

many other county agencies and organizations. For more information contact Norman Greig, Dutchess County Farm Bureau President, (914)758-1234.

What is New York Farm Link?

The future of New York agriculture depends on young people being able to enter farming. But the barriers can seem insurmountable. Farming is a capital intensive business, and few young people have the economic resources for start up. At the same time, many older farmers are finding it difficult to phase out of farming and maintain adequate resources for retirement. FarmLink brings together experienced farmers who are looking toward retirement with young farmers looking toward a future in agriculture. The program also provides assistance to families in the process of transferring their farm business to the next generation. The NY FarmNet toll-free number, 1-800-547-3276, serves as an access point for the program and the statewide database of beginning and exiting farmers. A FarmLink advisor is available to work with both parties, providing one-to-one assistance with the decision making and transfer process. The advisor can also provide relevant resources, recommend workshops and make referrals to appropriate professionals for developing the transfer arrangement.

Agricultural Tourism Brochure Receives Funding

A \$35,000 state grant has been awarded for the publication of an agritourism brochure featuring the rural resources of Seneca, Yates and Ontario Counties. The brochure project is being sponsored by the Sullivan Trail Resource Conservation and Development Council. Agriculturally-based enterprises, wineries, farm markets, areas of particular beauty, and natural resources are among the dozens of rural attractions which will be highlighted in the brochure. The brochure is expected to be available next spring. It will be distributed by local tourism agencies and at the New York State Thruway rest stops.

The project is funded through a grant from the Regional Economic Development Partnership Program, which is part of the New York State Department of Economic Development and contributions from the Ontario County Four Seasons Development Corporation, the Seneca County Department of Economic Development, Planning & Tourism, and the Yates County Industrial Development Agency and others.

Sullivan Trail RC&D also recently completed a forest industry marketing brochure. For more information on either of these projects, contact Richard Winnet, Sullivan Trail RC&D, (607)776-9631. □

UPCOMING EVENTS

Transitions Conference Gets a New Name And a New Boost! New ideas, new speakers, new co-sponsors, and new audiences will be coming together this winter for the biggest and most significant sustainable agriculture conference yet organized in New York State. Building on the successful *Transitions* conferences held annually since 1989, the 1995 conference will be expanded to include two full days of workshops and speakers, resource displays, and networking sessions. It will be geared for an expanded audience of farmers, agricultural educators and consultants, rural community leaders, environmentalists, planners, policymakers and others at the cutting edge of issues affecting the future of agriculture in our region.

Mark your calendars now for *Farming For the Future: Partners in Stewardship*, to be held February 22-23 at the Sheraton University Inn and Conference Center in Syracuse. Sessions focussing on dairy/field crops, vegetables, fruits and ornamentals will provide opportunities for producers and specialists to share successful innovations in soil and nutrient management, pest management, and marketing. Sessions for educators, consultants, agency staff and others will focus on program planning and implementation strategies, building partnerships and professional networks, and strategies for working with diverse audiences.

UPCOMING EVENTS (CONT.)

Farm-related organizations please send us your latest news and announcements! The *Farming Alternatives* newsletter is a great way to share information with other farmers and groups in New York State and the region. Send submissions for our winter issue by November 15.

Pesticide Recertification credits and Certified Crop Advisor credits will be offered for selected sessions. Conference goers will also be able to take in the Farm Equipment Show running Feb 23-25 at the State Fair grounds nearby. *Farming For the Future* is sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension, Agway, Northeast Regional SARE Program, Cornell Farming Alternatives Program, Soil Conservation Service, NOFA-NY, and many others.

Don't miss it! For more information and registration materials, contact Pam Kline, Department of Soil and Atmospheric Science, Cornell University; (607)255-2177.

Agricultural Marketing Seminars offered this fall and winter by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County: Contact Les Hulcoop, Cornell Coop. Ext. of Dutchess County, (914)677-8223.

November 16, 2-5pm *Does a Farm Tour Fit into Your Farm Market Plan?*

December 7, 2-5pm *Local Chefs and Farms Round Table Discussion*

December 14, 2-5pm *Farm Market Opportunities*

February 22, 1995 *Helpful Hints on Marketing*

March 1, 1995, 2-4pm *Brochure Workshop*

Farm Bill Policy Meetings. The New York Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (NYSAWG) will sponsor its third set of meetings on policies for fostering a more sustainable food system. Meetings will focus on planning and mobilizing to impact the farm bill. For more information, contact Kathy Lawrence, (718)622-0746.

November 5, 9:30-5pm, *Your Food Today! and Tomorrow?*
Contact Kathy Lawrence, (718)622-0746.

November 14, Dutchess County.
Contact Les Hulcoop, (914)677-5006.

November 15, 6-8pm, Elmira, NY.
Contact Kathy Dubel, (607)734-9784.

November 16, 12-5pm, Syracuse, NY.
Contact Karen Kerney, (315)475-7190.

November 17, 6-9pm, Western NY.
Contact Michel Attia, (716)546-7180.

Catskill Agriculture Conference sponsored by Catskill Region agricultural groups. *Catskill Agriculture: Expanding the Possibilities*, will be held at SUNY-Delhi, Delhi, NY on November 19, 1994. The conference is aimed towards traditional and conventional Catskill Region farmers/ producers interested in improving profit margins. Includes information on marketing and resource management. For more information, contact Sally Fairbairn at the Catskill Center, (914)586-2611.

The 1995 New York State Farmers' Direct Marketing Conference will be on February 7-9, 1995 at the Sheraton Inn, Batavia, NY. The conference will feature presentations on financial analysis, tourism, merchandising, customer relations, and others, as well as a trade show and a tour of farm markets. Contact Cornell Cooperative Extension county offices or Ken Silsby, Conference Chairperson, (716)433-2651 for registration information.

The New York State Vegetable Growers Conference will be held February 14-16, 1995 at the Sheraton Inn & Convention Center in Syracuse, NY. In addition to commodity presentations and a trade show, new features this year are a potato short course and an all-day cultivation conference (see below). For more information contact Jean Warholic, NYS Vegetable Growers Association, (607)539-7648.

Cultivation Conference, February 16, 1995 at the Sheraton Inn & Convention Center in Syracuse, NY. This day-long event is devoted to mechanical weed control in field and vegetable crops. Highlights will include first hand experience and tips from farmers, a trade show and the latest field research in the Northeast and Canada on equipment alternatives, timing of cultivation, options for in-row control, integrating mechanical and chemical control, and cultivation in conservation tillage. The Cultiva-