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September 1, 2006
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Peter Jentsch Appointed Extension Associate at Hudson Valley Lab

By Timothy P. Krakowiak

GENEVA, NY: Peter J. Jentsch was appointed extension associate in the Department of Entomology at the Hudson Valley Laboratory in Highland, NY, earlier this summer. His responsibilities are to facilitate and lead regional extension activities and associated applied research in tree fruits and vegetables and to address the pest-related concerns of grape growers in the area.

“We feel lucky to hire someone with Peter’s skills and knowledge and with the bonus that he already is known and well-liked by the clientele and the personnel in the Hudson Valley Station,” said Wendell Roelofs, professor of entomology and chair of the department at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva.

Jentsch’s position replaces the faculty position previously held by Richard Straub, entomology, who retired last December. According to Jentsch, the research faculty that helped mentor him, most notably in the Hudson Valley Laboratory, had a profound impact on his decision to pursue and continue a career in entomological research.

Jentsch began working at the Station as a research technician in 1985 under the direction of plant pathologist Dave Rosenberger and fruit entomologist Rick Weires. He worked on mechanical and technical lab and field projects including sprayer maintenance, irrigation installation, experimental plantings, and field applications.

He left the Hudson Valley Lab in 1987 and taught science at the Good Shepherd Christian Academy in Kingston, NY until 1989 when he returned to the Lab as a research support specialist in the tree fruit program under Straub.

“Peter has strong applied research skills and is capable of placing himself in a grower’s shoes,” said Mike Fargione, extension educator from the Hudson Valley regional fruit program. “Those are invaluable tools for this position and I am confident he will be successful.”

Jentsch received a B.A. in education from the State University of New York at New Paltz in 1982 and an M.S. in entomology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2005.

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Peter Jentsch’s Faculty Web Page