In October the 4-H Green Team helped with the Empty Bowls Dinner to support the Dig In Community Garden. The event raised $5300. The 4-Hers have done a great job working with the garden this past year.

Work continues on the Ag Center. A draft name and mission statement are almost finalized. These will be forth coming. Workshops are being planned to help make sure farmers are ready for 2012, as we work to increase production. Extension and Mayland Community College continue to work closely to make sure farmers in Yancey have all the educational tools they will need to be successful.

Completed my second series of parenting workshops for DSS referred parents. The classes help introduce new skills and techniques that can be useful on a daily basis. The classes are an important step for some families to be reunited with their children.

On a sad note Norma Chrisawn lost her husband of 43 years. Please keep her and her boys in your thoughts and prayers.

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

October has been a time for planning, education and celebration. For many producers, the production season is winding down and now is a time to give thanks for the harvest, evaluate the progress made in the past year, learn as much as possible between now and next season, and plan so that we might be even more productive and efficient in the season to come.

On October alone, I have spoken to over 300 children about some facet of agriculture here in the High Country. From participating in our annual Ag Awareness Field Day where 4th Graders learn about ATV and Tractor Safety to speaking to individual classrooms about our ongoing strawberry school gardens, children all around Mitchell and Yancey Counties are learning about Ag!

On the last day of September, we held our 4th Annual Farm City Awards Banquet. Just over 100 farmers and their families attended. Awards included: Ag Business of the year, Nursery Producer of the year, Educator of the year, Youth in Agriculture, Livestock Producer of the year, and Pioneer of Agriculture. We had an excellent speaker from Farm Bureau who spoke about supporting local agriculture and the 10% Campaign (http://www.ncsu.edu/project/nc10percent/index.php).

I did meet regularly with the steering committee of the Farmers Market Promotional Program Grand and submitted our midterm report. The committee will meet again the first week of November to plan
out goals and priorities for 2012. Market representatives have reported an increase in sales of approximately 25% since the implementation of the project in February 2011.

Jeff Vance and I have implemented a series of Ag Business classes called Starting or Refining and Agricultural Business. We will hold the second of three sessions tonight (10/24). The main theme of the series is to urge producers to know their costs related to production so that they can ensure profitable ventures.

I have continued to work with the Yancey Agricultural Center Working Group. At this point we are searching for a suitable location, developing the mission statement, vision, bylaws, etc. Some grant funding is beginning to come in.

I am also serving as a track leader for the NC Vegetable Growers Association annual conference and speaking at the event.

I will also serve as a track leader for the Fruit Production and Commercial Growers Tracks at the 2012 Organic Growers School. Planning for these conferences is completed and underway, respectively.

I am also serving on the steering committee for the 2012 WNC AgOptions Grant Program. We do anticipate funding for 2012 and hope to announce details very soon.

In addition to the responsibilities listed, I am continually working individually with producers to help them refine, plan, adapt and move forward with their operations.

Agriculture & Natural Resources
Stanley Holloway, Agriculture Agent

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

As we near the end of October local farmers are finishing up most of their row crop production. Due to this the number of questions regarding production issues have decreased greatly this month. Most of the people that I have talked with the past few weeks are making plans for next year’s crops. I have visited three growers this month who plan to try different crops next year; these are crops they are not familiar with therefore I will be working closely with them on any issues they might have. A workshop designed to educate farmers about NC laws pertaining to farm vehicle/equipment use on public roads was conducted by NC Highway Patrol and hosted by Yancey Extension. With nineteen participates, the reviews where very good. Stanley Holloway and I have begun to plan workshops for early 2012 with the growers and county needs addressed.

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

October ends with 167 students from Bee Log and Clearmont Elementary completing the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program’s (EFNEP) six-hour lesson plans. Students learned about the new CHOOSE MY PLATE food icon and how it helped to plan healthier meals and control portion sizes. They compared similarities and differences from MYPYRAMID and set goals for themselves to make half of their plate’s fruits and vegetables.
EFNEP began teaching at South Toe Elementary this month along with all 4th grade classes in the county. The second nine weeks is when the 4th grade students study nutrition in science and the 4th grade teachers appreciate my program in helping teach this subject.

