Greetings from the President and Executive Director

Innovation is the theme of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County’s 2018 annual report, which summarizes the unique programs and partnerships created to meet the diverse educational needs of Delaware County communities, families and businesses. Cornell Cooperative Extension’s mission is to share Cornell University research and educational resources with residents of the county and region to grow healthy families, competent youth, successful farms and stronger communities.

Grown Healthy Families – Extension’s first year innovative partnership with BOCES through a five year after school CROP grant has supported CATCH, Cooking Up Fun and Family Mealtime Matters nutrition programs in 10 schools. Fruit and vegetable preparation programs with Bassett and the Food and Health Network has increased the consumption of fruits and vegetables through CCE classes and purchasing of fruits and vegetables online and through CCE’s farmer markets. School and community gardens give families an opportunity to grow food in 9 schools/communities.

Competent Youth – 4-H camp reports full enrollment in the day and overnight camping program. Campers enjoyed having a new pool liner and a gaga pit this year. The NYS 4-H STEM camp, a collaborative effort between educators from 7 counties and the State 4-H office, gave youth from 17 counties hands-on learning opportunities. A new course was offered in understanding and flying drones. Youth from 24 schools were involved in planning and participating in a teacher institute and youth summit on climate change along with leading school and community environmental outreach projects. With funding from NYS Integrated Pest Management at Cornell, CCE staff reduced the risk of tick bites at 4-H camp through parent, counselor and camper early detection and pest control strategies.

Successful Farms – Agri-tourism is growing and Extensions in Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie counties organized with the Chamber of Commerce a Family Farm Day event on 60 farms in the area. Family Farm Day and the annual Dairy Tour bring people to farms to see how food and farming practices enhance farm income. The Watershed Agriculture Program helped farmers explore new livestock enterprises at the Beef Stocker Schools and agri-tourism, new crops and cider production at the Catskill Regional Ag Conference.

Stronger Communities – A new Clean Energy Communities program has made it possible for municipalities to receive clean energy community designations and grant money to make energy improvements in four communities. Master gardeners volunteered to help plant and harvest a new expansive community garden sponsored by a local landowner in Delhi.

All of these new and innovative Extension programs would not be possible without the dedication and knowledge of staff, volunteers, and program partners. We especially thank the Delaware County Board of Supervisors for their support as CCE looks forward to continuing to impact the lives of people we serve in our county and area of New York State.

Sincerely,  
Craig Dumond  
Board President

Sincerely,  
Jeanne Darling  
Executive Director

MISSION OF CCE DELAWARE COUNTY
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.
“Thanks for bringing this program to our school. Students and staff are trying new vegetables and like them.”
- Schenevus School Superintendent

“Having the feed management planner on our farm has helped us stay focused and realize our goals.”
- Delaware County Dairy Farmer

“I was, and continue to be bowled over by the energy and intelligence that was coursing through that meeting room.”
- Marketing Discussion Group Participant

“We hear camp stories throughout the year, and randomly we will hear a camp song. You are all part of a great camp experience!”
- Parent of a 4-H Camp Shankitunk Camper

“Public speaking, confidence in social situations, and experience in STEM programs led me to internships, job opportunities, and a deep passion for my current career.”
- 4-H Alumnus
2018 STAFF

Executive Director: Jeanne M. Darling
Office Manager/Ag and Alliance
Administrative Assistants: Karen Graves and Judy Morse
Association Bookkeeper: Linda Mott
Desktop Publisher & Asst. Bookkeeper: Kathy Shelton

4-H
4-H Team Leader: John Hannum
4-H Resource Educator: Emily Roach
4-H Administrative Assistant: Pam Conklin
4-H Camp Administrative Assistant: Cathy Scofield
4-H Camp Director: Corrine Tompkins

Agriculture
Ag Senior Extension Resource Educator: Mariane Kiraly
Horticulture/Natural Resource Educator: Carla Crim
Nutrient Management Community Educator: Benjamin Hepler
WAP Sr Team Leader/Nutrient Management: Dale Dewing
PFM and Nutrient Mgmt Team Leader: Paul Ceresaletti
WAP/PFM Community Educators: Melinda Gaida, April Wright-Lucas
WAP Dairy/Livestock Sr Resource Educator: Richard Toebbe
WAP Administrative Assistant: Kim Holden

