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February 18, 2011

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –**

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**Agriculture & Energy Day 2011 Slated for Saturday, March 5**

Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie County and SUNY Cobleskill School of Agriculture & Technology are pleased to host the annual Ag & Energy Day 2011, Saturday, March 5, 9:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. at the new Center for Environmental Science & Technology (CEST) adjacent to the dairy complex on the SUNY Cobleskill campus. Cornell Cooperative Extension educators, SUNY Cobleskill faculty, farm and industry experts will present informational workshops for aspiring, new and experienced farm producers and land owners. Admission is \$10.00 per person, \$15.00 per couple which includes refreshments and workshop materials. Lunch is on your own, or purchase pizza by the slice, the proceeds from which benefit students of the SUNY Cobleskill Pre-Vet Club. Space is limited; pre-registration is preferred. To register or for more information, contact Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie County 518-234-4303/518-296-8310, or visit [www.cceschoharie.org](http://www.cceschoharie.org) for details.

This year's agricultural topics will focus on field restoration, forage quality, testing, analysis, and feeding, followed by an afternoon of poultry programming. Kevin Ganoë, Field Crop Specialist, of Cornell University's Central NY Dairy & Field Crops Team will present an ever popular spring season topic, *Field Restoration: Return Your Idle and/or Weedy Fields to Production*. Mr. Ganoë then will team up with Dr. Cindi Shelley, Associate Professor of Animal Science at SUNY Cobleskill, to discuss forage quality, forage analysis, sampling procedures, data interpretation and feeding. For backyard and small enterprising poultry producers, Judy Pangman from Sweet Tree Farm in Carlisle, NY and author of *Chicken Coops: 45 Building Plans for Housing Your Stock*, will present *Poultry 101* – From brooding until the chicks are ready to leave the brood-house; the basics of poultry production. Followed by *Poultry 201* – a more advanced session to cover what to do with the birds once they are ready to leave the brooding facilities, e.g., raising egg layers and pastured meat birds, with an emphasis on raising chickens naturally and free-range.

Energy topics include a renewed look at farm energy audits and remedial incentives, solar and geothermal energy opportunities for greenhouses and high tunnels. Mark De Chiro, Capital Saratoga Energy Smart Coordinator, NYS

*Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities*

Energy Research & Development Association (NYSERDA) will discuss in both a morning and an afternoon session the new logistics for farm energy audits and enhanced implementation cost-share incentives. Scott Rakowski of Adirondack Solar in Albany will present *Farm Grants Pay for Solar Electricity*, showing also that, “It is a rewarding time for farmers to get in the solar industry with green incentives and grants for purchasing solar that are providing a chance for the farming community to realize true electricity savings.” Shuhai Li from the Renewable Energy Training Center at SUNY Morrisville will discuss geothermal and other radiant energy options for greenhouses. AND...at noon Dr. John Kowal, Director of the Center of Environmental Science & Technology, will lead a special presentation and tour of the new CEST facility, home to the new Biowaste-to-Bioenergy Research Project that utilizes a rotary kiln gasification process.