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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ag & Energy Expo 2009

Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie County and SUNY Cobleskill School of Agriculture & Technology will host the Ag & Energy Expo 2009, Saturday, March 21, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Bouck Hall on the SUNY Cobleskill campus. SUNY Cobleskill faculty, Cornell Cooperative Extension educators, and industry experts will present twelve informational workshops for aspiring, new and experienced farm producers and land owners. Topics include vegetable, fruit, and livestock production and markets, energy production and cost savings, and forest/open space opportunities. Agriculture and energy related exhibitors and vendors will be on hand throughout the day, and Patrick Hooker, Commissioner of the NYS Department of Ag & Markets, will share his perspective during lunch about the state of agriculture in New York.

Admission is \$10.00 per person; \$15.00 for the entire family. Registration runs from 9:00 -10:00 a.m.; pre-registration is not required. Admission includes workshop sessions, materials and handouts, coffee and doughnuts. Lunch is optional; tables will be set up in the Bouck Gymnasium. Participants can bring their own lunch or purchase a box lunch for \$6.95 prepared by SUNY Cobleskill Auxiliary Services. For a complete program schedule, visit the SUNY Cobleskill website at <http://news.cobleskill.edu/>; the Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie County website at www.cce.schoharie.cornell.edu; or call 518-234-4303/518-296-8310 or 518-255-5323.

Concurrent Session One (10:00 – 10:45 a.m.) includes: **Matching Your Resources for Small Ruminant Production** - Cynthia Shelley, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Animal Science, SUNY Cobleskill; **Managing Grass for Biomass Energy** - Aaron

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Gabriel, Extension Resource Educator, Crops and Soils, Cornell Cooperative Extension Washington County; and **High Tunnel Vision: Why Extending the Growing Season Using High Tunnel Greenhouses Makes Sense** - George Crosby, Ph.D., Professor of Plant Science, SUNY Cobleskill.

Concurrent Session Two (11:00 – 11:45 a.m.) includes: **Red Meat Processing, Market Options, and Regulations; Plus an Analysis!** - Eric Shelley, Meat Lab Manager, Department of Animal Science, SUNY Cobleskill; **Making Grass Fuel Pellets on the Fly** - Robert Rynk, Ph.D, Associate Professor of Agricultural Engineering, SUNY Cobleskill; and **Growing Berry Crops in High Tunnels** - Laura McDermott, Berry Extension Specialist for Eastern NYS, Cornell Cooperative Extension Washington County.

Concurrent Session Three (1:15 – 2:00 p.m.) includes: **Profitable Opportunities for Open Land; Pasture Development through Management-Intensive Grazing** – Morgan Hartman, Grazier and Registered Angus Seed-Stock Producer, Black Queen Angus Farm, Rensselaer County; **Biomass Waste to Energy** – Doug Goodale, Ph.D., Bioenergy Project Manager, SUNY Cobleskill; and **Direct Market Opportunities for Vegetable, Fruit, and Livestock Producers, Part One** – Panel Discussion: Farm-to-School; Farm-to-Chef; Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) for Vegetables and Fruit; CSA for Livestock; and Farmers' Markets.

Concurrent Session Four (2:15 – 3:00 p.m.) includes: **Alternative Income Opportunities from Your Forest** – Marilyn Wyman, Extension Resource Educator, Agro-Forestry Resource Center, Cornell Cooperative Extension Greene County; **Energy Smart Ways to Lower Fuel Costs** - Mark De Chiro, Capital Saratoga Energy Smart Coordinator, NYS Energy Research & Development Association (NYSERDA); and **Direct Market Opportunities for Vegetable, Fruit, and Livestock Producers, Part Two** – Panel Discussion: Farm-to-School; Farm-to-Chef; Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) for Vegetables and Fruit; CSA for Livestock; and Farmers' Markets.