Human Ecology
HE Clean Energy Resource Educator: Tara Donadio
Eat Smart New York Nutrition Educators: Maegan Freeman, Michaela Depatie
EFNEP Nutrition Educators: Cheryl Starcher-Ceresna, Amy VanAlstyne
HE Administrative Assistants: Valerie Dudley and Nanette Cazzolla

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4-H Youth Development Program Committee:
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March began the farmer market planning season with four Cornell farmer market networking and goal setting meetings for farmers and market managers in the county. The first meeting focused on strengthening the relationships between markets and sharing farmer market program resources including information on the Farmer Market Nutrition program, WIC and SNAP benefits. Farmers were encouraged to sign up to participate in local markets including CCE farmers’ markets. As a result of the March planning meetings CCE was able to continue the operation of our three farmers’ markets with a new market manager and fruit farm joining our markets. Farmers set farmer market goals for the year and committed to pilot a new fruit and vegetable RX prescription program with The Food and Health Network of South Central NY. Medicaid patients participating in the program at UHS Delaware Valley Hospital have used vouchers to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at the farmers’ markets in Walton, Deposit and Sidney. The Fruit and Vegetable RX program has brought new customers to these farmers’ markets and the farmers are almost sold out of vegetables and fruits each week which has been a win-win for the farmers, their customers’ health and participating communities.

Eat Smart New York program educators have also used Cornell online training and resources as they have delivered Farmer Market Nutrition Education program lessons during the season to customers each week. ESNY demonstrations and food samples provided education, food tasting and skills to select, store and prepare fresh produce increasing family consumptions and access to local healthy food at eight farmers’ markets this year.

Information to preserve garden and local foods purchased at markets has been available on the Cornell Cooperative Extension website, by phone or e-mail consultations and at a 4-C Camp food preservation workshop held in August.
EFNEP (Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program) and Eat Smart New York Programs have been working together this year to offer nutrition, food safety and food preparation classes to parents and their children through CROP (Creating Rural Opportunities Partnership) and school based programs at 13 schools. Kids love to learn to cook even during the summer at 4-H camp through the Junior Chef EFNEP classes. Eat Smart New York offers evidence based CATCH (Coordinated Approach Towards Child Health) lessons to youth after school at 10 schools and nutrition classes to include gardening lessons at schools in the spring.

This year nutrition educators presented Dig In gardening lessons to 3rd and 4th graders at Charlotte Valley Central School during the school day. ESNY (Eat Smart New York) educators delivered lessons at WIC sites, senior meals, senior groups, childcare centers and at summer feeding program sites. A 10 lesson pilot Fruit and Vegetable Prescription Program and photo voice evaluation was completed with Bassett Health Care using the Eating Smart Being Active curriculum. Smarter Lunchroom training and programs were held in two schools with plate waste studies and food tastings in the cafeteria to promote healthy food choices.

Delaware County continues to make substantial progress on reducing energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions by participating in both the Clean Energy Communities and Climate Smart Communities Programs. We are excited to welcome new participating communities, three communities have become designated Clean Energy Communities in Delaware County; Meredith, Hamden and Middletown. Delaware County as a whole has also been working this year to be designated a clean energy community and has applied to be a Climate Smart Community. CCE is supporting designated towns as they write their grant applications to reduce energy costs.

Other Smart Energy Choices energy related events have been held including a solar energy program hosted at CCE called "How to Save Money & Energy: Learning About Energy Efficiency & Solar Options" with presentations to 16 attendees by 3 solar providers.

Cornell Cooperative Extension has provided leadership in hosting 75 youth and teachers attending a climate change bus tour in May. Youth and teachers have also planned a Catskill Youth Climate Summit for over 100 youth and recruited youth to attend leadership trainings on climate change in the Adirondacks and Los Angeles.
Creating and Sustaining Rural Health Networks

Cornell Cooperative Extension in Delaware County is the lead agency for the Delaware County Rural Health Alliance, one of more than 30 rural health networks in New York State. In 2018 we received a contract extension from New York State Department of Health and completed a proposal for continued funding under the direction of Jeanne Darling, Executive Director. Excellent programming is made possible with assistance from local hospitals, Public Health, Mental Health, Office for the Aging, The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council, The Alzheimers Association, Girls On the Run, SUNY Delhi, CCE nutrition educators and other local health partners. The Alliance sponsored the Warm Line, Tai Chi classes for seniors, Girls On The Run, breastfeeding education, nutrition education, gardening lessons, chronic disease classes, and The Recovery Coach program.

