson Valley Regional Fruit Program (HVRFP)  
Supervising County – Ulster                      Programming Period: 9/16/05 – 10/30/05

### **Highlighted Activities Completed During Reporting Period:**

**Harvest Maturity Program:** This program helped growers optimize the timing of apple harvests in order to improve fruit quality and storability. In 2005, fruit samples were collected from grower blocks throughout the region and the maturity of sampled fruit were evaluated. Seven reports were prepared this fall and distributed to growers via email or recorded answering machine. This year the maturity program was expanded to include evaluation of fruit internal ethylene levels with the support of resources at Cornell's Hudson Valley Lab and a financial gift from AgroFresh Inc. In addition, studies of fruit condition at harvest and again after storage are being conducted in 4 local storages as a follow-up project

**Meetings Attended:** 9/26/05 – I presented an overview of HVRFP at Orange County CCE Board, Middletown, NY.  
10/7/05 – tour of orchards and packing facilities for supermarket buyers and representatives of Assemblymen Sue Kelly's office held at Crist Bros., Walden, NY.  
10/25/05 – CCE Ulster County Annual Dinner, Accord, NY.

### **Highlighted Activities Underway During Reporting Period:**

**Efforts to Maintain Staffing at Cornell's Hudson Valley Lab:** I serve on the search committees for hiring two faculty research/extension positions (Entomology Extension Associate, Horticultural Research Associate) at the HVL. The Horticultural Research Associate position committee met with grower stakeholders on October 27<sup>th</sup>. The committee is currently working on a draft position description for review by Cornell Departments and the Dean.

**2006 Empire State Fruit and Vegetable Expo:** I serve on the Tree Fruit Section program planning committee. We have met several times (I attended via phone) and the Tree Fruit Session agenda has been prepared and submitted to the Expo staff for printing.

**2006 Hudson Valley Commercial Fruit Growers' School:** Planning is underway for this meeting that will be held on February 21 & 22 in Kingston, NY.

### **Ongoing research projects with activity during reporting period:**

<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Collaborating Researcher(s)</u>	<u>Cooperating Grower(s)</u>	<u>County</u>
Development of Harvest Guidelines for HV Apples treated with SmartFresh	Watkins	multiple growers	Ulster