



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Schoharie County

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State Extension Director Helene Dillard to Speak at Annual Meeting

Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie County has announced that State Extension Director Helene Dillard will be the keynote speaker at its 2010 Annual Business Meeting and Dinner on Wednesday, November 17 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Upper Champlin Hall, SUNY Cobleskill. All community members are invited to attend. There is a charge for the meal. Reservations are requested by Monday, November 1 at noon. Call (518) 234-4303 or (518) 296-8310 for further information or to make a reservation.

In addition to her duties as Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension, Helene Dillard serves Cornell University as a professor of Plant Pathology and as Associate Dean of the Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Human Ecology. As the Director of Extension since 2002, Dr. Dillard has overseen a complex system that is increasingly challenged by shifts in funding. Critical issues facing the people in New York State stay at the core of an extension system's mission to improve economic and social well-being by teaching research-based practices in agriculture, environment, personal nutrition, family budgeting and youth character. Dr. Dillard's comments as keynote speaker will address her vision for the future of Cornell Cooperative Extension, which is focused on sustaining high quality programming, enhancing local relationships, and strengthening the connections between field educators and Cornell University faculty.

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Statewide, the extension system is implementing regionalization initiatives to increase efficiency within the Director's vision. Locally, the extension offices in Schoharie and Otsego Counties have been managed by one Executive Director since September 1, 2009. The boards of the two local organizations have been considering a merger and at the annual meeting, enrolled members of the Schoharie County Extension Association will vote on a new constitution that proposes merging with the Otsego County Extension Association. The Otsego County membership will vote on the merger at its annual meeting on December 2.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie County provides equal program and employment opportunities. Accommodations for persons with special needs may be requested by contacting Cornell Cooperative Extension prior to the meeting.

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