Professional training - The Alliance sponsored professional trainings in 2018; the first training featured Cornell’s Janis Whitlock, PHD, MPH on Social Media and Youth – “Where we are and Where we are Going.” The workshop was well received by a variety of agencies and professionals serving limited income families challenged with the negative impact of cyber bullying. The second training helped 18 professionals serving moms of babies with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) to identify ways to support families and hospitals delivering NAS babies. Cooperative Extension and two Public Health professionals registered to attend the Southern Tier Breastfeeding Coalition Conference to learn about “Unlocking the Mystery of Tongue Tie.”

Suicide Prevention - The Suicide Prevention Network of Delaware County has developed a “Be the One” video. Video segments on suicide prevention have been completed and viewed by 435 people and posted on several locations on the internet. A suicide support group for adults was formed this year with ongoing meetings at SUNY Delhi being led by a certified social worker. Two schools were recruited for Sources of Strength (SOS) trainings. SOS youth summits were held for 3 additional SOS schools. The program helped students identify the things that make them strong, identify their sources of strength and contacts for help. Stamford peer youth leaders are assisting a seventh grade class as positive youth mentors and role models for youth that are struggling with multiple mental and behavioral issues.

Caregiver Conference/ Senior Programs - The Alliance sponsored a successful Alzheimer’s conference in June with 75 attendees; Alzheimer’s Caregiver’s forum was held with 58 attendees, 12 vendors and 3 volunteers. 2,000 Eldercare Advocate trifold brochures were distributed with follow up help for caregivers and families.
Human Ecology Programs

Delaware Rural Healthcare Alliance: Healthcare Leadership Workforce Trainings; Delhi Fitness Trails/Run; Complete Streets; Building More Active Communities; Senior Tai Chi program; Alzheimer Caregiver Training/Conference; Girls on the Run; Breastfeeding Support Network; Warm Line; Sources of Strength Youth Suicide Prevention Program; Recovery Coach; Local and Regional Healthcare Planning, Breastfeeding Station at County Fair, Mental Health Video Production;

Eat Smart New York: Eat Healthy Be Active; Eat Smart Live Strong/Senior Nutrition; Family Mealtimes Matter; CATCH After School and Summer Feeding Programs; Farmers’ Market Nutrition Education Program; Smarter Lunchroom Program; Family Matters Grocery Store Pop-Up Tours; Farmer Market Meetings; Cooking Matters Teen Program; Food Pantry Outreach; School Open House Exhibits and Demonstrations; Merideth Dairy Fest; Agency Training

Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program: Breastfeeding Your Baby; Eat Smart Be Active; Sisters in Health; Cooking Up Fun; Teen Cuisine; Great Garden Detective Programs; Choose Health/School Gardening; Food Preservation; Garden-to-Table; Fruit and Vegetable RX Program; Childcare Certification Training; Sidney Community Garden; Boys & Girls Program

Energy and the Environment: Catskill Youth Leadership Climate Summit; Teacher Climate Institute; Clean Energy Community Program; Energy Smart Choices Program; Indoor Air Quality and Water Quality; Climate Change Community Outreach Events; Energy Warriors; Fair Demonstrations; Earth Day Program; Community Solar Programs

The dollar value of Delaware County’s Volunteers: $279,778

52,120
28,262
991

23
25
15
14

Volunteers branch out and deliver resources

Advisory committee members
Program committee members
Board of Directors
CCE Educator Staff

Program assistants and office staff provide a base of support

Directors and committees give strength and direction

Education tap into knowledge

Extension publication contacts
Personal contacts

4-H Youth Development Programs

Activities: Community Service; 4-H Day; Fundraising - Duck Race & Golf Tournament; International Night; Leaders’ Day; Meredith Dairy Fest; Teen Awards/Trips; Teen Council; Teen Recognition Night; Fairs - County & State; Farmers Museum

Animals: Hippology; Horse Shows & Clinics; Horse Quiz Bowl; Dairy Challenge; Dairy Judging; Dairy Quiz Bowl; Dog Obedience & Agility; Drill Team; Junior Livestock Show; Hippology; Horse Shows & Clinics; Horse Quiz Bowl; Livestock Auction Tagging/Weigh-ins; Livestock Skillathon; Meat Chicken Project; Pheasants; Poultry Roundup; Vet Science Programs; Livestock Judging
Agriculture Programs

