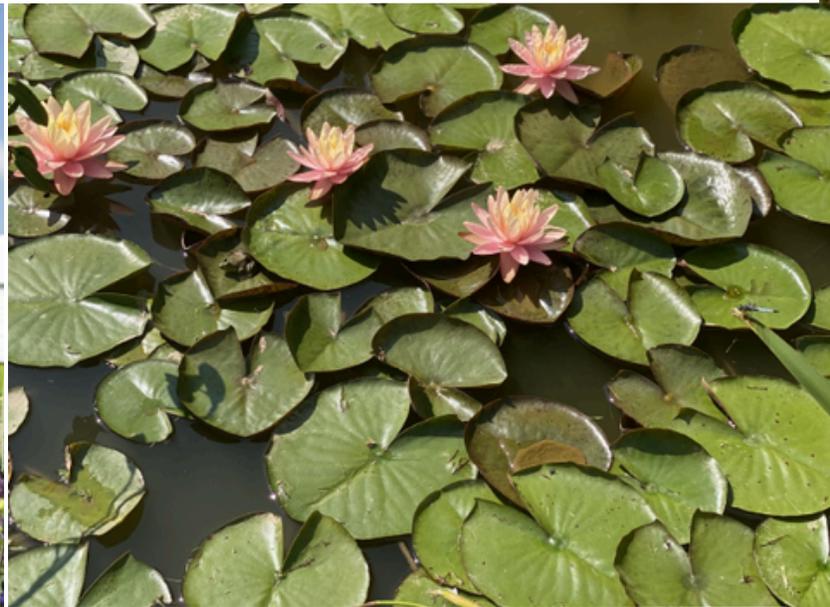




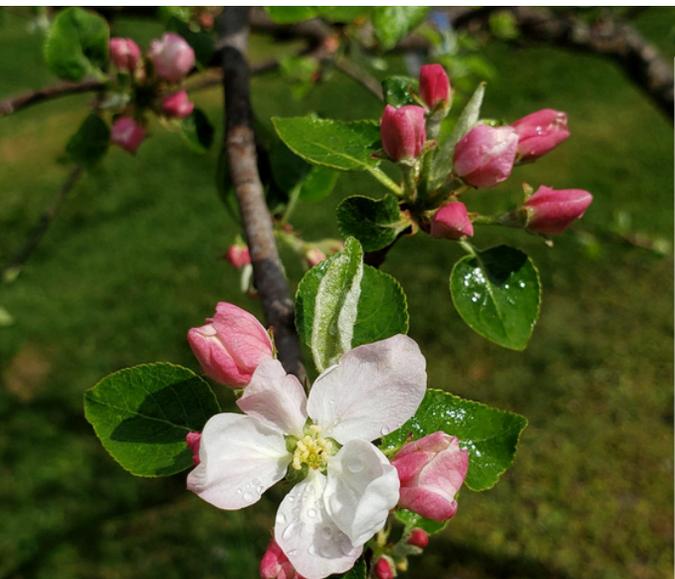
2025 ANNUAL REPORT

CORNELL COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION OF
DELAWARE COUNTY



*Growing Healthy Families.
Confident Youth. Successful Farms
and Stronger Communities.*

Cornell
Cooperative
Extension



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Betty Scott, Masonville
 Vice President: Timothy Gutliph, Walton
 Treasurer: Stacey Palmatier, Hobart
 Secretary: Damian Hill, Harpersfield
 Supervisor Representative: Wayland (Bud) Gladstone, Andes
 Cornell State Specialist: Patricia Claiborne
 Members: Libby LePinnet Kelly, Delhi; Jason Mondore, Delancey, Christina Losie, Davenport; Eric Scofield, Walton; Dr. Allison Maslack, Andes; Vanessa Merrill-Wickham, Walton

2025 CCE STAFF

Administration

Interim Executive Director: Nancy E. Grotevant
 Finance Manager: Charles Engle JR
 Finance Assistant: Zoe Harris Ray
 Administrator/Human Resource: Jacquelyn VanLoan
 Association Operations Coordinator: Heidee Johns
 WAP Sr Administrative Assistant: Kim Holden
 4-H Administrative Assistant: Jackie Pernice
 Ag/Human Ecology Administrative Assistant: Jessica Ladd

4-H

4-H Team Leader: Ashley Silano-Moore
 4-H Community Educator: Kaitlyn Conklin
 4-H Program Manager & Camp Shankitunk Administrator: Corrine Tompkins
 4-H Camp Shankitunk Director: Jonathan Conklin
 4-H Camp Facilities Coordinator: Travis Kinch

Agriculture

Ag Program Team Leader, CIG Enhanced Manure Management Project Coordinator: Paul Cerosaletti
 Sr. Team Leader, WAP Nutrient Management: Dale Dewing
 Precision Feed Management Team Leader, WAP: Meghan Potter
 Farm Business Management & Ag Development Educator: Desiree Keever
 WAP/Precision Feed Management Community Educators: April Wright-Lucas, James Romack
 Dairy/Livestock Sr Resource Educator: Richard Toebe
 Horticulture & Natural Resources Community Educator: Lila Shafer
 Ag in the Classroom Community Educator, Franklin Central School: Autumn Madugno

Human Ecology

HE Team Leader/Rural Healthcare Alliance Director: Dove Karn
 EFNEP Nutrition Educator: Amy VanAlstyne
 Community Energy Advisor: Sam Edel
 SNAP -Educator: Maegan Freeman

PROGRAM COMMITTEES

Agriculture Issue Committee:

Chairperson: Joyce Gray, New Kingston
 Vice Chairperson: Kirk Fletcher, Walton
 Secretary: Donna Wood, Walton
 Vanessa Merrill-Wickham, Walton; Patrick Hennebery, Hamden; Dennis Deysenroth, Hobart; Damian Hill, Harpersfield; Advisors: Janet Beken Smith, Bloomville, Jackie Oliver, Delhi

Human Ecology Program Committee:

