Yancey County Extension Center

James Edward Magner, III
County Extension Director

Yancey Extension was awarded a $1000 Innovated Grant from The Family & Consumer Sciences Foundation to help low income families learn to can food. The grant will enable Yancey Extension to buy several canners so families will not have that expense. Extension will be partnering with the Dig In and other social services agencies to conduct the classes and canning sessions.

Farm Bureau has granted the Green Team $1000 to help with statewide 4-H Events. To date the 17 members of the Green Team have donated over 347 hours to various community projects just since March!

The Yancey Ag Center project has had three rounds of questions from the Federal level and this seems to be a good sign. The request is for $68,500. Funds will be used for refrigeration, a washing and sorting tables, supplies, and technical assistance. The Ag Center project was presented to STEP and has been well received. This request is for $20,000. These funds would be used as a match to go after further grants.

We have two new Afterschool staff, Gail England and Elizabeth McIntosh. They will be working at Bee Log. Bald Creek already has seven on the waiting list. Afterschool is a true blessing to the working families at Bald Creek and Bee Log.

Agriculture & Natural Resources
Stanley Holloway, Agriculture Agent

The summer months have been quite busy with a number of local and regional programming events as well as a number of professional development opportunities. One of the highlights in July was the week long 4-H Conservation Summer Camp entitled “Trails and Tails”. Fifteen local youth participated in the 4 day educational camp. As one of the adult volunteers said, “It’s wonderful that Extension is offering something for the youth that gets them away from the Wii’s, tv’s, and video games and allows them to explore and enjoy the great outdoors.” The youth learned about wildlife management techniques that included food plots, habitat requirements and harvest management, trapping techniques, forestry practices to improve wildlife habitat, fishery biology, and fishing techniques. Among the many highlights of the week was an air rifle and bow shoot provided by the Western Carolina Quality Deer Management Program and visits with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission’s local Wildlife Biologist.
Early in August, I attended a three-day Livestock Agent In-Service Training held in Raleigh. Also early in the month, I along with three local growers attended the Annual Tomato Field Day held at the Mountain Horticultural Research and Extension Center in Mills River. At this event, agents and growers received up-to-date production information from researchers and were able to view actual research projects in the field. Mid-month, I had the opportunity to travel to Overland Park, KS to attend the National Association of County Agricultural Agents’ Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference. While at the conference, I represented North Carolina as a voting delegate in the business session and attending a variety of professional improvement sessions that included sessions on utilizing new technologies to reach Extension clientele, implementing local foods educational programming, food safety education, and livestock production. At the end of the month, I completed the first Extension Master Gardener training held in Yancey County. Twelve local residents participated in the 13-week training program put on in partnership with Mayland Community College Yancey Campus. The class met weekly and participants received up to date and detailed information and training on a variety of home horticultural topics. The course culminated with a 50 question final exam. I’m happy to report that all participants passed with a grade of 90 or better. One of the requirements for participation in Master Gardener Program is that in exchange for 40 hours of in-depth training, participants must contribute 40 hours of volunteer service to Cooperative Extension or related efforts. A number of the participants are well on their way to fulfilling their service hours by volunteering their time at the “Dig In” Community Garden and other gardening/landscaping efforts throughout the county.

Another highlight from the past couple of months is that through Cooperative Extension assistance, another local produce grower has gained market space in a local grocery store chain. The producer is providing tomatoes and peppers to five Ingles stores in the area. Efforts are ongoing to increase marketing opportunities for area producers to sell their products on a larger local basis at a premium price.

In addition to the above I conducted 24 farm visits on a variety of topics including: burley tobacco (5), commercial vegetables (4), home fruit (3), commercial horticulture (4), and general home garden/landscape (8), as well as numerous office visits and telephone/e-mail correspondences regarding a wide array of agricultural topics.

