

Yancey Cooperative Extension Narratives



Installed refrigeration units at
TRACTOR



Date to Remember

- ❖ September 20 Pesticide Classes
- ❖ September 24 Pesticide Classes
- ❖ September 28 TRACTOR open house
- ❖ September Extension Association's State Meetings convene.



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James Edward Magner, III

James Edward Magner, III
County Extension Director

I am happy to announce Robin Smith as the Director of TRACTOR as we open for business. Robin comes with a wealth of experience in marketing, farming, and project management. She is enthusiastic and organized and will do a good job as the Director. The facility itself will be completed this week. A grower's meeting will be hosted Thursday August 30, 5:30 PM at the TRACTOR facility. One of Robin's first tasks will be to get to know our growers and arrange to meet with buyers. The Summer 2013 planning will begin this Fall and Winter. The TRACTOR grand opening will be September 28th. We also hope to hear in September from the Tobacco Trust and the Appalachian Regional Commission; these grants will help with training, student stipends, and a refrigerated truck.



Denise Baker, FCS Agent
Pressure Canning Class

Yancey County Food Preservation Classes have had over 80 registrations for classes on pressure canning, canning tomatoes, making jams and jellies, pickling and fermenting, making safe salsa, freezing, and dehydrating. Participants have ranged from first time food preservers to people with over 40 years canning experience. Pressure canners obtained through a grant are being loaned out to county residents.

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

The month of August has been quite busy with a number of local and regional programming events as well as a number of professional development opportunities. Early in August, I attended a three-day Livestock and Field Crops Agent In-Service Training held in Raleigh. Mid-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. Also mid-month I attended a Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Certifier Training to maintain my BQA trainer certification and participated in a region wide BQA Producer Training at the new livestock market in Canton. Three producers from Yancey County attended the training and obtained their BQA certification.

We continue to move forward with the TRACTOR facility with the coolers put together and scheduled to operational before the end of the month. In the meantime we have been trying out the washline equipment with potatoes from the Bald Creek Elementary School Garden and a potato variety trial conducted in Mitchell County. Also a couple of local growers have used the washline equipment with tomatoes and peppers. These early batches allow both the farmers and us to become more familiar with the proper

operation of the equipment. A growers meeting is scheduled to be held at the end of the month for those producers interested in participating in the TRACTOR facility.

In addition to the above I conducted 12 farm visits on a variety of topics including: tobacco (2), commercial vegetables (4), home fruit (2), and general home garden / landscape (4), over 30 office visits and numerous telephone/e-mail correspondences regarding a wide array of agricultural topics.

Jeremy Delisle

August is always a busy month, especially as it is related to farming. Many crops are at their peak of production now and growers are busy harvesting and marketing a wide variety of products. TRACTOR is moving along nicely, and we are excited to have our manager in place, as well as wash lines and coolers in place. We expect to market some products through the center in September and October, and look forward to further establishing relationships with regional buyers. The recent stretch of cool, dry weather have slowed pest and disease issues considerably, and the season looks very productive over all. We are very fortunate to work with such persistent farmers determined to turn off high quality crops year after year. Here's to them!

Adam McCurry

With many of our local growers harvesting their crops, much of my time has been spent with them working on the various issues they

have had. This is a critical point since they have invested a lot into their crops and must be careful not to lose them. We have also been working hard to get the TRACTOR project up and running. We have spent a lot of time transforming the building to be ready so hopefully we can run some product in the coming weeks. The farmers I have worked and talked with are very excited about this project.



Sample peppers as the first test line was run. This is a great project for the area farmers and exemplifies the word "cooperation"; Mitchell & Yancey Extension Offices, county personal and farmers all working together to make this project a success.

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NC Cooperative Extension Facebook pages:

Yancey County Center and Yancey County Small Farm



Richard Chuvala

August has ushered in the new school year and Mtn. Challenge has stayed busy gearing up the upcoming year. We started the month with our Teen Leadership Camp at the 4-H Swannanoa Camp. We took 2 teens to the 3 day camp, where they learned leadership skills while also having fun doing some traditional camp activities like archery, ropes course and swimming. They also volunteered to do a team-building program with 4-6 year old kids at the 4-H day camp. The highlight of the trip was a white water rafting down the Nantahala River.

We are currently taking referrals for our court referred youth program and with 5 teens that I hope to have started by next week. They will once again be focusing on developing pro-social skills while also gaining some vocational skills that will help them as they continue forward into adulthood.

I am also pleased to announce we have once again partnered with the Mtn. Heritage SOAR Program. I will be working with about 15 high school students to help them develop their critical thinking, leadership, communication and teamwork skills. Plans are also to be at some of the elementary schools soon.

