

**RUTGERS COOPERATIVE RESEARCH &
EXTENSION OF HUNTERDON COUNTY**

<http://co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/rutgers/rutgers.htm>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RE: Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension Award for Excellence for presented to Win Cowgill

Flemington, NJ-- Winfred P. Cowgill, Jr. of Baptistown, NJ was recognized as a 2006 extension faculty recipient of the Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension Award for Excellence at the 13th Annual Cook College and New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Awards Ceremony. The ceremony was held on April 27 on the Cook College campus in New Brunswick.

“The RCRE Award for Excellence is the highest award presented by RCRE Administration to recognize excellence. The award is presented to individuals who have five or more years of employment with RCRE and have exemplified excellence demonstrating outstanding performance and creativity and whose work has had a positive impact upon RCRE or on a local, county, state or national level.”

Winfred “Win” Cowgill has been a faculty member with Rutgers Cooperative Research & Extension (RCRE) for more than 28 years. He has served as an area fruit agent for the past 27 years and has served as the County Extension Department Head at RCRE of Hunterdon County since 1990.

Cowgill has developed the funding to create an extensive program of applied research to solve grower production issues. His applied work on apple, cherry and peach rootstocks, plant growth regulators, nutrition, planting systems and more form the basis of a comprehensive extension program for apple and fruit growers.

Cowgill is state leader for two award winning multistate Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service Hatch-funded research projects, NE-183 Apple Cultivars and NC-140. His applied research programs and extension outreach have had a tremendous impact on New Jersey tree fruit production. He has been instrumental in the adoption of high density planting systems and the use of dwarfing rootstocks in New Jersey. More than 90 percent of all new apple trees planted in New Jersey in the past ten years have been on dwarfing apple rootstocks as a direct result of NC-140 research based information disseminated to New Jersey growers. “RCRE educational programs have enabled more fruit growers in New Jersey to adopt modern high density planting systems,” said Cowgill.

In addition to tree fruit research he has conducted extensive applied research on tomatoes and pumpkins looking for lower cost disease control programs and solutions. Tomatoes and pumpkins are two of New Jersey’s most important vegetable crops.

Cowgill demonstrated his creativity as one of the first county agents nationwide (1995) to utilize web technology and listservs to disseminate extension information and research results worldwide with the Virtual Orchard website <http://www.virtualorchard.net> and Apple-Crop list serv <http://www.virtualorchard.net/applecrop.html> The mission of the Virtual Orchard is to serve as a clearinghouse for apple information for commercial fruit growers. The site annually attracts over 100,000 unique visitors.

Cowgill was recognized for his outstanding performance and productivity as a faculty member. His grantsmanship was noted as exemplary. He maintains a high level of productivity with over 350 publications including 24 refereed journal articles, 35 conference proceedings, 25 published abstracts, 4 fact sheets, 39 extension reports, and 46 trade journal articles.

Cowgill was also recognized as a sought after invited speaker in his field with 47 state and regional presentations and 10 international presentations.

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Win Cowgill-at the Rutgers Snyder Research and Extension Farm in a Super Slender Spindle planting of Honeycrisp apples, was the was recognized as the 2006 extension faculty recipient of the Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension Award for Excellence.

Photo Credit: Jon Clements