Chairperson: Christina Losie, Davenport
 Vice Chairperson: Simon Purdy, Delhi
 Secretary: Eileen Kline, Delhi, Marabel Muller, Delhi; Cathy Popp-Mckenna, Stamford

4-H Youth Development Committee:

Chairperson: Rachel Collin, Delhi
 Vice Chair-Person: Lonny Schaefer, Deposit
 Secretary: Jill Coleman, Delhi
 Lisa Nichols, Walton; Stacy Palmatier, Hobart; Libby LePinnet Kelly, Delhi; Justin Ruff, Unadilla.
 Advisor: Polly Dellacrosse, Andes

4-H Camp Committee:

Carol LaTourette, Sidney Center; Doug Whittaker, East Meredith; Lindy Taggart, Walton; Cathy Scofield, Walton; Polly Dellacrosse, Andes





A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

OUR MISSION

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County puts knowledge to work in pursuit of economic vitality, ecological sustainability and social well-being. We bring local experience and research based solutions together, helping New York State families and communities thrive in our rapidly changing world.

Dear Extension Members,

In 2025 we saw CCE Delaware make substantial progress in the rebuilding and strengthening of our organization. Under the leadership of our Interim Executive Director Nancy E. Grotevant we have seen our programs grow and become stronger.

This year we saw the addition of fresh staff members with the successful addition of new educators who have helped strengthen our program offerings and the hiring of new administrative support staff for all our programs.

We are extremely fortunate to have the continued support of the Delaware County Board of Supervisors who continue to invest in our county. The county was able to successfully negotiate the purchase of land that 4-H Camp Shankitunk has been using. This will ensure that camp can continue to offer the great programs that have gained them national recognition and will allow for the future development.

Desiree Kever has worked to wrap up the \$1.2 million dollar Farm Enhancement Grant program funded by Delaware County with funds from the American Rescue Plan. Desiree presented this program at the National association of County Agricultural Agents conference held this year in Billings Montana. The Farm Enhancement program has gained recognition at both the state and federal level and serves as a model for others.

Our organization remains financially sound. Grant funding is a key source of revenue for our programs, and the organization continues to receive funding to support existing programs. We continue to seek out opportunities to develop innovative programs to meet the evolving needs of our county.

As I wrap up this, my last year, as president I am happy to leave the organization stronger, with the foundation needed to move the organization forward. 2026 will see a new board president and a new executive director. I am confident that CCE Delaware will continue to strengthen existing relationships with the county, the Watershed Agricultural Council and other key stakeholders in our county.

I would like to thank Nancy E. Grotevant for her dedication and hard work as our Interim Executive Director. Her leadership and skills at building a successful team ensure CCE Delaware will continue to provide excellent programing and support to our communities. I would also like to say it has been my privilege to serve as President these last 3 years. I have enjoyed collaborating with the staff and board and I am confident that the organization will continue to thrive in years to come.

Betty Scott, CCE Board President

A Message From The Interim Executive Director



As I sit in my kitchen writing this, David Bowie's "Changes" is playing on my speaker — a fitting theme song for the past year. Change has certainly been a defining element of 2025 for all of us at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County. And yet, through all the challenges, one quality continues to stand out above all: our flexibility and our ability to choose the path that moves us forward. This year, we focused on rebuilding, - working hard to restore our programs, services, and connections and beyond. Throughout this Annual Report, you'll read about the impact of these efforts how our work has touched individuals, families, and entire communities across the county. I believe you'll be impressed and inspired by the dedication and outcomes achieved by our staff and volunteers.

Our teams have demonstrated exceptional grit and resilience. We've made difficult, but necessary decisions to ensure that our programs not only meet today's needs but are also positioned to serve our future. Supported by our federal, state, and local partners, our outstanding volunteers, and an incredible staff, we are advancing forward building collaborations, launching initiatives, and creating programming that anticipates community needs and leverages our greatest asset: our people.

Looking ahead to 2026, we remain committed to strengthening our partnerships and extending the reach and impact of our services through collaboration and innovation.

I've learned over the years, that you can never say "thank you" enough — so here's a BIG thank you to everyone who has supported me over the past 18 months. Your encouragement and support have meant more than I can ever fully express. I hope you feel that together, we've begun the process of restoring CCE Delaware County. I am happy to have been able to be part of it.

A very special thank you goes out to the Delaware County Board of Supervisors. Your continued support helps us deliver sustainable, relevant programming and ensures that 4-H Camp Shankitunk remains one of the premier summer camp experiences in the region.

And who can forget our truly remarkable staff? Hiring so many new staff at one time was a daunting task, but each – old and new – work together so well, pitching in where help is needed. It's great to hear laughter in the office again!

Lastly, I want to recognize and express deep gratitude to our outgoing Board and Issue Committee members Betty Scott, Stacy Palmatier, Libby Kelly, Vanessa Merrill-Wickham, and Joan Hale. Your dedication, insight, and support has left a lasting impact, and you will be truly missed.

With sincere appreciation,

Nancy E. Grotevant, Interim Executive Director



A Message From The New Executive Director

Greetings,

My name is Emily Roach and I am excited to return to Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County (CCEDC) as your Executive Director. CCEDC has been an integral part of my life for over thirty-five years with fifteen of those years in a professional capacity.

I have always done what I thought was best for CCEDC and our community and will continue to do so in my new role. I look forward to working with our partners, volunteers, youth and community to expand program offerings. Here's to new adventures and experiences.

Thank you,
Emily Roach



Delaware County Human Ecology Mission

To improve health, wellness, and access to care in rural communities through collaboration, education, and innovation.

Delaware County Agriculture Mission

To be a leader in the delivery of educational programs, for a profitably sound and environmentally sensitive agricultural and natural resource community whose crucial contributions to the local economy are fully recognized by the public.