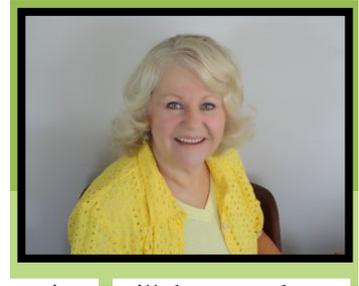


**2012 4-H
TEEN
LEADERSHIP
CAMP**



SWANNANOVA 4-H CENTER

Richard Chuvala, Leader



**4-H Afterschool
Bald Creek Afterschool**

Susie Hedrick, Site Leader
Elizabeth McIntosh

The Bald Creek Afterschool Program started on August 14th. We are continuing the Recycle program, which was established in 2009, along with nutritious snacks, homework time, enrichment programs, and outside play, if possible. The kids have enjoyed making fruit pizza with Jo Simpson, EFNEP Program Associate, baking pineapple up-side down cake with Lisa Hunter, Assistant Teacher and tutor, using the Letterland Curriculum, and starting this years club with Linda Semon, 4-H Program Associate. Jeremy Delisle, Area Agricultural Agent helped the students to re-plant the raised garden with greens for a Fall harvest. Richard Chuvala, 4-H Program Assistant also started team-building with the 4th and 5th grades. It has been a busy month and we are looking forward to September.

Bee Log Afterschool

Gail England
Lesia Phillips

The Bee Log 4-H Afterschool began August 20th with 27 children registered at this time. Lesia Phillips will be working with K-2 grades and Gail England will be working with grades 3-5. We have new things that we will be doing with the children this year including once a month "Tasting Day" in support of the Farm to School program with different foods featured each month. The children will be able to sample the food featured that month fixed in various

ways and recipes will be sent home with them. I am also excited to announce that the Colburn Museum in Asheville will be coming to Bee Log School once a month with their portable science labs and doing demonstrations for the children. Bee Log 4-H Afterschool was able to secure this and make it available to the whole school with the help of Andrea Allen, Principal of Bee Log. We are looking forward to a very productive and fun filled year.

Jo Simpson

The nutrition program, Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), letters to the elementary teachers have been written and distributed. Next month I will start my the nutrition program in Bee Log and Clearmont Elementary, the 4-H after school programs and the 4-H home school clubs. Mtn. Challenge has requested the EFNEP program be in their program for the SOAR group at Mt Heritage High School.

I attended a fun workshop in Mills River about the Dairy Group and to my surprise I learned a lot. I am looking forward to a productive and successful year serving the youth of our county.

Linda Semon
4-H
Discovery
Program



I attended the Western Region Education Service Alliance (WRESA) Science Education Institute for Leadership Development and Strategic Planning July 22-27 in Asheville. As a community partner I had the opportunity to network and learn from other professionals committed to improving K-12 school science education for all students.

I conducted district science training at 4-H Leadership camp in Swannanoa on July 31st. Sixteen youth completed this year's 4-H Electric Project Kit, the "Piranha LED Flasher". Youth identify parts of an electric circuit board, how to solder and how electricity powers Light Emitting Diodes.

I attended the Faculty & Staff Institute at NC A&T State University August 8-10. 4-H & FCS provided training: "Exploring the Domains of

Family Practice" and "Safe Guarding Children and Youth from Risks of Abuse & Neglect" and also a combined discipline training on "Impact Writing" by Dr. Nancy Franz of Iowa State University.

A 4-H'er from Yancey County attended the third annual North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) Youth Summit, which was held in Raleigh, North Carolina August 17-18, 2012. North Carolina 4-H and North Carolina Cooperative Extension partnered for the third year with the NCACC on a multi-year initiative to increase youth involvement in county government. This initiative aims to overcome the mindset that many youth are disengaged and lack trust in government. The 4-H'er who attended from Yancey was Hope Robinson. Over 110 youth and adults from over 65 counties in North Carolina attended this event. The event is sponsored and supported by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.

I attended a 4-H STEM (Science,

Technology, Engineering and Math) Curriculum Training August 21-23 in Reidsville, NC. The new curriculum aligns with 6th and 7th grade Essential Standards in "Energy Conservation & Transfer" and "Structures & Functions of Living Organisms."

Sybil Chapman
School Enrichment
Program



August is the time I gear up for School Enrichment Programs to start in the schools. I have delivered the programs offered and the sheets describing each program to all teachers from second grade through fifth grade. I had to rewrite the description of every program offered to show how it meets North Carolina Essential Standards. The teachers let me know what they want in the classroom and I deliver the kits for science or go to the classroom and teach Character Counts. EMTs, Firemen, and Rescue volunteers will teach Fire Safety in the Fall.

On August 9th I cooked breakfast for the Advisory Council.

I will begin teaching Character Counts in the classroom August 26th.

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

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