**Horticulture and Natural Resources:** Winter Sowing; Kissing Ball Workshop; Get to Know Your Forest; Beginners’ Maple Syrup Production; French Biointensive Gardening; Plant Swap; Simply Succulents; Hypertufa Pot Workshop; Birdsong Farm Community Garden; Master Gardener Volunteer Training; Tick Mitigation at Camp Shankitunk; Emerald Ash Borer Monitoring Workshop; Invasive Species Detection & Response

**Business Management and Profitability:** Limiting Risk in AgriTourism; Baskets to Pallets; Farm Business Planning; Farm Business Summaries; Farmers’ Tax School; Organic Dairy Profit Group; Cultivating Success - Marketing for Women in Agribusiness; Annual Dairy Tour; Family Farm Day

**Crop and Animal Production:** Understanding Your Heifer’s Growth & Performance; Beef Quality Assurance Training; Sheep & Goat International Night; Necropsy Workshop; Field Demo Days; Wool Demonstrations; Stocker School; Corn Dry Down Days; Beef Production Schools; Catskill Regional Agriculture Conference; Crop Production School; Quality Management Assistance; Beef Producers Meeting; Sheep & Goat Producer Discussion Group; Scissor Cut Sampling; Avipel Demonstrations; Forage Variety Demonstration

**Environmental:** Ag Plastic Recycling Program; Clean Sweep; Soil Health Pasture Walk; Precision Feed Management; Nutrient Management Credit Workshop; Pasture Renovation

**Outreach:** Taste of the Catskills Displays; Composting in Schools; Ag Literacy Week Readings; Career Days at Local Schools; Bugs & Blights Program at Sidney Library; Meredith Dairy Fest; Delaware County Fair Exhibits and Forage Contest; Garden Club & Grange Hall Presentations

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4-H Youth Development Programs

**STEM & Life Skills:** 4-H Quilters; Woodworking; Drones/UAV; NYS 4-H STEM Camp; Public Presentations/Interviews; Rag Quilts; Sewing Evaluations; Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) Programming; Tractor & Machinery Certification

**4-H Camp Shankitunk Classes:** Archery; Arts and Crafts; Astronomy; Backpacking; Backyard Engineering; Beading; Chef’s Club; Counselor in Training; Outdoor Cookery; Drama; Fishing; Geocaching; Living History; Nature; Newspaper; Outdoor Skills; Photography; Rocketry; Science; Sports and Recreation; Swimming; Team Challenge; Woodworking; Yumba
For the past five years, Delaware County has hosted the annual NYS 4-H STEM Camp at Camp Shankitunk in Delhi, NY. The camp first started as a regional effort and now has become statewide in scope. Collaboration between CCE of Chemung, Delaware, Orange, Otsego, Schoharie, Suffolk, Ulster, and the NYS 4-H Office/Alexa Maille (NYS 4-H Specialist) delivered a wonderful educational and camping experience this year.

For the 2018 camp season, 73 youth attended from 16 New York counties. Utilizing CCE staff and dedicated volunteers as instructors, high quality programming was delivered. We introduced three new courses this year: Drones, Coding Unplugged, and Outdoor Survival. Additional courses offered were Backyard Engineering, Rocketry I & II, and Archery Dynamics. The NYS 4-H STEM Camp continues to thrive and expand thanks to collaboration and in-demand curricula. Through grants and self-sufficiency, we have been able to keep the cost of the camp low and therefore accessible to participants from a variety of economic and social backgrounds. We are utilizing Cornell Qualtrics to track data and always looking for new and up-to-date ways to measure the impact of our camp.

Youth are encouraged to experience camp with their parents/guardians; making the whole experience more worthwhile. When parents/guardians learn alongside their child(ren) they are better able to explain and reinforce STEM concepts at home. The NYS 4-H STEM Camp encourages family togetherness and learning.

**Programs Offered:**
2013 – 4 programs offered
2018 – 7 programs offered

**Camper Attendance:**
2013 = 26 campers
2018 = 73 campers
180% Increase in Camper Attendance

**Camper Percentages:**
2013 – Male 54% Female 46%
2018 – Male 49% Female 51%
11% Increase in Female Attendees

**4-H Educators:**
2013 = 6 STEM Specialists/Educators
2018 = 12 STEM Specialists/Educators
100% Increase in NYS STEM Specialists & 4-H Educators

**Race Breakdown (2018):**
Hispanic/Latino = 3%
Non Hispanic/Non Latino = 97%

**Ethnicity Breakdown (2018):**
White = 75%
Black = 8%
Asian = 10%
Other = 7%
With funding from NYS IPM (Integrated Pest Management), horticulture educator Carla Crim, Camp Director Corrine Tompkins, and 4-H team leader John Hannum implemented innovative tick control strategies at 4-H Camp Shankitunk. “Tick Tubes” were used as a mechanism to disrupt the tick life-cycle. The bio-degradable paper tubes contain permethrin-treated cotton which mice use for bedding. Permethrin, which is considered safe for humans, kills ticks on contact. Hundreds of tubes were deployed around the grounds by a licensed pesticide applicator to reduce the tick population.

