

Program Update - Michael Fargione

Cornell Cooperative Extension Hudson Valley Regional Fruit Program (HVRFP)
Supervising County – Ulster Programming Period: 7/14/05 – 9/15/05

Highlighted Activities Completed During Reporting Period:

Apple Harvest and Storage Meeting: On September 1, fifteen apple growers heard presentations on upcoming harvest and storage conditions from Rosenberger (Cornell HVL), Watkins (Cornell Ithaca) and Fargione. Handouts prepared for this meeting were later distributed electronically to enrollees of the 5-county Regional program.

Hudson Valley Tree Fruit News Newsletter: One edition was sent out during the reporting period.

Monthly Extension Publications: One article written and submitted to regional program extension associations for their monthly publications (Ag-Focus, News, Land & Living).

Meetings Attended: Cherry Field Day, July 21, Geneva, NY.
Lake Ontario Fruit Team Field Tour, August 4, Albion, NY.
Cornell Fruit PWT Tree Fruit Subcommittee, August 10, Ithaca, NY.
Apple Storage Workshop, August 11, Ithaca, NY.
POW Regional Planning Workshop, September 8, Voorheesville, NY.
Hudson Valley Wine Festival, September 11, Red Hook, NY.

Highlighted Activities Underway During Reporting Period:

Grower alert messages: Delivery of grower alert messages occurred twice per week by email or answering machine until harvest maturity reporting began. E-mail messages were sent to 117 individuals, while the recorded telephone message continued to be used by other growers.

Harvest Maturity Program: This 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. Three reports have been prepared this fall and distributed to growers via email or recorded answering machine.

Efforts to Maintain Staffing at Cornell's Hudson Valley Lab: Two faculty research/extension positions at the HVL are either currently empty (pomologist) or about to be vacated (entomologist). I have participated with HVL staff and local growers in efforts to address these vacancies. On August 25, I participated in such a discussion between HVL faculty, local growers, Dr. Alan Taylor (Chair, Horticultural Sciences, Geneva) and Dr. Tom Burr (Director, Geneva Experiment Station). I have been asked to serve on the search committee for the pomologist position.

2006 Hudson Valley Commercial Fruit Growers' School: Planning has begun for this meeting that will be held on February 21 & 22 in Kingston, NY.

Ongoing research projects with activity during reporting period:

<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Collaborating Researcher(s)</u>	<u>Cooperating Grower(s)</u>	<u>County</u>
Enhancement of 'Gala' fruit size	Robinson & Schupp	W.G. Minard & Sons	Ulster
Peach planting systems trials	Hoying and Robinson	Mead Orch.	Columbia
Apple thinning trial with BA	Robinson	Crist Bros.	Ulster
Expansion of NEWA weather stations into E. NY	Carroll & lungerman	Doubrava Farms	Ulster
		Rose Hill Farm	Dutchess
Plastic deer fence survey	Curtis	multiple growers	multi-county
Timing of Retain on 'McIntosh'	Robinson	Crist Bros.	Ulster