Delaware County 4-H Mission

Provide youth wide educational programs, experiences and resources designed to enable them to develop knowledge, skills,, abilities, attitudes and behaviors to become competent, caring adults

Programs

Delaware Rural Healthcare Alliance; Senior Tai Chi, Bingocise, SNAP-ED Nutrition, Peer Recovery Coach & Advocates, CCE Delaware Bounty Farm to Table, Chronic Disease Prevention, Community Health Assessment,

Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program; Garden to Table, Let's Cook Together, CROP, Healthy Cents(stretching food dollars) Finding a Balance (Prevention of Diabetes and Complications), Healthy Children Healthy Families, Breastfeeding Curriculum.

Environment and Energy- Clean Energy Community program, Smart Energy Choices, Regional Clean Energy Hub of the Southern Tier, Tiny Home Powerhouse

Programs

Delaware County Farm Enhancement Grant, Farm Stressors Study with NYCAMH, Family Farm Day, Farm to School, Delaware Bounty Farm Products Map, Delaware Bounty Farm to Table. Ag Awareness at the Delaware County Fair, Aspiring Farmers event, Grantsmanship workshop. Ag in the Classroom-Franklin Central School, CIG Enhanced Manure Management , Manure Injection Field Day-Jolenna Holstein, Farm Tour-Mattson's and Brookside Maple Farm, Catskill Regional Ag Conference, Grazing workshops, Let's Talk Ticks, Spring Cow/Calf Meeting, Marketing Your Farm's Products, Spring Small Ruminant Meeting, Crop School, QMA, Small Scale and Backyard Poultry, FAMACHA & Small Ruminant Parasite Management, Dairy Pasture Walk-Sunny Alp Farm, Beginning Shepard's Discussion Group, Manure Road Show, Delaware County Fair Animal Evaluation Activities, Corn Dry Down, Franklin & Delaware Academy School Garden Designs, Farm Record Keeping 6 session course, 2 Farm Business Plan writing 6 session workshops, NY Ag Literacy Week, Farm Legacy Ownership & Management Transition, Business Succession, Produce Wash & Pack Tour, Farmers' Market Manager Meeting, Harvest NY Farm Tour,

Horticulture; Master Gardners at Kidstock, Franklin Agriculture Career Fair K-12, Ag Awareness Areas at Delaware County Fair video series, Floral Design Demos at Delaware County Fair, Floral Design workshop at adult 4-C camp, Co facilitator for Aspiring Farmers

Programs

Youth Development - Community Service; National 4-H Week/ Club Displays; Leaders' Day; Teen Trips/ Awards; ABC Trip; County Public Presentations; District Public Presentations; Achievement & Record Books; 4-H Enrollment Extravaganza; Delaware County Fair; Duck Race-Fundraising.

Animals: County - Hippology, Horse Quiz Bowl, and Dairy Quiz Bowl; District Hippology, Horse Quiz Bowl, and Dairy Quiz Bowl Events; Cooperstown Junior Livestock Show; Carcass Evaluation; Dairy Challenge; Reading Canine Body Language; Large Animal Inservice; Intro to Rabbit Care; Rabbit & Chicken Showmanship Clinics; Livestock Auction Registration & Tagging; Delaware County Fair, 4-H Livestock Auction; Horse Qualifying Show; Spring Horse Clinic; Hoof Trimming Clinic.

4-H Camp Shankitunk: Overnight Camp, Day Camp; Progression Camp; Spring Volunteer Day; New York State 4-H Camp Directors In-Service, CPR/First Aid Training, Lifeguard Training, Ropes Corse Facilitation Training, Open House, Senior Picnic, 4-C Camp for Adults; Spring Emergence Living with American Black Bears, Logger Education, Team Building Sessions; Lennox Model Forest.

Association Funding

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County is financially supported by County, State and Federal funds as well as private/ other contracts. The cooperative funding partnership helps to provide a shared link for our county residents to Cornell University and the Nationwide land-grant university system of research and education. CCE Delaware County funding is primarily through grants, contracts, program fees, and private contributions.

Previous Year 2024 Financial Support

County

County Contracts \$40,000

Total County Support \$432,327

Funding Appropriation \$392,327

State

County Law 224 Funds \$60,466.14

State grants and Contracts \$124,667.47

Total State Support \$185,113.61

Federal

Federal Grants/Contracts \$130,469.35

Smith/Lever \$56,231.96

Total Federal Support \$186,701.31

Other Sources

Program Participation Fees \$259,912.16

Grants, Contracts, Special Projects \$687,433.13

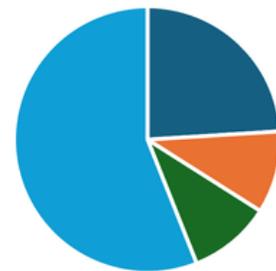
Contributions, Fundraising \$53,187.96

Interest Income, Rental Income, Misc. Income \$26,362.96

Total Other Sources of Support \$1,026,896.1



Sources of Funding



■ County ■ State ■ Federal ■ Other



Funding Source Definitions:

County Appropriations: Represents funding from Delaware County to support the work of the Association

Direct Aid- Represents Fringe benefits paid on behalf of the association through Cornell University

Federal Smith-lever Funds- Support through Federal enabling legislation for Cooperative Extension, administered by the state land grant institutions.

State 224 Funds- Represents legislative support from NYS for operation of county cooperative extension association.

Meet Our CCE Delaware Staff



Back: April Wright Lucas, Paul Cerosaletti, Dale Dewing, Charles Engle JR, Richard Toebe, James Romack, Zoe Harris Ray. Middle: Nancy E. Grotevant, Dove Karn, Jackie Pernice, Kim Holden, Ashley Silano-Moore, Desiree Kever, Kaitlyn Conklin, Jessica Ladd. Front: Heidee Johns, Meghan Potter, Amy VanAlstyne, Corrine Tompkins, Jacquelyn VanLoan.

