

Human Ecology Team Report September 2026

Smart Energy Choices – Sam Edel

- August outreach efforts focused heavily on the Delaware County Fair, where the Powerhouse experienced strong attendance and provided an opportunity to connect with residents about available energy programs and resources.
- Several residents who had completed projects through the program in previous years also volunteered to share testimonials about their experiences, providing valuable examples of the program's impact within the region.
- September efforts will focus on following up with both new and existing residents and helping them move through the program and toward project completion before the winter season.
- The Southern Tier is also exploring a renewed partnership with The Impact Project, with Sam continuing to lead this effort for our region. The previous partnership has demonstrated promising results, with 27% of resident referrals resulting in completed projects to date, and additional projects still underway. The team hopes to build upon this success through a renewed partnership and continue increasing the number of residents who successfully complete home energy projects.

EFNEP / Nutrition Education – Amy Van Alstyne

- Summer programming included a six-lesson CROP nutrition education series in Stamford, reaching 15 youth in grades 3–8.
- Amy also partnered with Dove to offer a jam-making workshop at 4-H Camp Shankitunk, providing hands-on education in safe food preservation practices.
- August was heavily focused on the Delaware County Fair, including program set-up and breakdown, nutrition and food demonstrations, and food preservation demonstrations throughout the week.
- Planning for the upcoming school year is now underway. Amy participated in meetings with Sidney Central School and CROP partners to discuss continued programming and collaboration.
- September will include participation in school open houses and CROP parent meetings, finalizing program schedules, and preparing for the first round of fall nutrition education classes, with a goal of beginning programming around October 1

Human Ecology – Dove Karn

- The Delaware County Fair was a major focus for Human Ecology in August. The Human Ecology Building hosted six community partner booths and provided a variety of demonstrations and interactive educational opportunities throughout the six-day fair. Activities included food and food preservation demonstrations, flower-arranging demonstrations, and children's activities offered in partnership with Funky Farmhouse and

Hanford Mills Museum. Engagement throughout the week was strong, with more than 4,000 visitors coming through the Human Ecology Building over the six days. The fair continues to provide an important opportunity to showcase CCE programs and community partners while connecting directly with Delaware County residents and visitors.

- Planning and coordination are also nearly complete for the pilot of Yoga in the Park, with Stamford and Walton serving as the initial communities. This new initiative will provide free community yoga classes, creating an accessible opportunity for residents to participate in physical activity in a welcoming outdoor environment. The pilot will allow Human Ecology to assess participation, gather feedback, and explore opportunities to expand the program to additional Delaware County communities.
- The Delaware County Rural Healthcare Alliance (DCRHA) is undergoing a rebranding and communications refresh designed to strengthen its visibility and better connect residents and community partners with health information and resources. Work is underway to develop a new website, expanded social media presence, and updated printed outreach materials. Together, these efforts will create a more cohesive public presence for the Alliance and provide additional opportunities to promote health resources, community programs, and the collaborative work of DCRHA partners throughout Delaware County.