

# Yancey Cooperative Extension Narratives



**PLASTIC LAYING MACHINE  
BEING USED BY OUR FARMERS**



## Date to Remember

- ❖ August 7,14,21 Canning Classes:  
Salsa, Tomato and Jams & Jellies
- ❖ August T.R.A.C.T.O.R. opens
- ❖ August 6 1<sup>st</sup> Day of School
- ❖ August 13 Bald Creek Afterschool Begins
- ❖ August 20 Bee Log Afterschool Begins



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*James Edward Magner, III*  
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County Extension Director

The TRATOR Building is coming along. Plans are to set up the two new wash/pack lines this week. The new coolers will be arriving August 14<sup>th</sup> and installed that week. The goal is to have the TRACTOR Food and Farms website up late September.

Hope to establish a grand opening date this week for late September.

4-H has had a busy summer. We had three 4-ers compete at the Sate level for their presentation. Hope Robinson won silver, and although the other two did not place they were excited about their performance and are all ready making plans to attend next year.

Mountain Challenge is gearing up for another year. Last year Rich Chuvala worked with court adjudicated youth. This is such an important program designed to help youth with important live skills and keep them from entering further in the court system. The cost of placing a youth "behind bars" can reach over \$100,000 a year!

## Agriculture & Natural Resources

Stanley Holloway,  
Agriculture Agent

Jeremy Delisle, Area Agent,  
Mitchell/Yancey Counties

Adam McCurry, NC A&T  
Agriculture Technician



## AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

### Stanley Holloway

There is a lot of excitement in the air as the TRACTOR Facility gets closer to opening. The contactors are almost finished with the building upgrades and we could potentially be running produce through the center next month. The agricultural staff has been busy consulting with producers, potential markets, and ordering some of the supplies needed for the facility. We have one donated cooler erected and two more coolers are scheduled to be installed this month.

Representatives from NC State University and The Appalachian Foodshed Project visited Yancey County to meet with Cooperative Extension and look at what is being done to enhance the local food movement and consumer access to fresh, local foods. The group visited the Bald Creek Elementary School garden and outdoor learning center, Davis Farms, the TRACTOR facility, and the "Dig-In" community garden. I attended the National Association of County Agricultural Agents' Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference in Charleston, SC. While at the conference, I represented North Carolina as a voting delegate in the business session and attended a variety of professional improvement sessions.

Some other activities for the month included meeting with representatives from East Yancey Middle School and the Yancey County Health Department about a school garden at their facility, participating in the 2012

WNC Wool Pool, assisting with the ToeCane Beekeepers monthly meeting with 25 local beekeepers attending, participating in the 2012 Hay Field Day at the Mountain Research Station in Waynesville with over 125 producers attending (2 from Yancey County), and participating in the WNC AgOptions Program Steering Committee meeting to discuss plans and develop a strategy for the 2013 mini-grant program.

I conducted 21 farm visits on a variety of topics including: burley tobacco (4), commercial vegetables (4), home fruit (3), commercial horticulture (3), and general home garden/landscape (7), as well as numerous office visits and telephone/e-mail correspondences.

### Jeremy Delisle

July has been a month packed with activity. With rising temperatures and plenty of rainfall, crops have been growing quickly. We are coming into the main season for vegetable production and farmers have been working diligently to turn off a high quality product for local and regional markets.

Pest and disease issues have also ramped up with the heat and humidity, so we as agents have been busy trying to help producers prevent or correct these issues. Those producers who have kept up with control measures seem to be coming through the season quite well.

I have partnered with Mayland Community College to offer two courses on fruit and vegetable

production targeted primarily at home gardeners and small-scale producers. There were 18 participants in those classes.

We have also been busy as a team completing the TRACTOR facility and addressing issues such as website development, the hiring of the facility director, ordering of supplies, and promotion and education throughout the community as to the role the center will play in supporting our local food economy.

This is a very exciting time for agriculture here in Yancey and Mitchell counties. We have the opportunity to make a very large impact on the local economy and to improve the quality of life for many families through increased agricultural production and sales.

This is the beginning of what could be the new face of agriculture in our region. Plenty of work still to do, but the future is looking bright!

### Adam McCurry

Most of this month's time has been split between working on the TRACTOR building and working with growers preparing for TRACTOR. We picked up and installed the first of three cooler units earlier this month. I have also spent quite a bit of time working with growers on production issues. There have been a lot of questions from growers about TRACTOR and how they can be involved. It is a very exciting time for us as we near the opening. Extension personal and many others have put a lot of work into this project.