Jonathan Conklin



Travis Kinch



Autumn Madugno



Lila Shafer



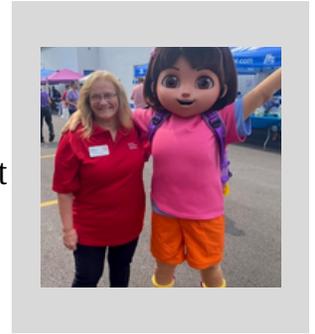
Samantha Edel



EXTENSION ON THE MOVE



On Wednesday, August 6th, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County attended the 19th Annual Delhi Telephone Open House — and what a fantastic day it was! Our booth was busy all afternoon as visitors stopped by for CCE stickers, 4-H bracelets, and Frisbees, and shared memories of 4-H and 4-H Camp Shankitunk.



On Saturday, October 11th, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County took part in the 3rd Annual Walton Fall Festival at the Delaware County Fairgrounds. With over 2,100 attendees, our table saw great foot traffic from community members interested in 4-H, Master Gardening, cooking, and upcoming programs and workshops. We loved connecting with so many curious and engaged visitors!



FROM LOCAL ROOTS TO NATIONAL RECOGNITION: DELAWARE COUNTY'S FARM ENHANCEMENT SUCCESS



A pioneering applied educational and economic development initiative led by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County (CCE Delaware) is gaining national recognition for its transformative impact on local agriculture. The program successfully combined farmer education on grant writing and management with \$1.2 million in American Rescue Plan funding to strengthen economic viability across Delaware County's agricultural community in response to the challenges and opportunities presented during the COVID-19 pandemic. A concept developed and launched together by Corrine Tompkins, Paul Cerosaletti and Dale Dewing with the educational component of this program brought to conclusion by Desiree Kever, CCE Delaware's Farm Business Management & Agricultural Development Educator.

Desiree was honored as New York State's Search for Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture award winner by the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA). Kever attended the NACAA's annual conference alongside over 1,400 agents from across the country, where she delivered one oral presentation and participated in two poster sessions on the success and replicability of the Delaware County program. "This recognition reflects the hard work of our ag staff, and the dedication of local farmers who continue to invest in their farms to feed our communities," said Kever. "We're proud to be building a more sustainable and resilient agricultural economy in Delaware County and are excited to share our experiences with our extension counterparts across the country to keep the agricultural landscape vibrate and our food system strong."

Human Ecology Program

LEADING THE WAY IN COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS



This year brought new leadership and continued progress within Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County's Human Ecology Team. Dove Karn joined as Team Leader, bringing 19 years of teaching experience and National Board Certification. Under her guidance, the team continues to strengthen programs in nutrition, health, financial literacy, and family well-being.

Through the Rural Healthcare Alliance, coordinated by CCE, eight community health projects were funded in 2025—addressing wellness priorities from chronic disease prevention to mental health and senior fitness. Highlights included the Tai Chi for Arthritis program, where 91% of participants reported improved balance and 100% noted health benefits, and the relaunch of the Peer Recovery Coach Program supporting those in recovery.

CCE's Delaware Bountiful and SNAP-Ed initiatives further promoted local food access, distributing over \$7,800 in fresh food and resources across the region—advancing health, connection, and resilience in Delaware County communities.



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES THROUGH NUTRITION AND KNOWLEDGE



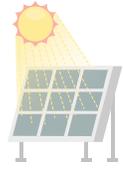
The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) continues to make a strong impact across the region, helping limited-resource families and youth develop lifelong healthy habits. Through a mix of hands-on and virtual workshops, participants learn about nutrition, food safety, physical activity, and smart food budgeting while building confidence in the kitchen.

In 2024–2025, EFNEP reached 80 families and 13 youth groups. A highlight of the year was a partnership with CROP (Creating Rural Opportunities Partnership), which brought EFNEP programs to six CROP schools.

During July and August, EFNEP's Cooking Healthy, Fun, and Fast (CHFF) youth program reached more than 70 students through six-session workshops at schools including Roxbury, Andes, Charlotte Valley, South Kortright, Margaretville, and DCMO BOCES. Students explored nutrition through food preparation and tasting activities. EFNEP also connected with the community through daily cooking demonstrations at local fairs, inspiring families to make healthy, affordable meals at home.



POWERING OUR COMMUNITIES: SOUTHERN TIER



CLEAN ENERGY HUB IN ACTION



The Southern Tier Regional Clean Energy Hub has been busy helping our communities learn, save, and take action toward a cleaner energy future! Community Energy Advisor Samantha Edel has been on the road all year, connecting with neighbors at more than **216 events across the Southern Tier and 28 in Delaware County** including every county fair. Through these efforts, the team has reached over **12,000 residents**, spreading awareness about clean energy programs and opportunities.

The Hub has provided personalized energy advising to more than **1200 residents**, including support for **24 emergency “no heat”** situations. Thanks to these efforts, **252 homes and commercial spaces** have already received energy efficiency upgrades through NYSERDA programs.

Here in Delaware County, Samantha has connected with more than **1,800 residents** at local events like the Delaware County Fair, food pantries, rabies clinics, and the Delaware Opportunities Family Fun Day. Over **150 residents** have received one-on-one energy advising, and **18 homeowners** have completed a free energy efficiency upgrade through NYSERDA. At the Delaware County Fair, the Smart Energy “Power House” had **1200 people** visit and interact with Sam about cost saving ideas.

Looking ahead, Samantha will be focusing on energy incentives for businesses, multi-family properties, and farms starting with an upcoming Ag Energy Workshop hosted at the CCE Delaware County office. Two Ag Energy experts from Ithaca will join us in person to share insights on how farms can save energy and money.



2025 HE Program Highlights

Rural Health Alliance

Partner Organization

- Delaware County Office For the Aging
- Alcohol & Drug Abuse Council
- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- SNAP-ED NY(Delaware County Region)



Key Outcomes

- 32 participants; 91% reported improved balance and strength; 100% noted improved physical & mental health; 3 trained instructors.
- 22 inmates served with peer support and Narcan training; new coach hired in Q3 to continue program.
- 4 farmers' markets; 78 survey participants; 95% bought produce; 68% requested more recipes/nutrition info.
- \$7,830 invested in local farm boxes, assembly, delivery, and educational materials serving Schoharie & Sullivan.

