

Ag Issues:

Support Ulster County Farmland Protection Board Activities- Program Effort 25%

Ag District 2, 8 Year Review- Work on the review is complete. Ag District 2 consists of the towns of Shawangunk, Rosendale, New Paltz, Plattekill, Gardiner, Esopus and the Village of New Paltz. 25,730 Acres remain in the district, this is a decrease of 4,816 acres since the last review, eight years ago. We are now waiting for the Department of Agriculture and Markets to review reports prepared by CCE and UC Planning Dept.. The review of ag district 3 will begin in October 2005.

Aug 29, Chamber of Commerce Ag Tour. I worked with Lisa Berger (our marketing and public relations coordinator) and Chamber of Commerce staff on this tour which highlighted three ag enterprises in the Rondout corridor. The purpose of tour was to demonstrate the economic importance of agriculture in our region. The event was very well attended (two bus loads) by local business people and even county officials.

Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Work continues to promote this voluntary program for farmers that guides them through the adoption and implementation of environmental best management practices on their farms. Cost share dollars are also made available to farmers participating in this program. Presentations on the benefits of AEM were made at two farmers meetings during the month of August. This is a collaborative ongoing effort with CCE, Soil and Water Conservation District and Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Purchase Of Development Rights (PDR)- I am currently working with UC Planning Dept and Open Space Institute and Scenic Hudson to evaluate landowner applications and to prepare the county PDR application to the Department of Agriculture and Markets

Written Publications:

Ag Focus, published monthly, I write one full article as well as a shorter column

Commercial Ag Production and Marketing

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

Grower Twilight Meetings Two twilight meetings were held in August: one on August 15 at Huguenot Street CSA Farm (Organic Production/Potato demo and starch based mulch demos), the other was held at Walkkill View Farm on August 10th (pumpkin variety trial and veg disease workshop). Growers and other industry professionals learned Integrated Pesticide Management techniques on various vegetable crops. Both programs were well attended with over 50 participants at each.

Winning Fields on a Limited Budget – This program ran on July 27, 2005 This was a day long workshop for school and park groundskeepers and other turf professionals. Seminars focused on athletic field construction, renovation and maintenance practices. I coordinated this program with the HV regional hort team and Cornell turf specialist, Joanne Gruttadaurio. This was the first year we ran this program. It was attended by 40 individuals representing school districts and municipalities throughout the Hudson Valley.

The Great Pumpkin Trial Harvest- This program will be held on September 20 2005, at Walkkill View Farms as a follow up to the Pumpkin meeting held on August 15. Growers will take part in ranking varieties.

Individual Grower Consultations: *(by telephone, office visit and on-farm as requested)*

Written Publications:

Hudson Valley Horticulture, I am the editor of this monthly e newsletter that is distributed in 5 HV counties.

Muck and Mineral: I am covering as editor while Maire Ullrich of Orange County is out on maternity leave

Community Horticulture

supervise and provide leadership for the Community Horticulture Program Program Effort 25%

Fall festivals- Dona MacWilliams, our community horticulture program coordinator is busy planning for our annual allium bulb sale and info booth at the Garlic Festival and Mum Festival

Twilight Tour-Our Master Gardeners hosted a twilight tour of the xeriscape gardens at UCCC and a visit to the Snyder Estate in Rosendale on August 25. Tour groups adjourned at the Snyder Estate for a tour of the grounds, cement mine and museum.

Our Master Gardeners continue to generously donate their time and labor to maintain the beautiful gardens they created at UCCC and the UC fairgrounds.

Diagnostics: Master Gardeners and Dona MacWilliams are doing a fantastic job handling the multitude of questions (and creepy looking insects) that come into our diagnostics lab. Our Diagnostic lab and hotline provide the opportunity for many “teachable moments”.

Written Publications:

Gro News, published monthly, Articles written by Dona MacWilliams and myself.