"Like"

NC Cooperative Extension Facebook pages:

Yancey County Center and Yancey County Small Farm



**Richard Chuvala**

July has been a good month for us here at Mtn. Challenge. We took 8 kids from Yancey County down to the Eastern 4-H Center, located right on the Albemarle Sound. The kids all had a wonderful time learning about local ecology and wildlife while getting to swim, canoe, crab, and do arts and crafts just to name a few things. After a week off I have jumped right back into things getting ready for our Teen Leadership Camp at the Swannanoa 4-H Center the last week in July. Some of our local teens will be going to learn leadership skills while volunteering around the camp. We are concluding camp with a white water trip on the exciting Nantahala.

We have also been busy planning activities for the upcoming school year and I am looking forward to another great year of 4-H Mtn. Challenge!



**Linda Semon**  
4-H Discovery Program

4-H West District Activity Day

was held in Cullowhee, NC, Tuesday June 19th. Yancey 4-H members had a very successful year by winning five gold and two silver medals out of the seven participants who attended. Then three of the 4-Hers traveled to Raleigh to compete at state presentations held during 4-H Congress from July 16-19. One youth one a silver medal for her presentation. They also attended workshops, elections, dances, heard inspiring speakers and one competed in the AIRE (Application, Resume,

## 4-H Afterschool

### Bald Creek Afterschool

Susie Hedrick, Site Leader  
Elizabeth McIntosh

July has been a month of preparation getting ready for the school year. After closing the summer program, my time has been spent planning our programs for the coming year. We have organized our supply room, updated 2012/2013 enrollments and handbook. August 2<sup>nd</sup>, I will be going to Bald Creek Elementary School's open house to meet parents and sign the youth up for the year. I look forward to working with the school staff, parents and youth.

### Bee Log Afterschool

Gail England

This past month the Bee Log Afterschool has kept busy getting things organized and ready for the new school year. We are looking forward to a great year of learning and fun for the children and we have some exciting projects that we are developing. Our hope, as always, is that we can provide the children with educational experiences that include reading literacy, math and science, and a safe place to be after school accompanied with fun and laughter.

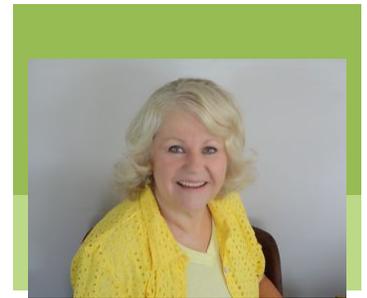
Interview and Essay) program. Joyce Watts was honored by being inducted into the 2012 NC 4-H Hall of Fame and was recognized during the NC 4-H Alumni Awards.

I attended State 4-H Electric Congress in Wilmington, NC July 9-11 with one 4-H Member who is working in the 4-H Electric program. Youth attended workshops, learned about energy efficiency and participated in fun activities with others from across the state.

Kudos go out to the youth from the 4-H Green Team who are staying busy volunteering at a variety of places in Yancey County.

**Sybil Chapman**  
School Enrichment Program

This month I



**Jo Simpson**

With school being out of session I have had the time to complete the online National Nutrition Paraprofessional Certification Program being offered by FSNE from Utah State University. FSNE is a federal/state partnership that supports nutrition education. I should be receiving my Nutrition Educator Certification soon. I have also had the time to complete enrollments and write success stories to be placed on the Extension Reporting System (ERS). I have been busy making plans for the upcoming school year.

At the end of the month I plan to attend a Farm to School workshop being held at Bald Creek Elementary. Bald Creek received a grant from the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project to help plant a school garden and build a pavilion. The AP's Growing Minds project offers Farm to School resources, training and technical assistance to schools and students in an effort to connect their communities to local, farm fresh food and better the health of their families.

have worked on reporting to NCSU. With a new program to report our numbers, it is new to all of us. I have been able to catch up on cleaning my office and getting organized again.

It is hard to believe that school starts in about a week. I have started getting information for the teachers for the School Enrichment Program. The program will begin in September and I have a lot of work to get things ready. I am really looking forward to getting back in the schools.

Yancey 4-H facebook page, "like" us.



*...To Make the Best Better.*



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