Program

- Tai Chi for Arthritis
- Bingocise
- Peer Recovery Coach & Advocates
- Delaware Bounty Farm to Table
- Nutrition Education Reinforcement

Delaware County Public Health Funds have been applied to the New York State Community Health Assessment (CHA), a county-level evaluation conducted every three years by local health departments and hospitals to identify key health needs and guide community health planning. The CHA, paired with a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), aligns with the New York State Prevention Agenda to address priority areas such as chronic disease prevention, mental health, and healthy living.

Southern Tier Regional Clean Energy Hub

Regional Impact

- Community outreach events: 200+ across the Southern Tier
- Total residents reached: 10,662
- Energy advising provided to: 1900+ residents
- Emergency “no heat” cases assisted: 67
- Energy efficiency upgrades completed: 50 homes + 1 commercial space

Delaware County Impact

- Residents reached locally: 1,684
- Attended 28 local events: Delaware County Fair, food pantries, rabies clinics, Delaware Opportunities Family Fun Day.
- One-on-one energy advising: 151 residents
- Energy efficiency upgrades completed 18 received.
- 1200 people attended the Power House and learned about energy efficiency.

Looking Ahead

- Upcoming initiative: Ag Energy Workshop at CCE Delaware County
- Focus areas: Energy incentives for businesses, multi-family properties, and farms
- Guest speakers: 2 Ag Energy experts from Ithaca



Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program

Regional Impact

- 80 families and 13 youth groups reached
- Hands-on and virtual workshops on nutrition, food safety, physical activity, and budgeting
- Programs focused on building confidence and lifelong healthy habits
- Over 65 Adults participated in cooking classes
- A total of 97 Youth completed 6+ cooking classes for the year.

Program Partnerships

- Partnered with CROP (Creating Rural Opportunities Partnership)
- EFNEP programs delivered in 6 CROP schools
- Families cooked budget-friendly meals like pasta fagioli, ranch wraps, power bowls, and pizza

Looking Ahead

- Expand hands-on & virtual programs
- Strengthen school & community partnerships
- Launch new seasonal cooking workshops
- Engage more youth through after-school & summer programs
- Share easy, budget-friendly recipes for healthy homes



Agriculture Program

GROWING MINDS AT FRANKLIN CENTRAL SCHOOL: AGRICULTURE COMES TO THE CLASSROOM

We are proud to announce the launch of a new Ag in the Classroom program in collaboration with Franklin Central School, bringing daily agricultural education directly into the elementary school curriculum.



The program is designed to help students understand where their food and fiber come from, while fostering curiosity and hands-on learning through engaging, age-appropriate activities. CCEDC educators are working with students daily to connect agriculture with their everyday lives, making the classroom a place where learning comes alive through food, farming, and fun.



By embedding agriculture into the school day, we are giving children the chance to see, taste, and experience where their food comes from in a memorable way. We are excited to be embedded within Franklin Central School to help students make these important connections at such a formative age.

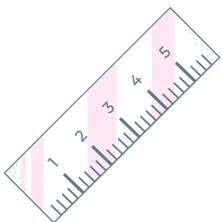
This month, lessons have turned to apples, with activities including a taste test of different apple varieties and a hands-on experience making homemade applesauce. Future units will continue to highlight local farm products and agricultural literacy, weaving together science, nutrition, and play.



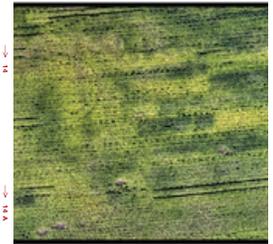
Lessons over the year will tie to various agricultural commodities grown locally and more broadly. The classroom also features a number of agriculture-themed interactive play stations, including a farmers market stocked with products produced on Delaware County farms. These stations allow students to role-play and explore agriculture through imaginative play, reinforcing lessons about local food systems and the wide variety of products grown and raised in their community.



Through the Ag in the Classroom program, CCEDC and Franklin Central School are planting the seeds of understanding that agriculture is all around us — in the food we eat, the clothes we wear, and the communities we live in.



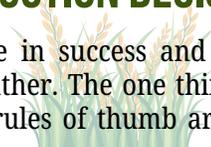
COOPERATING IN CROP RESEARCH



Farms depend on reliable crop production recommendations. Farm decisions on crop fertility and pest management not only affect the farm's bottom line, they can reduce the impact to water and air quality for everyone. CCE Delaware County is assisting Cornell University to keep these critical recommendation systems up-to-date and relevant to Delaware County farms. CCE staff, along with three Delaware County farms, have hosted field locations for three different research efforts

The Value of Manure project and the Power of Manure project placed multiple fertilizer manure rates in corn fields at the Hanselman and Clark to refine the prediction of the nutrient contribution of manure. These projects also seek to characterize manure contribution to soil health and other harder to measure benefits to crop yield. The CCE team also partnered with the Burgin farm to establish a multi-year evaluation of seed corn maggot management in corn and soybeans. Changes in pesticide availability and crop production environment have revealed gaps in our understanding of this long-term pest and how to best manage its impact. By our participation in these projects helps create better recommendations for New York State growers, and assure those recommendations work for Delaware County farmers.

SUPPORTING CROP PRODUCTION DECISIONS



In crop production timely actions can be the difference in success and under-performance. These decisions are both contingent on and affected by the weather. The one thing that's seems dependable about our weather is that it is different each year, and rules of thumb are inadequate for achieving consistently high yield and quality.



CCE Delaware County, in cooperation with the Watershed Agricultural Program, helps farmers make informed decisions in several ways. Our team monitored soil temperatures in dozens of fields across the region in late April and early May, to identify when conditions for corn planting were acceptable, allowing farms to plant as early as possible. We quickly pivoted to our Scissor Cut reporting on over 40 locations, representing all types of hay across all elevations and soil types. These sample results help farms time their first cutting to capture optimum forage quality for the animals they are feeding. Variable weather at planting and throughout the growing season caused corn crops to be highly variable and generally late maturing. Our team held two Corn Dry Down Days to measure harvest readiness and help farmers know when to wait and when to act quickly to optimize corn yield and quality at harvest. The results of all these monitoring and sampling projects are shared immediately with farms across the region to keep everyone up-to-the-minute on factors affecting crop timing decisions.



BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN FARMERS AND CONSUMERS IN DELAWARE COUNTY

The Delaware Bounty project celebrates and connects our county's vibrant local food community. Designed as a comprehensive local food map, the project highlights participant farm producers who sell directly to consumers alongside our local farmers markets. The printed map has been met with overwhelming enthusiasm from both residents and visitors, with 2,700 copies now in circulation.



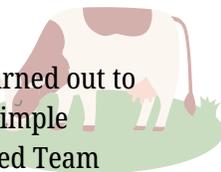
We were thrilled to launch the first edition featuring 52 participating farms, showcasing the diversity and quality of Delaware County agriculture. Since its release, several additional farms have joined the project after seeing the finished product, a testament to the positive visibility and community pride it has generated.



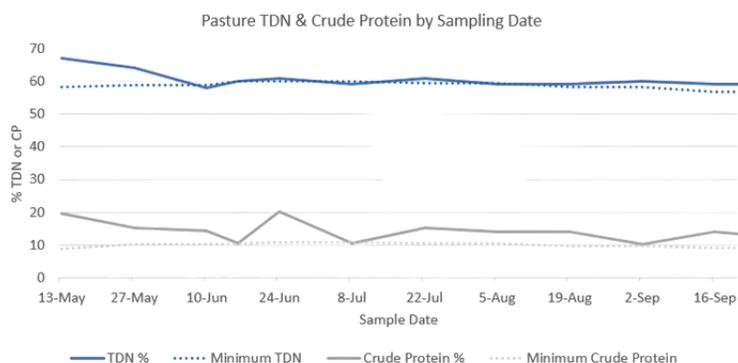
Building on the success of the printed map, we are excited to launch the companion Delaware Bounty website, delawarebounty.org. The online platform will allow for ongoing updates as new producers join, ensuring the resource remains current and comprehensive. The site will also include opportunities for farm and local food-related advertising, positioning Delaware Bounty to become a self-sustaining initiative that continues to strengthen connections between producers and consumers while promoting local agriculture.



GRAZING SEASON RESEARCH AT SHEPHARD FARM



Feeding beef animals on pasture is a common practice on farms in Delaware County. Often, cattle are simply turned out to pasture with little thought or planning. Pasture can be a valuable nutrition resource with some shifting some simple management practices. Throughout the grazing season of 2025, Rich Toebe with the support of the Precision Feed Team conducted a pasture research project at John Shephard's beef farm in Delhi NY. The end goal of the project is to better meet the nutritional needs of beef cattle with the pastures on the farm. The research project focused on tracking the dry matter quantity and quality of pastures being grazed by the cow and calf herd. The pastures available were then compared to the cows and calves' nutrient needs. The project also looked at forage stand health and actual cattle performance including body condition score. Throughout the project, support and education is provided to the farm manager to help the farm establish paddock size, length of occupation and plan future cattle moves. An additional part of this pasture project specifically monitored the pastures and nutrition available to replacement heifers. Farms have management goals for replacement heifers including daily weight gain, body condition and breeding size and age metrics. Based on initial nutritional testing, it was determined that approximately 1.75 pounds of a grain mix would best balance the diet with the pasture quality available. This grain combined with pasture diet will best support replacement heifers' reproductive health, help them get pregnant and sustain the new pregnancy as well as to continue their own growth rates. The detailed knowledge gained from this grazing research project has allowed the Shephard Farm cattle to meet more of their nutritional needs from grazing as well as adding many days to their grazing season.



COMMUNITY ROOTS: BUILDING AWARENESS THROUGH HORTICULTURE

In June 2025, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County welcomed a new Horticulture and Natural Resources Community Educator, Lila Shafer, bringing fresh energy and expertise to local programming. Since then, community engagement has flourished, with growing interest in home gardening, pollinator support, soil health, and conservation. These conversations have helped shape new educational opportunities and outreach efforts across the county.



A highlight of the year was CCE Delaware County's contribution to the Agricultural Awareness Video Series at the Delaware County Fair. Three horticulture-focused videos showcased local farms, Berry Brook Farm for its organic vegetables, Butterfly Whispers Farm for cut flowers and starter plants, and Maplewood Farm and Orchard for maple syrup and apples. Viewed by over 11,000 fairgoers in the Agricultural Awareness area, the series celebrated the innovation and diversity of Delaware County agriculture while connecting residents with the people behind their food and flowers. A floral design workshop was offered this year at the 4-C Adult Camp at Camp Shankitunk in August. 13 Participants explored floral arrangement and design using locally grown flowers. Demonstrations at the Delaware County Fair also drew steady interest and conversations about flowers, pollinators and the benefits of supporting local growers.

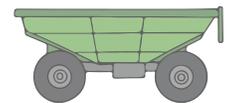


CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANT (CIG) - ENHANCED MANURE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

A USDA NRCS national CIG grant award to Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District (DCSWCD) got off the ground beginning in fall of 2024. This three-year project is to enhance manure nutrient management in Delaware County and the NYC watershed west of Hudson, by helping farmers adopt cutting edge technologies, specifically precision ag manure spreading rate control for both liquid and semi-solid manure, digital as-applied manure rate mapping technologies, and shallow disk-coulter liquid manure injection. These technologies, heretofore unadopted in Delaware County, are being deployed through a custom manure services business that is being built in the area from the ground up through the project funding. These custom services are a critically needed means to provide efficient and timely manure applications on small farms with limited labor and equipment resources, who historically have struggled to manage their manure storages.