Fun and effective educational resources were developed for three target groups: parents, camp staff, and campers. Informational materials were mailed to parents, encouraging them to pack appropriate clothing and repellents, and to teach their campers how to do tick checks. Delaware County Public Health gave a very informative tick awareness session to staff during orientation. Each week on the first day of camp, counselors put on a tick safety skit. They also prompted campers throughout the week to use repellents and do frequent tick checks. As a result, campers were very enthusiastic about tick safety. The few ticks that were found on campers were safely removed at very early stages of attachment, greatly reducing the risk of disease.

Every year in the spring, 4-Hers are given the opportunity to receive 10 meat chicks to raise. These birds are raised by the 4-Hers for 7 weeks and then brought to the Poultry Roundup at Camp Shankitunk to be judged. This year’s competition involved 20 youth who each brought their three best birds to the competition. For the past 3 years, our judge has been CCE Senior Resource Educator Rich Toebe. Rich has extensive experience in animal husbandry and does a great job educating the exhibitors as he evaluates their work.

The goals of this program are to provide the 4-Hers and their families the opportunity to learn how to raise meat chickens which can be a valuable addition to a families food resources, learn more about animal husbandry in general through an affordable short duration project, and grow as individuals by having their efforts evaluated so they can see what they did correctly and how they can improve next time. Agriculture is important to our county, state, and country. This type of project is an example of how we can introduce children and their families to one aspect of this industry and how they can participate in it on an affordable short-term basis.
Ga-Ga Ball! Ga-Ga Ball! Ga-Ga Ball! The excited chanting of campers experiencing this game for the first time at Shankitunk was music to our ears this summer. Traditionally 4-Square is the place to be during free recreation time, but gaga proved to be a smashing success that the kids loved. How did this sensation come to be? It stems from a little organization and a lot of love and support from our community. Camp Director, Corrine Tompkins, first pitched the idea of a gaga pit to bring life back into the volleyball court, an area of camp that was being under-utilized. The beauty of gaga is that children of different ages and skill levels can all play at once. Games tend to go quickly meaning that once a camper gets out, they don’t have to wait long for a new game to start.

4-H Camp Shankitunk received a grant from the Stewarts Holiday Match Program to purchase the bracket system and wall buffers for the pit. Donors and alumni pitched in throughout the year kicking off on #GivingTuesday to raise funds for an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant door and other miscellaneous pit expenses. Lumber siding was donated by Pickett Building Materials and Bestway. The Cornell chapter of Alpha Zeta donated funds to purchase sand for the area which was trucked free of charge by Seward’s Sand and Gravel. Staff worked to prep the site, after which local volunteers helped level out two loads of pea stone donated by local friends of camp. The final step was assembling the pit. Volunteers helped us get started, but weather forced staff to finish up another day.

A plaque will be installed this fall to recognize the contributions of everyone involved in making this project a success that our campers will be able to enjoy for generations to come.

GOING GAGA AT CAMP
SUCCESSFUL FARMS ON TOUR

Farm tours are educational events that bring farmers together to learn what works well on their neighbors’ farms in Delaware County. The 88th Annual Dairy Tour featured building projects built as a result of the Southern Tier Agricultural Industry Enhancement Program. Participating farmers developed a business plan and grant application with CCE to show how improvements to their facilities would also positively affect farm income and sustainability. The Grantson Farm featured a new freestall facility that can easily accommodate robotic milkers in the future. The new barn also incorporated sand bedding and cow brushes for extreme cow comfort. Dairy cows must be comfortable and well-cared for in order to be the most productive. The Buel Farm featured a stationary feed mixer to reduce labor and create a better forage product that will increase milk production. Well-fed cows are healthy cows when all of the forage and feed ingredients are precisely mixed together. The Hymers Family showed how a new building project could make them successful after a devastating fire. This generational farm is in the process of a transition to the younger generation and much thought went into the building of a barn that would be comfortable and labor efficient. The 88th Annual Dairy Tour was intended to be a positive and uplifting event given the marginal farm profits in recent years.

