

Core Ag Program Updates for July 2026

Core Ag Programming Update:

- **96th Annual Delaware County Farm Tour:** July 13th, the Ag team hosted between 60-70 visitors at each of 3 sights; Elmside Farm (beef), Ritz Farm (dairy), and Skytop Springs Farm(trout). This year the tour focused on farms building resilient futures through innovation, stewardship, and strategic decision-making.
- **History of Ag in Delaware County:** CCE DC was asked to present on the History of Ag in the county as part of the Fair on the Square America 250 events taking place this year. Desiree gave the 1 hour TED Talk style presentation on July 24th, in the board of supervisors room, with simultaneous live broadcast. The presentation was heavily supported and developed by the entire Ag Team, with special efforts and thanks to Paul, Jim, & Rich for their heavy contributions to research! The finished presentation was 100 slides spanning agricultural developments from the late 1700s through present day.
- **Delaware County Fair Agricultural Awareness Area:** In this public facing space, the team provided general agricultural education, information and recipes to the general fair audience. The focus of this year's area was You are What You Eat, weaving in both an emphasis on local foods, as well as all of the nutrient work we do with our farmers. The area showcased the value of manure, and the differences in output between various farm livestock; tying in our Precision Feed Management work, the Enhanced Manure Management project, and our various research projects. We featured **Meet the Producers** events, one each day with a local producer sharing "a day in the life of" along with samples of food from their farm, **Milking Parlor talks** to educate the public about milking, and dairy production, **how its made talks**, discussing various ag commodity production, and **children's area**, complete with a **children's book reading & give away** by the author Everything on the Farm Poops & Poop on the Potato Farm, Kelly Lee Culbreth.



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- **Hose of an FFA Internship:** Collaborate with local FFA chapters to establish an internship opportunity for students, while also developing their Supervised Agricultural Experience.
- **Statewide Seed Pest Study:** 2 local research plots are almost wrapped up for the season
- **Dung Beetle IPM Study:** CCEDC is hosting 4 sites in the Cornell IMP Dung Beetle research study, this year in sheep flocks. Sampling runs through October.
- **Master Gardeners** “Master Gardener Help Hotline” is beginning to pick up momentum.
- **Multi- functional Demo Garden** has been thriving this summer, supporting 4H camp classes from 7/6-8/7. The garden provided fresh veggies for the dining hall during camp, a teaching space for master



gardeners and a source of fun and learning for campers!



It is set to be enrolled in Cornell Seed trials for the next growing season.

- **Horticulture Programing:** Offered a floral design class at 4C camp and 3 floral design demonstrations at the Delaware County Fair
- **Ag in the Classroom at Franklin Central School** is entering its second year, with expansion into 7th grade.
- **Farm to School-** Hosted a culinary training with the support of Harvest NY and the Brigade Culinary team at Delaware Academy to support scratch cooking featuring local, in season foods.
- **Ag in the Classroom Programming-** Successfully delivered 8 sessions of summer CROP programming at Walton and Charolette Valley Central School Districts.



- **Delaware Bounty-** Second edition is in print! Roughly 1000 copies already in circulation!

Enhanced Manure Management Program: - Paul Cerosaletti Project Coordinator

- **EMM Project Implementation reaches record levels:**

In collaboration with APA, as of 9/1/2026 the EMM has applied 17,392,022 million gallons of liquid manure, injected on 2,412 acres, and 4,495 tons of semi-solid manure applied on 567 acres. ***The amount of liquid manure applied already exceeds that applied in all of 2025 by 2.6 million gallons, and has also exceeded our 2025 injection acreage total.*** A big thank you to Albanos Precision Application (APA) for making major equipment investments and working very hard to make this happen. To date in 2026, we have issued \$618,736 in manure application incentive payments to farmers to engage the services of APA to do this work.



- **EMM Project Implements Grant to Fund Grassland Manure Injector:**

Paul worked with the the DCSWCD to implement a short-term grant opportunity through the Upper Susquehanna Coalition to fund the \$79,500 purchase of a manure injection tool bar developed specifically for sod injection. APA taken possession of this tool bar and will have it in service in time for the Precision Manure Field Day.



- **EMM Project Funding Expands:** In addition to the on-going USDA Conservation Innovation Grant, Paul has been collaborating with the DCSWCD to finalize the contract with the NYS Department of Ag and Markets for the \$2.85 million Climate Resilient Farming grant awarded to DCSWCD for implementing EMM through the 2029 growing season. Additionally, DCSWCD was recently successful in getting approval for reallocating \$440,000 of funding from the US Army Corp of Engineers to the EMM project. This additional funding will allow the EMM project to incentivize increased volumes of manure to help farmers make better use of their manure nutrients to cut fertilizer costs and improve crop yields while benefiting the environment.
- **Precision Manure Field Day planned:** In a collaboration between the DCSWCD, CCEDC WAC, the Cornell Nutrient Management Speat Program and Cornell Pro Dairy, a Precision Manure Field Day has been planned for September 9th 2026 at Joleanna Holsteins in Unadilla. In a collaboration with New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health John May Safety Fund (affiliated with Bassett Hospital), up to 20 NYS farms will receive manure gas safety monitors and training to help keep their farm staff safe. Last year over 100 people attended this event, and we are planning for 120 or more this year.

