Field Cultivation Equipment Day

2015 marked the first annual Field Cultivation Equipment Day at the Farm Hub in Kingston, New York. A variety of specialized cultivation equipment from HAK Cultivating Tools, K.U.L.T. Kress LLC and other manufacturers was displayed and operated for the ultimate on-farm learning experience. Enthusiastic attendees were not only able to see the equipment in action, but also talk directly with the manufacturers to get a full understanding of equipment capabilities and offerings. Over 70 people attended this event, making it a promising model for future programs.

GAPS Education

Food safety is becoming more important as the institutional buying of local produce increases. Wholesale producers are facing stricter buyer requirements and often have difficulty finding the time and resources to prepare their food safety plans and prepare for audits. Our program is helping with these very issues. With assistance from Cornell University employees as well as a number of other CCE educators, ENYCHP has been involved in four two-day GAPS training workshops in Geneva, Canajoharie, Kingston, and Millbrook. Of the 44 farms attending these workshops, there are 7-10 who are seriously considering being audited for GAPS by the USDA this growing season.
Every year ENYCHP sets out an assortment of variety trials designed to provide growers with information on variety performance in our unique climate and assess marketability. This year, we had an amazing variety of crops in every corner of the region! Many of these trials also hosted grower meetings as they matured. Here is a snapshot of the crops we worked with in 2015.

This spring we planted carrot, beet, and parsnip trials at the Hudson Valley Farm Hub. In this trial, 31 varieties of carrots, 18 varieties of beets, and 8 parsnips were evaluated for yield potential, marketable weight, and foliar disease resistance. Growers were the first to access trial results at a field meeting at the Farm Hub. 45 growers attended to see the crops in the field and even got to taste all thirty-one carrot varieties! Results and further details will be presented in our seasonal newsletter the New England Fruit & Vegetable Conference and the NYS EXPO.

For more information, please visit our website: http://enych.cce.cornell.edu/