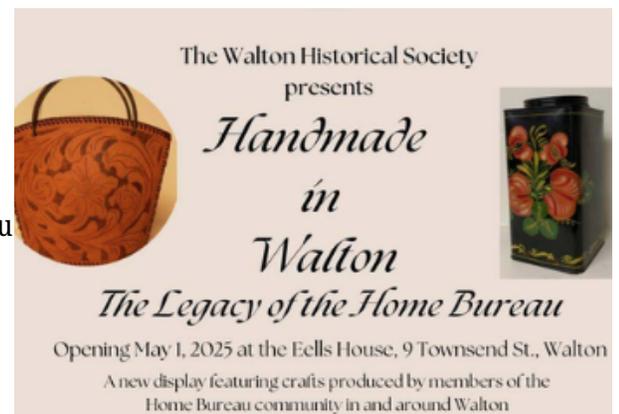


In fall of 2024 the project successfully developed and implemented a Request for Proposals solicitation and review process resulting in the selection of Albano's Precision Application as the local business to serve as the custom manure services contractor for the project. A tightly knit collaboration between CCEDC, DCSWCD, WAC, Cornell University, USDA NRCS and FSA resulted in development of 25 farm manure prescriptions on over 388 fields for the 2025 cropping year. As of October 2025, the project in its first year of application has applied over 13.3 million gallons of liquid manure, injecting nearly all of that on over 2,000 acres, while over 6,400 tons of semi-solid manure was applied on over 900 acres with applications continuing into November. The project also includes research and education collaborations with the Cornell Nutrient Management Spear Program, Cornell ProDairy, and Virginia Tech University for the implementation of several local research projects to assess the impact of the project, as well as provide farmer and agency educational opportunities in support of the project implementation. A Manure Injection Field Day, held at CIG project participating farm Joleanna Holsteins in August 2025 was attended by over 100 farmers and agency personnel from across the region.



DISCOVERING HERITAGE THROUGH CCE ARCHIVES

Earlier this year, the Walton Historical Society created an exhibit honoring the Delaware County Home Bureau. In preparation, member Dana Baker contacted CCE Interim Director Nancy Grotevant to explore CCE's archives and uncovered his grandmother's connection to the organization. Through the records, Dana discovered the history of the Home Bureau and services that were offered to homemakers and farm wives throughout Delaware County just like his grandmother. The Home Bureau, alongside Farm Bureau and 4-H, grew from Cornell Cooperative Extension's early outreach efforts. "Home Demonstration Agents," trained at Cornell, brought education and hands-on learning to homemakers and farm families across New York. Though no longer active in Delaware County, the Home Bureau's legacy is continued in 19 counties statewide a lasting reminder of the creativity, community, and lifelong learning fostered through Cooperative Extension. The exhibit opened at the Walton Historical Society in May of this year.



4-H Youth Development Program

EXCITING TIMES AHEAD AT 4-H CAMP SHANKITUNK!

Change is in the air at 4-H Camp Shankitunk as staff prepare for an exciting new chapter in the years ahead. Next summer, campers will be able to select new or returning programming choices including Air Rifle, Babysitter Certification, Chef's Club, and a "Wildcard" class that will allow campers to take a deeper dive into a unique program offered only once throughout the summer. These new offerings add to the camp's tradition of hands-on learning and making the best better, empowering campers to explore their interests and discover their spark through 4-H Positive Youth Development Programming.

In addition to serving 700+ youth this past summer, and plans for expanding its programs, 4-H Camp Shankitunk has launched a fundraising campaign to build a new, much-needed, bathhouse for future generations of campers. The project will also help expand programming possibilities beyond the summer season. With an optimistic and determined team and strong community support, construction is planned for Fall 2026!

As we look toward the future, excitement is already building for a remarkable milestone: 100 years of 4-H Camp Shankitunk in 2027! Plans are underway for a year-long celebration to honor the camp's legacy, share memories, and look ahead to the next century of 4-H Camp Shankitunk!

From fresh programs to big dreams, 4-H Camp Shankitunk continues to grow, evolve, and inspire—proof that while times may change, the spirit of camp remains timeless. If you'd like to get involved with our efforts, please reach out to 4-H Camp Administrator, Corrine Tompkins at (607) 865-6531 or email Shankitunk4hcamp@cornell.edu.

"This camp has it down to a science!" -4-H Camper



4-H CAMP SHANKITUNK



"I have finally completed my CIT process, through which I have gained and honed many valuable skills that will guide me through the trials I may face as I enter my next chapter in life" - 4-H Camper



"I can't wait for the classes, food and friends one last time." - 4-H Camper

Look how we've grown in 4-H



4-H YOUTH BUILDING DEMONSTRATIONS BUILD CONFIDENCE AND GARNER SUCCESS AT THE DELAWARE COUNTY FAIR



Do you know which side of your plate to set the bread plate or the drinks on when setting your table? Our Delaware County 4-H youth do! This year, 13 of them showcased their knowledge and creative talents at the Delaware County Fair in the 4-H Youth Building. If you visited our building, you likely noticed the new display area featuring the talents of our 4-H Tablesetting Exhibitors.

In the past, youth would set up and present their tablesetting exhibit to a judge on Monday night before packing it right back up. Over the years, we've come to understand and appreciate how much time and care our 4-H youth invest in these exhibits and were determined to showcase their work for the rest of the fairgoers to enjoy throughout the week.

We were overwhelmed by the kind and supportive comments we received about their work and even saw several other 4-H members inspired to participate next year. The exhibits were so impressive that our judge nominated four exhibits for State Fair consideration—one of which went on to represent Delaware County 4-H at the Great New York State Fair, receiving an "Excellent" evaluation. The creativity and effort of our table setters were enjoyed by all and even featured as the backdrop during an interview with the iconic Alice Blackman, which can be viewed on the Delaware County Fair Facebook page.

We are deeply grateful to the club leaders, parents, and volunteers who support this program behind the scenes. A special shout-out goes to Jessica Backus Foster, who has continuously taught educational programming on table setting and napkin folding, assisted in evaluations, and provided valuable feedback—like the importance of keeping centerpieces low to encourage conversation across the table for our 4-H youth!

