



**Cornell University**  
**Cooperative Extension**  
**Schoharie County**

173 South Grand Street  
Cobleskill, New York 12043  
t. 518.234.4303  
t. 518.296.8310  
f. 518.234.4305

**PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Regina Tillman

Email: [rmt37@cornell.edu](mailto:rmt37@cornell.edu)

Phone (Office): 518-234-4303

Phone (Mobile): 518-229-1548

**Local Schoharie Valley Farm to School Project Noted as Outstanding**

**Cobleskill, NY** – Friday, February 12, 2010 – The Schoharie Valley Farm to School Project was one of only eight school groups awarded on February 1<sup>st</sup> during the annual New York School Nutrition Association (NYSNA) Partnership Dinner in Albany NY. The local Farm to School Project, a 2 1/2 years old initiative that is coordinated by Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie County, was provided with a Certificate of Honorable Mention in recognition of activities supporting local agriculture, local markets and the health of kids.

The award presentations were made by NYS Department of Ag & Markets Commissioner, Patrick Hooker, a cosponsor of the NYSNA Partnership Awards. On hand to accept the honor on behalf of project participants were members of the group, Josie Ennist, Schoharie CSD Food Service Manager, and Deb Rosko, Berne-Knox-Westerlo CSD Food Service Manager. This shared recognition also includes the five other managers who make up the Schoharie Valley Farm to School Food Service Subcommittee, specifically from Cobleskill-Richmondville CSD, Duanesburg CSD, Gilboa-Conesville CSD, Middleburgh CSD, and Sharon Springs CSD, along with CCE Schoharie County Educator, Regina Tillman.

The Partnership Awards are focused upon the educational and recreational activities surrounding what is known each October as Harvest Week for NY Kids, formally referred to as “Farm to You Fest – A Celebration of Local Food and NYS Agriculture”. The week promotes NYS growers and encourages schools to make agriculture a part of both school meals and school activities.

The top three Partnership Award Recipients for 2009 were: Bethlehem Central School District with their Healthy Kids Committee (Delmar) for the category of ‘Merchandizing and Promoting Local Foods, and Farms’;

~ More ~

*Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities*

Bloomfield Central School District (Ontario County) under the category of ‘Working with Local Farmers’; and, PS 205 Alexander Graham Bell (Bayside, Queens) for ‘Building Partnerships and Integrating Farm to School into Wellness Activities’. In addition to these, Mr. Hooker noted that he wanted to “highlight a few more outstanding programs that came to our attention this year”, thus, naming the Schoharie Valley Farm to School Project as one of the notable programs of its kind in the state.

“The School Food Service Subcommittee is already making plans for the October 2011 “Farm to You Fest”, stated Ms. Tillman, Project Coordinator and CCE Nutrition Resource Educator. “We appreciate the recognition although we are still relative novices at this effort. We continue to welcome the assistance of anyone in the community interested in helping to expand the role of local foods in the lives of our children, be it on the plate, in the classroom, or on the farm.” Ms. Tillman indicated that she can be reached at the Cobleskill Office of the Cornell Cooperative Extension and would welcome email inquiries about the Project which can be addressed to [rmt37@cornell.edu](mailto:rmt37@cornell.edu).

### **About Cornell Cooperative Extension:**

The Cornell Cooperative Extension educational system, established in 1918, enables people to improve their lives and their communities through partnerships that put experience, and research knowledge, to work. The Cooperative Extension is the largest informal education network in the world. For details about the local Schoharie Valley Farm to School Project, contact Regina Tillman, Nutrition Resource Educator, at the offices of the Cornell Cooperative Extension in Cobleskill, NY. Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie County provides equal program and employment opportunities.

###