Afterschool finished up another successful year. Parent evaluations were very positive about the program. The program helps provide a healthy snack, homework help, and a variety of educational enrichment activities, guest speakers, and field trips. It also offers peace of mind to working families to know their children are not home alone.

Two proposals were presented to the NC STEP. One for $20,000 to help refurbish an Ag Center and go after matching funds. The other proposal was for $31,000 to help buy plastic bedders, portable irrigation systems, and plant setting machines. Small framers could use the equipment to help them increase production, and keep their cost down. Small fees would be collected to keep the equipment maintained. STEP should be deciding on proposals in the next two months. The Specialty Crop Block Grant for $60,000 should also be announced in the next two or three months.

Yancey also had four gold medal winners in the 4-H District activity Day. Linda Semon will share more about our winners.

We are pleased to have our new employee Jeremy Delisle, associate area agent in agriculture (shared with Mitchell County). He is in our office Monday and Wednesday, with Fridays being flexible between the two counties.

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

Agriculture & Natural Resources
Stanley Holloway, Agriculture Agent

The very first Extension Master Gardeners class, in partnership with Mayland Community College, Yancey Campus, began June 1. Adam McCurry and I participated in the first GAPs (Good Agricultural Practices) audit of one of the farms in Yancey County. I’m pleased to announce we now have our first GAPs Certified and audited farm in the county. We are now more familiar with the process and able to advise other producers who are seeking certification. The agricultural staff from Yancey, Mitchell, and Avery Counties participated in a joint meeting with Mayland Community College and others to look at the potential of a regionalized agricultural project that could boost the economic stability of small farms in the area. The developments from this meeting and subsequent projects could enhance our current efforts and expand its producer and marketing opportunities. I also participated/assisted with a regional Wildlife Management meeting held in Madison County with participants from Madison, Buncombe and Yancey Counties. The North Carolina Association of County Agricultural Agents Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference was held in Salisbury, NC. This conference is an excellent professional development meeting where agents get the opportunities to
share and learn about agricultural programming efforts from throughout the state. Pesticide recertification classes (5) were conducted providing continuing education credits for both Private and Commercial Pesticide Applicators. In total, 75 pesticide applicators received recertification credits towards maintaining their pesticide applicator certification. I also assisted with the Toe Cane Beekeepers annual “A Day in the Beeyard” field day held at Joe and Loree Capps Apiary in the Pensacola Community. Approximately 50 local beekeepers attended the Saturday event which included lots of networking, fellowship, and sharing of information as well as several hive inspections. The WNC Wool Pool was held at the new WNC Livestock Sales Arena in Canton, NC. The Wool Pool is a marketing arrangement with Mid-States Wool Growers Cooperative where local producers provide wool on consignment and receive payment once the wool is sorted and graded at Mid-States facility in Ohio. This year just over 2300 lbs of wool was taken in from wool producers in WNC. In addition to the above, ten (11) field visits were conducted during the month on a variety of topics including: tobacco (2), general home landscape (2), commercial vegetable production (3), and home gardening (4). In addition, over 45 office visits and numerous telephone and e-mail consultations were conducted during the month regarding a wide variety of agricultural topics.

Agriculture & Natural Resources
Jeremy Delisle, Area Agent, Mitchell/Yancey Counties

June is generally a very busy month for producers and Extension Agents alike. This year has proven to be no exception. This month I have focused primarily on reestablishing contact and relationships with growers and landowners in the counties. I have made multiple farm visits to talk with growers, gain an understanding of their individual production systems and markets, and try to understand how the Cooperative Extension Service can best meet their needs. Production information is always in demand by growers. Additionally, marketing assistance is increasingly needed. Food safety regulations have become an increasingly important factor, as many markets now require grower certifications. My programming focus will primarily revolve around sound business and stewardship practices for producers, sustainable production practices, identifying profitable crops and lucrative markets, and building community through supporting local agriculture.

Agriculture & Natural Resources
Adam McCurry, NC A&T Agriculture Technician

Yancey County Farmers are in the full swing of the growing season. To this point the season has been pretty good. We have had some weather damage to some crops. One tomato producer lost approximately 2,000 plants due to hail damage. Extension was able to help him find replacement plants, although his crop will be later than normal it will not be a total loss. In June we had our first local farmer get third party audited for Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). Most large or chain produce retailers are now requiring that the grower they buy from go though the (GAP) audit. Extension worked closely with this grower on his preparations for the audit. He passed the audit with a score of 100%! This will allow him to expand his markets, which will more than triple his farm income. Hopefully more local farmers will see the value of this and consider it for their operations.
Yancey 4-H Narratives

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

Jo Simpson, 4-H Program Associate

For the school year 2010-2011 youth EFNEP has successfully met with all 6 elementary schools grades K thru 5. I gave my last lesson on the last day of school. Nutrition classes and fun games such as “Pyramid Jeopardy” and “Think Your Drink” were given to the 5th grade classes at Burnsville and Bald Creek. Youth had a great time playing as well as myself; I get to be Vanna White. They were amazed to discover how many pounds of sugar they consumed in a year by drinking one or two sodas per week and even more amazed to see the hidden fats and salts in foods.