A STYLISH COMEBACK: 4-H FASHION & TEXTILE SHOWCASE RETURNS

Our 4-H Fashion & Textile Showcase made its return to the Delaware County Fair with nine youth bringing individuality, flair, and confidence to the stage. They modeled their handmade items and showcased sustainable fashion through thrifted, patched, or felted pieces. They can certainly hold their own at the state level, and we hope some will consider competing there in the future!

Our 4-H Teen and Youth helpers also bolstered their public speaking abilities in helping at the welcome gazebo, selling quilts tickets, and leading activities for families passing through! Thanks to their efforts, \$1300 was raised to support teen programming in the coming year. We appreciate their commitment and hope these programs will continue to gain momentum.



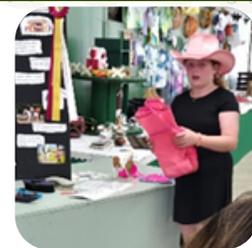
*"4-H brings us together."
- 4-H Member*

*"4-H has made me Beyond Ready by teaching me to be a leader."
-4-H Member*



*"Delaware County would not be the same without 4-H and all the amazing skills that it teaches Delco youth".
- 4-H Member*

PRESENTATIONS & DISPLAYS SHOWCASE 4-H SKILLS AND SPIRIT



"I have learned so much through this amazing organization and from our club leaders".
-4-H Member



"I would not have such good skills in communication, if it were not for 4-H".
- 4-H Member

A story about our youth demonstrations would not be complete without celebrating the important, confidence-building work of participants in the 4-H Public Presentations Program. Twenty-one youth shared their knowledge on a wide range of topics with fairgoers and judges, with three also presenting at the Great New York State Fair. One fairgoer was so appreciative of Gabi Barnhart's informational presentation poster that they left a sticky note of gratitude with 4-H staff for the cost savings she would enjoy knowing how to make her own horse treats at home!

In addition to youth demonstrations, 4-H Clubs came together to participate in the 4-H Parade and Club Exhibit Contest, showcasing their hard work and 4-H pride. Congratulations to the Future's Finest 4-H Club, which received a perfect score on their Club Exhibit highlighting how their members have grown over the years through 4-H. This exhibit was also displayed at the Great New York State Fair as one of over 60 projects selected to represent Delaware County 4-H in Syracuse. We hope to see even more 4-H Clubs showcasing their work at next year's fair!

We are so proud of our Delaware County 4-H youth and grateful to the volunteers who work beside us to "make the best better." Together, we can continue providing meaningful opportunities for young people to explore, learn, and find their spark through hands-on experiences in 4-H!

ROOTED IN 4-H: CELEBRATING THOSE WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

Remembering Clara Stewart

Clara Stewart was an icon in the Delaware County 4-H Program. Born and raised on a Delaware County farm and as a 4-Her, she began working for CCE Delaware in 1966 and remained a farm girl and 4-Her at heart. As a 4-H leader and member of the 4-H staff she passed on her love of agriculture, food preparation, sewing and farming to generations of youth. She retired in 1983, but continued as a volunteer and returned in 1991 to lead the 4-H History Project. Clara had a deep appreciation of history and worked to preserve it; spending countless hours archiving files and photos, creating displays and power point presentations for 4-H Camp Shankitunk and Extension milestone celebrations. Clara continued to be supportive of her CCE colleagues. Clara was "patient and wonderful to work with," according to a 2013 proclamation where she was recognized for her years of service to Cornell Cooperative Extension. Clara passed away August 11, 2025 at 97 years young.



Remembering Emelia Kilmer

Earlier this year, our Delaware County 4-H community lost a bright spirit whose smile touched everyone around her. Though her time with us was far too short, Emelia's enthusiasm, creativity, laughter, and joyous nature left a lasting mark on our 4-H program.

To honor Emelia's spirit, we are proud to introduce the "The Emelia Kilmer Memorial Award for Creative Arts," celebrating youth who demonstrate outstanding creativity in their expressive / written or visual art exhibits in the 4-H Youth Building at the Delaware County Fair each year as Emelia herself found joy in writing and drawing, often expressing herself through her art.



* her retirement party, 1983, with Ir
** and Corky Oliver.





More Accomplishments In 2025

Memorandums of Understanding Signed With:

- Ulster Co. - Assistance with Finance Mgmt.
- Tompkins Co. - Assistance with IT
- Jefferson Co. - Assistance with Human Resources

New Phone System Installed

Replaced Old Copier - that Had Over 2,000,000 Copies On It

Several new computers/monitors were purchased for staff

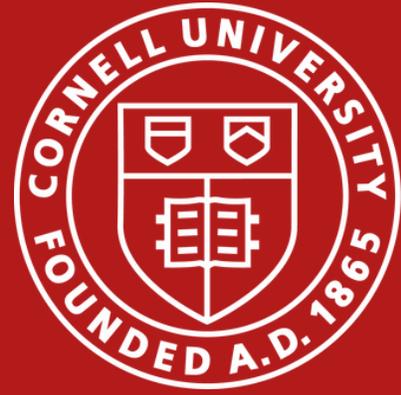
Positions Filled or Re-Classified

- Ag Team Leader
- 4-H Team Leader
- HE Team Leader
- PFM Team Leader
- Farm Business Management Educator
- Hort/Natural Resources/Camp Admin.
- 4-H Program Manager
- Operations Manager
- Ag/HE Administrative Assistant
- 4-H Administrative Assistant
- Administrator/Human Resources
- Ag In The Classroom Instructor

Renegotiated Watershed Contract

A new contract outlining the services to be provided by CCE DC, from March 31, 2025 - June 30, 2027, was written and approved. The new Scope of Work outlines the tasks and deliverables CCE DC. is responsible to provide. Special thanks goes out to Dale Dewing, Paul Cerosaletti and Charlie Engel JR, for the many hours they spent working on this.





Cornell Cooperative Extension Delaware County