

Ag Issues:

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

In Progress: Soil Interpretation Project- This is a three year Cornell Waste Management Institute Project that addresses a gap in helping people who have concerns about soil contaminants. The project will develop and disseminate short interpretation guidance documents for lay people (residents and farmers). The documents will include information on what to test for (given a particular site and concern), how to take samples and where to get them analyzed. Collaborators include: CCE educators from several counties, NYS Health Department, NYS DEC, and Cornell faculty. We met in October and identified sites and contaminants to address. Collaborators are currently pulling information together on these issues from their local agencies. I am interviewing UC Health Department staff and regional DEC officials.

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%

In Progress: Agritourism Study- I am working on an application to Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) for funding of a research project to learn more about what would persuade visitors to travel to Ulster County farms. This year-long research and planning project will provide Cooperative Extension the opportunity to interlace the needs and interests of their farming communities with the ultimate development of a tourism program suited to the individual county. I am working with Prof. Wen- Fei Uva from the Dept. of Applied Economics at Cornell University as well as with farmers and Orange and Sullivan County Extensions.

Completed: Christmas Tree Grower Twilight Meeting – I organized a twilight meeting for growers that was held at Mountain Fresh Xmas tree farm in Highland on October 6th. About 20 growers attended the program that focused on weed control and pest identification.

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 Hudson Valley counties.

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

Community Horticulture

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

Holiday Workshops at CCE- Our Master Gardeners are hosting three workshops in December. Participants will learn to how make two types of tradition holiday decorations using live plant material.

Master Gardeners are currently busy planning for **winter gardening courses** to be held at the BRC in Kingston and **Garden Day** at UCCC at Stone Ridge which will be held on April 29. Evergreen and berry seedlings have been ordered for our spring sale. Community Horticulture program coordinator, Dona Crawford, is supervising planning teams for these events.

Written Publications: *Gro News*, published monthly, Articles written by Dona MacWilliams and myself.