The cooking/heritage camp “Cooking Up the Good Ole Times” was held June 20-23. All had a good ole time making chicken & dumplings, chocolate bread pudding, baked ziti, eggplant Parmesan, apple dumplings and more. Campers learned the basics of cooking and food safety and also learned about the new “Choose My Plate” icon that came out a few weeks ago. We discussed the difference between portion sizes and serving sizes and planned a days worth of meals by using the “Choose My Plate”. They relived times of old with a quilt walking tour and visited the Rush Wray museum, NuWray Inn, and Chamber of Commerce. Marvin Holland gave them a tour of city hall as well as the county courthouse. While on a picnic at Ray Cort Park campers had fun riding on horse and buggy and had great time swimming. I believe camp was a huge success.

4-H School Enrichment

Sybil Chapman, 4-H Program Assistant

June has given me time to catch up on paperwork. I have been able to enter my ERS numbers into the system January through May. I picked up the school enrichment kits from all the teachers at the schools the first week of June and checked them in.

I also went to the schools that did First Aid the first of June for fifth grades. Firemen, Rescue Squad and EMTs volunteer to teach Fire Safety to fifth graders and I go out and take pictures.

4-H Discovery

Linda Semon, 4-H Program Associate

Three 4-H youth from Yancey County attended the 2011 Citizenship North Carolina Focus, June 13-15. At the event this year, the youth learned about citizenship, how to meet your legislator, building a state budget and government agencies. They visited the NC History Museum and were treated to a special dinner where Justice Paul Newby was the guest speaker. They participated in a mock version of the TV program NC Spin starring Tom Campbell. Also the news about the budget veto and legislative override made exciting conversation during their visits with Representatives Ray Rapp and Phillip Frye at the House on Wednesday morning. Our youth developed an action plan to help other youth in their county. I had the pleasure of serving on the state leadership team for this year’s event and I helped conduct three workshops there.

The 2011 4-H West District Activity Day was held June 23rd in Cullowhee, NC. This event recognized 4-H members for their achievements in public speaking and entertainment. Yancey County 4-H members winning gold medals in the presentation competition were Sarah Creech (Small & Companion Animals, ages 14-18), Brandy Daugherty (Livestock & Dairy Production, ages 11-13), Payton McCoye (Careers & Entrepreneurship, ages 14-18) and Hope Robinson (Small & Companion Animals, ages 11-13). We congratulate their hard work and dedication to their 4-H project areas and the information they have prepared to share with others.

I attended the second half of the “GIS/GPS” training in Greensboro June 1-2 at NC A&T State University.

Mountain Challenge

Richard Chuvula, 4-H Program Assistant

June began with gathering information about our participants so we can determine their progress for the year. We are still waiting on one school to get us the required information and then we will be ready to report. We have also been very busy
working on the details of a new part of Mtn. Challenge that will be working with solely court referred youth. We are planning to meet two days a week, one day with only boys and then one day with only girls. Participants will be bused from their school to the Extension Office where they will meet from 3:30-5:30 each day. While involved in our program they will learn valuable life skills that they can use to avoid repeating their mistakes and also learn vocational skills that may be of use immediately or in the future. We are very excited about being able to offer this new program through Mtn. Challenge.

I also had the opportunity to once again work with the Latino Healthy Teens team to show their parents how to cook a healthy, quick and delicious stir-fry. The parents learned how to cut the meat and vegetables as well as how to make the marinade for the stir-fry. All of the parents agreed that it was really tasty and easy to make!

The Green Team has stayed busy as well, volunteering their time to on various projects in order to earn scholarship money for the summer camps. They have been to the community garden and have also worked at helping to clean up around our office. The team is really working hard and they are certainly making a difference for themselves and their community!

Below you will see some of the Green Team planting sunflowers along the fence at Avondale. This is a beautification project for Yancey 4-H as they learn how volunteering in the community can mean so much to many, not just our county but also visitors to our area. They will see the results later this year as they ride into town on the west side of Main Street.

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