

**Ag Issues:**

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

Wrap up Agriculture District 3 review with tour for Dept. of Ag & Markets representative Ron Mead on Sept. 2, 2006.

Begin Work on Review of Ag Dist. #4 in October 2006.

**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%*

**Summer Grower Twilight Meetings:** (these are programs that I organize for growers in Hudson Valley)

*Completed-* July 18- **Christmas tree growers shearing demo, pest ID and pest update.** (Pine View Farms, New Windsor) Approximately 30 Christmas tree growers from Ulster, Orange and Dutchess Counties attended the 2.5 hour twilight meeting. Growers took part in hands-on shearing demonstrations, and Pest Identification. We invited guest speakers Paul Shealer (Cooperative Extension) and Rayanne Lehman (Dept. of Ag and Markets), both from Pennsylvania, to share their many years of expertise in Xmas tree production. This was also a great opportunity for local growers to network. Ulster County currently has about 30 Christmas tree farm operations.

August 17- **Vegetable pest ID and Update.** (Hepworth Farm, Milton) Approximately 40 growers attended the 3 hour twilight meeting hosted at a 40 acre organic farm in Ulster County. Interestingly, the meeting was attended by more conventional growers than organic. First, the group heard from host farmer, Amy Hepworth, on the opportunities in marketing locally in the Hudson Valley. This was followed by a sessions on disease control and insect control on veg crops. Guest speakers were John Meshanic from NYS IPM and Prof. Tom Zitter from Cornell University.

*Coming Up-* Sept.13- Chrysanthemum Trial and Pest Update at Wallkill & Silverleaf Greenhouses. I am presenting a one hour seminar on pest identification and control in fall ornamental crops

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

**Written Publications:** *Hudson Valley Horticulture* is a monthly e newsletter that is distributed in 5 Hudson Valley counties. I have completed my term as editor. I will continue to contribute articles.

**Community Horticulture**

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

*Completed-* **Twilight Tour of Xeriscape Garden** Stoneridge UCCC, August 24, 2006. The 50 gardeners who attended learned the principles of Xeriscape gardening as applied in the Hudson Valley.

*Coming Up-* Educational booth at the **Hudson Valley Garlic Festival**, Saugerties, September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

The Master Gardener Hotline is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9 AM to 12 Noon

**Written Publication:** *Gro News* articles written by Dona Crawford (Community Horticulture Coordinator) and Teresa Rusinek