

Cornell Small Farms Task Group Announces Grant Awards

ITHACA, N.Y. — Cornell's Small Farms Task Group, comprised of farmers, non-governmental organizations, extension educators and faculty, is pleased to announce its 2002-3 grant awards for innovative small farms education. These grants are awarded to Cornell Cooperative Extension educators with creative program ideas targeted to smaller farms.

Since the first year of the program in 2000, 53 projects have been funded for a total of \$131,610. This year 14 projects were funded at a total of \$30,000. Twenty-three proposals were submitted for consideration, totaling over \$86,000 in requests. The following projects received funding for 2002-2003:

- **Outsourcing Feed: Sharing Experiences of Successful Small Dairies.** Many small dairies could benefit by not growing all their own feed. Dairy farmers (40-80 cows) in the New York Capital Region will explore outsourcing strategies through a January 2003 Exposition, newsletter series, case studies, resource packets, and individual farm visits. Contact: Aaron Gabriel, CCE Washington County, (518) 272-4210.

- **Winter Grazing Conference Series for Dairy Farmers.** Four to five conferences across New York state will emphasize farmer-to-farmer learning for both experienced graziers and those considering intensive grazing. Each conference will feature two na-

tionally recognized dairy graziers and a local program designed by local farmers and agriservice personnel. Contact: Dan Demaine, CCE Cortland County, (607) 753-5213.

- **Winter Grazing Conference Series for Livestock Farmers.** Three or four conferences across New York state will emphasize farmer-to-farmer learning for both production and marketing of grass-fed livestock. Each conference will feature two nationally recognized livestock graziers and a local program designed by local farmers and agriservice personnel. Contact: Dan Demaine, CCE Cortland County, (607) 753-5213.

- **Consumer Guides to Chenango County On-Farm Producers.** The "Guide to Locally-Grown Products" will be a series of five brochures listing producers of the whole range of farm products in Chenango County and surrounding areas. Producers listed in the guides will be asked to participate in 12 semi-monthly farmer-led educational workshops for the public. Contacts: Rebecca Hargrave & Carrie Edsall, CCE Chenango County, (607) 334-5841.

- **Low-Input Sustainable Farming Conference.** Seventeen out of 19 presenters at this January conference will be small-scale, low-input farmers from the Central New York region and from out of state. Emphasis is on farmer-to-farmer learning to control costs and improve market-

ing, for dairy, livestock, poultry and horticultural producers. Contact: Bill Henning, NWN CCE Team, (315) 536-5123.

- **Northeast New York Livestock Producers Marketing Project.** A group of livestock producers in the Franklin County, N.Y. area initiated the idea for this workshop series and marketing tour, which will help them learn more about marketing opportunities, especially the possibility of cooperative marketing. Contact: Bernadette Logozar and Chris Noble, CCE Franklin County, (518) 483-7403.

- **Don't Let Milk Prices Get You Down.** Workshops will be offered in Jefferson and Lewis counties in New York for small-scale dairy farmers to help them improve management, control costs, handle stress, and share ideas during this time of very low milk prices. Contact: Peg Murray, CCE Lewis County, (315) 376-5270 or Molly Ames, CCE Jefferson County, (315) 788-8450.

- **Grass-Based Poultry Production.** Previous CCE and farmer-led initiatives have inspired a growing number of pastured poultry enterprises in Western NY. This project offers a four-part workshop series on poultry production and marketing over the fall and winter for farmers interested in or already raising pastured poultry. Contact: Lynn O'Brien, CCE Allegany/Cattaraugus Counties, (585) 268-7644.

- **Eat Local Yates County!** Direct marketing has risen by 133 percent in the last 10 years in Yates County. Project will compile a database of direct marketers, and create a web site and print materials to further promote local farm products to the region's chefs, tourists, and residents. Contact: Judson Reid, CCE Yates County, (315) 536-5123.

- **Introduction to Successful Small-Scale Small Fruit Production.** Series of three workshops for beginning farmers, homeowners and established small-scale farmers interested in diversifying into small fruits in the south central NY area. Introductory workshop in March 2003 will be followed by two on-farm workshops in June and August. Contact: Tyrone Hall, CCE Tioga County, (607) 687-4020.

- **Introduction to Successful Small-Scale Tree Fruit Production.** Series of three workshops for beginning farmers, homeowners and established small-scale farmers interested in diversifying into tree fruit production in the Southcentral New York area. Introductory workshop in March 2003 will be followed by 2 on-farm workshops in spring and fall. Contact: Tyrone Hall, CCE Tioga County, (607) 687-4020.

- **Equine Business Seminar.** One-day seminar will educate new and established equine business owners on important busi-

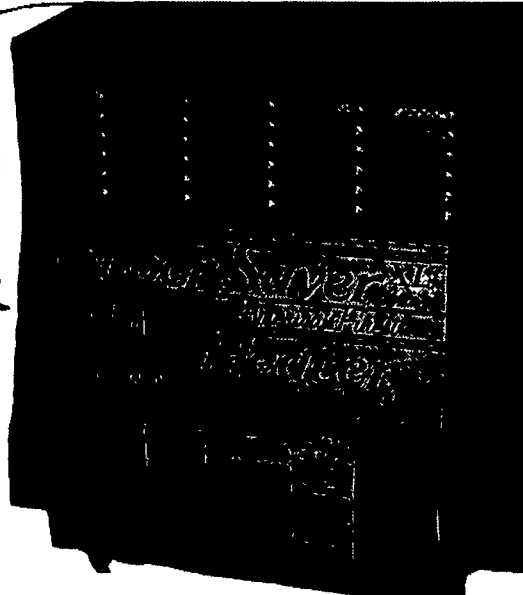
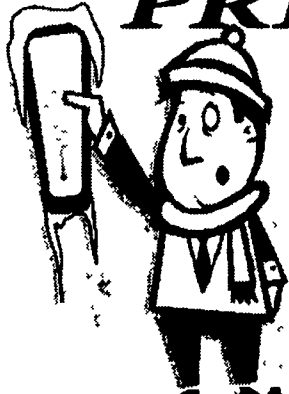
ness management issues. Contact: Paula Schafer, CCE Washington and Saratoga Counties, (518) 885-8995.

- **Developing a Farmers' Market and Educating Youth on the Benefits of Local Food.** Project will work with area farmers to develop a new farmers' market at the Woodhull Resource Center; organize a six-session, hands-on gardening course for WRC youth; and engage these youth in entrepreneurial activities at the new market. Contact: Kristen Stewart, CCE Steuben County, (607) 458-5164.

- **2002 Livestock Expo.** Livestock Expo will bring together potential and established livestock producers in Oneida County as the first step in an effort to build a stronger network of farmers and to tap emerging markets for locally produced, "naturally-raised" meats. Contact: Heather Sweeney, CCE Oneida County, (615) 736-3394 x102.

- For more information on specific grant projects, contact the extension educator or the Cornell Cooperative Extension office listed above. For more information about the CCE Grants Program for Innovative Small Farm Education or the Small Farms Task Group, contact Dave Smith at (607) 255-7286 or HYPERLINK "mailto:rds4@cornell.edu" rds4@cornell.edu or visit our web site at HYPERLINK "http://www.smallfarms.cornell.edu" www.smallfarms.cornell.edu.

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