

Program Update - Michael Fargione

Cornell Cooperative Extension Hudson Valley Regional Fruit Program (HVRFP)

Supervising County – Ulster

Programming Period: 7/13/04 – 9/16/04

- Delivery of **grower alert messages** continued during this reporting period providing specific and timely reminders and alerts regarding current tree fruit issues. Messages were provided twice per week via email and recorded telephone message.
- Distribution of **electronic versions of the Hudson Valley Tree Fruit News** newsletter continued and 2 editions were sent out during the reporting period.
- The **Harvest Maturity Program** was begun in late August and 8 reports have been sent to date. The program helps growers optimize the timing of apple harvests in order to improve fruit quality and storability. Each week, fruit samples are collected from grower blocks throughout the region and the maturity of sampled fruit are evaluated. A preliminary report is issued on Tuesday am after Ulster and Orange samples are evaluated. A final report is issued each week on Wednesday after fruit samples are processed from Rensselaer, Columbia and Dutchess Counties.
- Planning has begun for the 2005 Hudson Valley Commercial Fruit Growers' School. It will be held on February 22 & 23 in Kingston, NY.
- I continued collaboration with Cornell staff on **research projects in grower orchards**:
 - Drs. Robinson and Schupp - enhancement of fruit size on Gala.
 - Dr. Cheng – impacts of nitrogen on Gala fruit size.
 - S. Hoying – peach planting system trial.
 - Dr. Carroll and K. Iungerman – expansion of NEWA weather system into eastern NY.

Activities relating to Supervising County (Ulster)

- Collaborating with Ulster Planning Dept. on 8-year review for Ag District 1.
- Attended “Meet Me In Marlboro” ribbon cutting ceremony to promote Ulster agriculture.
- Attend Marlboro Town meeting on agricultural land preservation.