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

July has remained busy working with producers and community members on a wide variety of topics and projects. The importance of a localized aggregation center continues to resurface in talks with producers and with potential markets. Proper food safety certifications are now a common cost of doing business with many commercial markets. GAP certification in a recognized term that most producers realize will be necessary to continue in today’s marketplace. This month (Aug) I took a group of producers over to Madison Farms for a lesson on washing, grading, packaging, labeling and storing potatoes. These potatoes ultimately ended up going into Asheville markets. Multiple tasks and objectives were met revolving around to aggregation center. Budgets were revised in order to remain competitive within pending grant cycles. Work continued on the Farmers’ Market Promotional Program grant, focused mainly on the development of a website housing information on local growers and the products that they have available. I delivered a lesson on the principles of landscape design to the Master Gardeners class. This was my second opportunity to interact with them. I was also able to meet with the Extension Advisory board to gain an understanding of their role as advocates for Extension, as well as their current needs as our stakeholders. I have worked on various school garden projects throughout Mitchell and Yancey Counties, attended trainings on livestock production and field crops, as well as responded to multiple questions from community members in both counties ranging from Apples to Zucchinis and everything in between. One thing is for sure; there is seldom a dull moment in the life of an Extension Agent!
Agriculture & Natural Resources  
Adam McCurry, NC A&T Agriculture Technician

Summer is almost gone; it is hard to believe that Fall is just around the corner. A large number of local producers are beginning late harvest. This month Yancey Extension has been working with these producers on preparing for harvest. Some of the growers are supplying markets that they have not sold to in past. This can cause issues as growers try to adjust to the requirements of the new markets. Extension has worked with these growers to help them make the necessary adjustments. We have also been planning a series of Fall workshops. These workshops are designed to help producers prepare for next years growing season. We try to offer these workshops in late Fall or early Spring so growers can plan ahead. During August 10th - 12th I attend the annual NCA&T Faculty and Staff Institute in Greensboro. This was a great opportunity to meet with other Extension personal from across the state and discuss what they where doing in their counties. On August 18th and 19th I attend the Association of Extension Program Assistants, Associates, and Technicians (NCAEPAAT) conference in Blowing Rock. There where several workshops that I attended where I learned some thing that will help me better serve the farmers of Yancey County.

4-H Narratives

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

The North Carolina Association of Program Assistants, Associates and Technicians (NCAEPAAT )Annual State Conference was held Aug 18-19 at the Meadowbrook Inn in Blowing Rock with the West District Association as host. As this year’s State President Elect my duties were to oversee the conference. Much planning, organization and work has gone into this year’s conference but I may add much fun went into it, too. I am very proud to say the conference was excellent, one of the best. The Meadowbrook Inn was exceptional in food and service as well as having clean and updated rooms. Tommy Burleson, retired basketball star, and Sheri Schwab, our new NC State’s Director of County Operations were speakers. There was a talent show directly after the award’s banquet as well as a hospitality room. Dr. Daniel Barron hosted a workshop on grant writing, Tammara Talley’s had a workshop on family finances, Tres Magner hosted a workshop on Love and Logic and John Dorner facilitated 2 workshops on the new Google Aps applications.  

Election for state offices is always held at conference. I am proud to say I will be serving as next year’s NCAEPAAT State President. I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve my fellow colleagues this year. Holding a state office has helped my growth tremendously in the area of professional development.

School has begun this month and so as 4-H EFNEP. Letters were sent to teachers about my program being back along with a summary of last year’s impacts. Impacts were tremendous 88% of Yancey students now eat a variety of nutritious foods and 92% gained knowledge in human nutrition. Impacts like these will definitely show favor in the fight against childhood obesity. Bee Log and Clearmont Elementary are scheduled to begin my program after Labor Day.
Mountain Challenge

Richard Chuvala, 4-H Program Assistant

We started the month by taking some of our participants to Betsy-Jeff Penn 4-H Summer Camp. Participants had a great time doing camp activities varying from canoeing, riding horses, swimming, teambuilding, ropes courses and making new friends with campers from other parts of the state. All of the campers were excited about coming again next year!

