The year has started off on a sad note when the 4-H Friends & Extension lost Bob Bettini to complications from a car wreck. Bob was an amazing man and had built a great mentoring program. I did not realize Bob was an orphan and he will certainly be missed. The mentoring program is an important program we hope to continue.

The Yancey Ag Center study is conducting a consumer survey to gauge local interest (individuals/households) in buying local produce and meats. Hard copies of the survey have been sent home with FFA students. The survey is also being converted to a web based one to seek input from all of Yancey County. Smithson Mills is also conducting face-to-face meetings with restaurants in our county and other key stakeholders who may represent potential markets for local produce. $13,340 has been raised to date for the cost of the study. A request has been made to STEP for $2000, and to NC A&T for $5000 to complete the study.

A breakfast is planned for January 28th, at the Town Center for those producers who responded to the producer survey. Smithson will talk about the project and answer farmer’s questions.

Plans are also underway to begin a Jr. 4-H Livestock/Dairy judging team/club. An interest meeting is planned for January 31st at 6 PM at the Extension Building. I am personally very excited about launching this new endeavor and we have been working closely with our FFA on this.

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Yancey County Extension Center
James Edward Magner, III
County Extension Director

Agriculture & Natural Resources
Stanley Holloway, Agriculture Agent

Agriculture & Natural Resources
Adam McCurry, NC A&T Agriculture Technician
farmers about this project. The response we have received has been positive to this point. Growers seem to be very pleased with what we are working on. Our annual plant sale also kicked off this month. Not only is this a great fundraiser for our programs it also allows us to meet people and let them know what we do. Stanley Holloway and myself have scheduled our spring workshops. We will be offering a total of fourteen workshops covering a wide range of topics. We are going to do everything we can to make this year a great one for Yancey County farmers.

**Family & Consumer Science**
_Beverly B. Nelson, M.Ed., Family & Consumer Sciences Agent_

**Yancey 4-H Narratives**

**4-H AfterSchool:**

**Bald Creek Academy**

**Susie Hedrick, Glenna Taylor, 4-H Program Assistants**

January! What a month. Due to snow, we have had 4 days at Bald Creek. The school has been pleased that the 4-H AfterSchool program has been able to operate when they had school.

Richard Chuvala came on January 3 and worked with the students on teambuilding. Linda Semon was able to come on the 4th and made flashlights with the kids. The kids enjoyed making the flashlights and several mentioned this would help them in class because their assignment at the end of the week was to make a flashlight and bring it to school. We also made a thermometer and discussed the weather, temperature, etc. Beverly Nelson, FCS Agent, is coming January 18 to continue her lessons on manners and focusing on respect in this lesson. For the rest of the month, weather permitting, FFA “PALS”, Jo Simpson (EFNEP), the bookmobile, and Richard are scheduled to come to the school.

You are always welcome to come by and visit or volunteer in the After School program.

**Bee Log Afterschool**

**Debra Erickson, Daniel Semon, 4-H Program Assistants**

This month came in like a lion with more snow than we can handle. We kept our students busy with making thermometers, teambuilding sessions and learning Improvisation. Linda & Sybil came out to hold our Discovery Day meeting and teach the students how to make flashlights out of cardboard rolls. They enjoyed seeing how an electrical circuit is built. Rich, from Mountain Challenge, comes every Thursday now, to take the older students and teach them valuable lessons in getting along and no bullying. Next month we hope to have more time at Bee Log where we will start to look at what to grow in the greenhouse.

**Mountain Challenge**

**Richard Chuvala, 4-H Program Assistant**

Hello! January has continued to stall our program with several snowstorms, but we have managed to make it out to all of our sites at least a couple of times. At the elementary and middle schools we have completed several team-building exercises that are helping the kids to develop leadership and communication skills. We have also done several icebreakers to help loosen our groups’ inhibitions and to further develop our group dynamic.
The new semester brings us a new group of students with the Mtn. Heritage SOAR class. This semester we have 12 new students who we will be working with. We have spent our time getting to know one another and I am challenging these students to think outside of the box with our activities. We will also be working on developing long term and short term goals.

Despite all of our bad weather we have pushed forward and had a pretty good month. Hopefully the worst of the weather is behind us and we are looking forward to another great month of Mtn. Challenge!

4-H Discovery

Linda Semon, 4-H Program Associate

4-H Discovery Club members have been earning their community service badges and are making motions to do even more for their community. The Clearmont 4-H Rangers Club wants to collect food at their school for the Reconciliation House. Without being prompted they asked, “How can we get food to people that don’t have any?” They had already made cards for the nursing home and soldiers overseas.

The activity this month was about electric safety and how an electric circuit works. Participants made a flashlight out of a toilet paper roll, plastic cup, 9 volt battery & battery connector and a Christmas light. Youth were challenged to take their project home and teach someone younger than them some safety tips about electricity.

4-H School Enrichment

Sybil Chapman, 4-H Program Assistant

This month has been a time to do reports and planning for the New Year. I have returned to Cane River Middle School to continue CareerSmarts. The students are doing a self-assessment to learn about themselves. This knowledge will help direct them to a career that is most suited to their personality.

I have finished Character Counts with Bald Creek second grade. They learned about Trustworthiness and Caring in January.

Linda and I have been able to go to some of the schools to do Discovery clubs. This month the theme is Electricity. We made a flashlight out of a toilet paper roll. The students learned about circuits and have a flashlight that works to take home with them.

4-H Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)

Jo Simpson, 4-H Program Associate

Despite the weather and school closings, 17 Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (Youth EFNEP) lessons were given to students at Bald Creek and Micaville. Children gained knowledge in hand washing techniques, building their defenses against the cold and flu season, planning healthy meals and snacks, food safety, and much more. Children enjoyed making snacks such as fruit kabobs, fruit salad, and whole grain trail mix.

This upcoming month I will be traveling to Raleigh for curriculum training. I will be presenting a “Food for Thought” lesson to other Nutrition Program Assistants and Associates in the state.

Yancey 4-H Friends

Due to the death of Bob Bettini who directed the program, this position is now vacant. There are currently 3 matches and they are continuing with the program. Tres Magner had a meeting Jan. 26th with the current mentors to get some feedback of what they were doing. They were very encouraged and want to continue the one on one mentoring program. The manager matches a mentor with a youth who is referred by schools, DSS, court counselor and even parents who have a need for this program.

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