Another initiative called Family Farm Day was a collaboration between CCE Delaware/Otsego/Schoharie and the Chambers of Commerce in each county. Around 1,200 visits were made on 19 participating farms in Delaware County. Visitors were able to take wagon rides, see animals, tour facilities, buy products and enjoy a lovely day in the Catskills. This was the first year that Delaware County was able to participate due to the generous contribution from the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce that eliminated cost for the farms. Feedback from the visitors was very positive and next year’s event planning has already begun.
Cultivating Success is a series of marketing workshops targeted toward women farmers who market a product in the area. The project is a partnership between CCE and the Community Foundation of South Central New York. A core group of 10 women have been meeting regularly learning from marketing experts and targeted speakers on all aspects of marketing specialty food products, vegetables, agritourism venues and more. Expansion of the group with advanced training is on-going to critique and finalize marketing plans developed during this process. Topics include branding, labeling, direct and wholesale marketing and social media presence.

Group interaction is a key component of the project. As members become more familiar with marketing concepts, they are able to put their plan into action. A success story is Mountain View Farm’s Angela Schmid whose Airbnb supplements the dairy farm income with her marketing hook, “Have you hugged a cow lately?” She has expanded from the farm stay to camping and farm tours and leads the Cultivating Success group. Angela is an inspiration to others and has the confidence and skills she needs to take her marketing campaign to the next level.

GROWING AS A COMMUNITY

Despite abundant natural resources, many Delaware County residents do not have home gardens. In the villages, land and light are often limiting factors. On more rural properties, residents contend with rocky soils, wildlife issues, and pest/disease problems. These barriers, combined with ever-increasing availability of inexpensive food, have deterred potential gardeners. With mounting concerns about food security, there is a nationwide movement to empower families and individuals with the skills needed to grow their own clean, healthy food.

The Birdsong Community Garden is a communal, education-driven growing space. The Lamson family constructed the garden on their property in Delhi and fund CCE’s oversight of planting and day-to-day operations. We are set up for success with raised beds, fencing, irrigation, and access to restroom facilities. Volunteers do light work in exchange for a share of the harvest. The garden is also an excellent site for horticulture and nutrition workshops. Participants not only get to experience the satisfaction of growing food, but will also learn the value of fresh, healthy food.
Cornell Cooperative Extension efforts in the Watershed Agriculture Program leverage the research-based knowledge of Cornell University and the expertise and local experience of our educators to assist farms in balancing profitable, productive farming practices with water quality protection.

The Watershed Farmer Education Program supports the water quality protection and farm viability mission of the Watershed Agricultural Council by providing educational programs that enhance farmers’ abilities to manage their operations more profitably and in a way that nurtures their natural resources. Since October 2017 a total of 26 educational programs were offered with over 625 farmers and 185 farm advisors attending.

Cornell Cooperative Extension collaborated with the Watershed Agricultural Council, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District to manage 290 Whole Farm Plans. CCE staff, applying the research-based tools from Cornell University, provided support for the implementation of 236 Nutrient Management Plans and the distribution of $430,821 in nutrient management incentives. Precision Feed Management (PFM) planners helped one farm increase milk production by 15 lbs of milk, per cow, per day, resulting in an increase in milk sales of almost $50,000. Two other farms made changes in crop production and feeding practices that reduced feed cost by over $20,000 per year. PFM planners have helped farms increase udder health, improve breeding efficiency, boost home grown feed yield and quality, and eliminate over feeding of phosphorus all of which have resulted in improved production, lowered costs, and fewer nutrients susceptible to loss to the environment. CCE PFM staff are currently engaged with 45 dairy farms, developing feed management plans that focus on the farm’s goals, performing quarterly benchmarking assuring sound herd and nutrient management, and tracking water quality impacts. In the last 12 months the PFM Team have made 860 farm visits, assisted with 138 management changes, performed 115 benchmarks, and have 33 farms with Feed Management Plans. In total, PFM farms have 54,985 kg P/yr and 360,386 kg N/yr in feed nutrients under management.
Cornell Cooperative Extension
Delaware County

Growing Healthy Families, Competent Youth, Successful Farms and Stronger Communities

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities. If you have special needs, contact CCE Delaware County at 607-865-6531.