

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%

Twilight Meeting Series- Meetings for commercial farmers were held over the course of the summer:

- **Zone Tillage Meeting-** held on July 2nd at Gill Farms in Hurley. Thirty growers attended.
- **Vegetable Pests Meeting-** on August 5th at Tantillo Farms in Gardiner. Twenty five attended
- **Christmas Tree Growers Meeting-** held at Hurd's Farm in Modena on August 6th. The focus was on weed control options in new and established Christmas tree plantations. Thirty eight growers attended.
- **Potato Trial Meeting-** Held at Taliefero Farms in New Paltz on Sept.8th. Eighteen growers attended. This organic farm was the site of a trial consisting of 18 varieties of potatoes. The trial was conducted by NYS IPM and CCE Ulster.

Greenhouse Vegetable Transplant and Herb Production School- This program is being developed by Maire Ullrich (CCE Orange County) and me in response to growers experiencing significant losses in the field due to diseased transplants. The program is set for November 19th in Middletown. The program will have a special focus on organic and least toxic options for pest control as well as good sanitation practices.

Farmland Preservation- July, August and Sept- coordinated applications and AFPB endorsements of landowner and municipal applications for Farmland Preservation grants.

Grants – Submitted two grant subcontracts to New York Farm Viability Institute: one for Zone tillage work over the course of the next two years (Schoonmaker and Gill farms, plus two new farms in 2010)), the other is for work on managing Powdery Mildew in Poinsettia crops using Silicon (Wallkill View Farm).

ENERGY

- **Alternative Energy Forum-** People (including many farm owners) are interested in learning about and adopting alternative energy strategies. CCE Dutchess, Orange and Ulster have teamed up to bring together a forum that will provide the answers. It will take place on Saturday, November 8, 1-4PM at Mount St. Mary's College in Newburgh. We have expert speakers on energy conservation, basics of geothermal, heating with biofuels, wind, solar and hydropower, and net metering.
- **Exploring viability of Solar Energy use on a local goat farm –** Audrey Reith and I are working with Earthkind Energy Solutions.