I traveled to Raleigh this month for the fall NCAEPAAT meeting. I am this year’s State President.

Mountain Challenge

Richard Chuvala, 4-H Program Assistant

Our program is now at Burnsville Elementary, Bald Creek Elementary and Mtn. Heritage High School. Getting to know one another is the focus at Burnsville Elementary. Bald Creek Elementary is focusing on the value of making good choices. Mtn. Heritage youth have been doing team-building exercises and as an incentive to continue their education, they toured the campus of Appalachian State University. During the upcoming month we will continue our series on the value of making good choices at the elementary schools and MHHS will visit UNC-Asheville and continue team building. Mtn. Challenge will launch a program for court referred youth in November. The goal is to develop basic life skills through the use of curriculum and community based volunteers. We are very excited to be able to offer this new program for the youth of Yancey County!

4-H School Enrichment

Sybil Chapman, 4-H Program Assistant

This month I have taught Character Counts weekly at Bald Creek, Burnsville, Clearmont, Micaville and South Toe. There were eleven second and third grade classes for a total of 218 students weekly.

I have coordinated with Firemen in each district to teach Fire Safety. Fire Safety is taught to all third grades except Micaville. There will be a total of 164 youth who will learn about fire safety in October and November.

4-H Discovery

Linda Semon, 4-H Program Associate

4-H Discovery Club members learned how to prepare for Emergencies during unexpected events. This is Emergency Preparedness month and each member received a booklet with valuable information from the Ready Kids site from FEMA.

A National 4-H Youth Science Day “Wired for Wind” experiment was conducted with all the eighth grade classes at Cane River Middle School.

Our 4-H Green Team helped at the Empty Bowls Dinner October 21st. This fundraiser for the Dig In! Community Garden was a great success. The Green Team put in over 50 hours of volunteer work to help our community with this project.

The Micaville Magic afterschool program visited the Energy Xchange. The FFA Pals invited us to do an educational workshop for the teaching team. A 4-H GIS/GPS project to teach students the concepts of ground truthing and remote sensing was taught with Nelda Phillips. 4-H Volunteer Daniel Semon taught the Agriculture classes at MHHS the basics of Cooperative Extension. A 4-H Family Fun Day at Swannanoa 4-H Education Center was held October 22nd with 4-Hers from Yancey County attending.

The North Carolina Association of Extension Program Assistants, Associates and Technicians was October 17th.
4-H AfterSchool:

**Bald Creek Afterschool**

Susie Hedrick & Glenna Taylor, 4-H Program Assistants

Bald Creek Afterschool has had an educational but fun month for October. The kids had the opportunity to check out books from the Bookmobile, make straw “airplanes”, play multiplication bingo, make apple salad and run an obstacle course with Jo Simpson, do team and character building activities with Richard Chuvala, visit The Orchard at Altapass and read aloud to each other. Dr. Tipton was visiting Bald Creek Elementary and had the opportunity to hear them read. They were surprised and excited to see him at their afterschool!

All of the children enjoyed the visit to The Orchard where they went on a hay ride, heard interesting stories, learned about the Monarch butterfly (the butterflies are going to Mexico this year), saw an active observation bee hive, and enjoyed singing and dancing with Ruth and Terry who were providing the entertainment. Jeremy DeLisle is coming to help the kids measure their strawberry plants and check on their progress. Linda Semon will be coming to meet with the 4-H Discovery Club.

As always the students receive a snack each day, time to do their homework, and have outside playtime.

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**Bee Log Afterschool**

Elizabeth McIntosh & Gail England, 4-H Program Assistants

The Bee Log 4-H Afterschool now has club officers thanks to Linda Semon for having their elections at this month's meeting. Jo Simpson made Apple Salad for her nutrition program and Jeremy Delisle taught the children about measuring the growth of their Strawberry Plants with his “Ag. in the afterschool” program. We also took a trip to Johnny Hensley's Pumpkin Patch where he taught the children about Pumpkins and everyone got to bring a pumpkin home with them. The children continue to utilize the Bookmobile each month and each of the children made cards for the school principal to congratulate her on being named Yancey County Principal of the Year.

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