We have also remained busy planning our programs for the upcoming school year. This year Mtn. Challenge will be at Burnsville Elementary, Bald Creek Elementary and Mtn. Heritage High School. We are also excited to be offering a new component for only court referred youth. Starting in October we will meet with participants once a week at the cooperative extension office. We will be focusing on enhancing social skills and really focus on developing their vocational and life skills. We plan to have volunteers from throughout our community to come in and share their knowledge and experiences with our participants. I am really looking forward to working with this new part to our program.

We are scheduled to start at Mountain Heritage at the end of August and will be at the elementary schools in September. We have certainly stayed very busy this month and I am looking forward to a very busy September.

4-H School Enrichment

Sybil Chapman, 4-H Program Assistant

August has been a month of preparation for beginning School Enrichment in the schools. I delivered the packets to all the elementary schools to let each teacher know what is offered for their grade. After the teacher faxes their choices to me, I deliver the appropriate kit, or set a date and time to teach Character Counts in the classroom.

The West District of NCAEPAAT sponsored a state conference in Blowing Rock. Workshops were taught to keep Program Assistants, Program Associates, and Technicians up to date on training. I feel the conference was a very big success and was enjoyed by all.

4-H Discovery

Linda Semon, 4-H Program Associate

The 4-H Green Team glaze bowls for the Empty Bowls project to help the Dig-In Community Garden. Our 4-H Baa-Humm Club members are preparing the llamas at Wellspring Farm to compete at the Mountain State Fair.

Hope Robinson a Yancey County 4-H member represented us at the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners 2011 State Conference in Concord. She and a group of over 87 youth and adults from 71 counties...
attended the second annual NCACC Youth Summit. It was a great conference and all of the attendees worked very hard
during the event. During the 2010 NCACC Youth Summit conference attendees developed a list of 10 issues, which were
facing youth across the state. This year attendees developed a list of solutions to each of the issues.

New middle school enrichment programs, supplied by NCA&T, focus on science, technology and engineering with
equipment and activities for teachers to use with the students. I am contacting the teachers to find out who would like to
use this curriculum. Enrollments have begun for 4-H Discovery Clubs and meeting dates are being scheduled.

The Faculty/Staff Institute at NCA&T State University was August 10 -12 and while there I received training in
robotics by a Lego representative. I attended our North Carolina Association of Extension Program Assistants, Associates
and Technicians August 17-19 where I was elected State Vice President.

**4-H AfterSchool:**

**Bald Creek Afterschool**

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

The After School program at Bald Creek began August 22. The current enrollment is 28 with students from
Kindergarten through Fifth grade. There are several new students enrolled this year in addition to our regular students
that have been in the program since the beginning. We spent the first days getting acquainted with each other and with
our daily routine. We also began our Recycling program again this year. The students take turns collecting the recyclable
plastic and paper from the classrooms each day and deposit them in the bins outside the school. These items are picked
up each Wednesday and taken to the recycle center. Linda Semon began the 4-H Discovery club for this year. She visits
with the students once each month and engages the students in various learning experiences. This month they made bird
feeders with pinecones, peanut butter, and bird seed. We are planning several other activities and field trips for next
month.

**Bee Log Afterschool**

*Elizabeth McIntosh & Gail England, 4-H Program Assistants*

Bee Log started their afterschool program Aug. 29th with 24 children already enrolled. Both of us attended Bee Log’s
open house Aug. 18th and almost attained our full enrollment at that time. With both of us being new to the afterschool
atmosphere, we have shadowed Susie and Glenna, Bee Log teachers, and visited a learning center in Hudson, NC where
we brought back so many ideas. New activities, field trips and additional learning centers are being planned. We hope to
make this a very successful year.

---

_North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation. North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating._