

Yancey Cooperative Extension Narratives



Farmers harvesting their fields for the last time for the 2012 crop season.



Date to Remember

- ❖ September 28 TRACTOR Grand Opening
- ❖ October 23 Beekeepers Program
- ❖ November 5, 6 & 8 ServSafe



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Travis Magner

James Edward Magner, III
County Extension Director

TRACTOR is rolling! New Director Robin Smith has been busy buying and selling. The demand is definitely there. One of the buyers, MDI actually called Tobacco Trust and told them to fund TRACTOR! Which they did, Tobacco Trust fully funded our request for \$30,000 for a refrigerated truck. The check will be presented on September 28th during the grand opening ceremonies.

I would also like to praise Linda Semon; Yancey's 4-H Youth Associate who was recently recognized by Dr. Marshall Stewart, Associate Director, Department Head and State Program Leader of the Department of 4-H Youth Development and Family & Consumer Sciences, for her efforts in the NC 4-H Electric Program. Linda has taken Yancey County youth to the annual 4-H NC Electric Congress for years.

She and her family have worked tirelessly to conduct workshops on electricity, which continue to be wildly popular and extremely educational. Linda's work in the area of science, technology, engineering and math are critical in helping prepare the youth of Yancey for future careers.

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

As summer comes to an end and fall begins, the Agricultural Extension staff remains busy assisting growers as their production seasons wind down. The TRACTOR facility continues to be a major focus for the Extension Center. As our Grand Opening approaches at the end of the month, we have begun to move a small amount of product through the facility in preparation of being fully operational next season. To date there has been some potatoes, broccoli, pepper, and mushrooms sold in limited amounts through the facility primarily to Mountain Foods in Asheville and local restaurants.

Beekeeping educational programs were conducted at both the Bee Log and Bald Creek Afterschool Programs with 65 children learning about the importance of honeybees and the methods that beekeepers utilize to keep bees. As always the live observation hive was a big hit among the children.

Four pesticide recertification classes were held during September with a total of 27 pesticide applicators receiving credit for continuation of their pesticide applicator certification.

In addition, 9 farm/site visits on a variety of topics, including burley tobacco (1), hay and forages (2), commercial fruits and vegetables (2), and general home gardening and landscaping (4). Over 40 office visits and numerous telephone/e-mail correspondences regarding a wide array of agricultural topics.

Jeremy Delisle

September has been a month packed with activity. Many crops are still being harvested, although we are starting to come to the end of the production season. Cooler and drier weather has slowed pest and disease pressure, and those producers who have managed these challenges well through the season are now getting some relief.

One highlight in programming this month was through participation in the Toes for the Toe Watershed Discovery program offered to all 5th graders in Mitchell and Yancey Counties. All together, we educated approximately 400 students on the importance of clean water and how agricultural enterprises can help to protect and improve water quality in the Toe River Watershed.

TRACTOR is up and running and off to a good start. Product is being moved through the facility and some very good marketing relationships are being developed. Several farmers have sold product through the facility and are pleased with the process as a whole. The availability of packaging materials for producers to purchase at cost has been a big hit to date. The center as a whole is gaining more and more recognition and producers have been quite supportive.

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. We are heading into the time of year when our planned programs ramp up, GAPs will be a major focus this fall/winter as well as crop production planning and scheduling for the 2013 season.

As always, we are very fortunate to have such wonderful producers and staff here to work with as we strive to push agriculture forward on a daily basis.

Adam McCurry

This month I have worked with TRACTOR growers and other small-scale farmers to help with harvesting and winter cover crops. Phone calls have been numerous. The grand opening of the TRACTOR facility has been the focus for this month.



Broccoli and Peppers are stored at the TRACTOR facility to be kept fresh for inspection and shipment.

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[Yancey County Center](#) and [Yancey County Small Farm](#)

Richard Chuvala

4-H Mountain Challenge Coordinator



This past month has been a very busy time for Mtn. Challenge as we have started back at Burnsville and Bald Creek Elementary along with Mtn. Heritage High School. I am now working with 47 youth here in our county. So far we have spent time getting to know one another and identifying their needs. Each group has worked to develop a full value contract, which establishes some basic expectations and consequences.

The high school group has continued to develop their leadership, communication and teambuilding skills through the use of teambuilding activities such as "pipeline" and "helium stick". They have also visited Appalachian State University to explore the campus and what it takes to get into college there! We are also planning to visit AB-Tech to explore different career paths and schooling.

We are currently working with 5 court-referred youth on Monday afternoons here at the Yancey County Cooperative Extension Office. We are currently working on making good decisions and Sybil Chapman has worked with the boys to identify their career goals. Once they have identified what they are interested in, Sybil is going to try and match them with a mentor in their field.

Mtn. Challenge has certainly remained busy and we are looking forward to another awesome month.

Bald Creek Afterschool

Susie Hedrick, Site Leader

Elizabeth McIntosh

In September Stanley Holloway, Agricultural Agent, and Beekeeper brought a beehive to the AfterSchool program at Bald Creek. The kids had a lot of fun learning all about Bee's, what they do, how honey is made, and how they impact our world. Jo Simpson taught the students how they can enjoy a sweet snack and still be healthy. They made zucchini brownies with less sugar, zucchini and, applesauce, and not using eggs or oil. Linda Semon brought Robotics to the program showing the kids that Science can be fun while they learn. Amy Autrey a teacher at Bald Creek has been helping the kids with reading projects during the Afterschool program, and helping them take tests on the computer. Mrs. Autrey will continue through November. Richard Chuvala also works with 4th and 5th grades each Wednesday. We are looking forward to October.

Bee Log Afterschool

Gail England

Lesia Phillips

The month of September the Bee Log Afterschool was privileged to have Stanley Holloway come to the school and teach the children about bees and he brought a working hive for the children to observe and they also got to taste some local honey. On craft day they painted their own "pet rocks" which they took home with them. The Colburn Museum brought their portable Planetarium to the school and the children learned about the constellations. Later they drew pictures of the constellations, which they will use in their 4-H project books. Linda Semon, 4-H program associate, held the first 4-H meeting of the year and the children elected their club officers and Linda Semon presented a program on predators and

prey to the children. Jo Simpson, Nutrition program associate, came to the school and she and the children made healthy brownies made with zucchini and they ate that with a banana as a healthy snack. In support of the "Farm to School Program" the vegetable of the month is cucumbers and the children got to taste cucumbers fixed 3 different ways and took home 2 recipes to share with their families. Bee Log Afterschool now has 30 children enrolled in the 4-H program. We also welcome the addition of Robin Wilson who helps with homework time.

Jo Simpson

4-H EFNEP Program Associate



The EFNEP program began this month with lessons given to 236 students from the elementary schools of Bee Log and South Toe. Lessons were also given to the Bald Creek and Bee Log after school programs and also new to EFNEP this year the 4-H Home-school club. We have been planning healthy meals and snacks while learning about the My Pyramid and Choose My Plate.

I will be attending the NCAEPAAT Annual Conference being held Sept 19-21 in Nags Head. This year I have served in the office of State President of our association and have been very busy preparing for this conference. I am looking forward to attending.



Linda Semon
4-H Discovery Program



4-H Clubs are busy with special projects like the Robotics and Shooting Sports Clubs who are preparing to compete at the state level, getting ready to participate in the 4-H National Youth Science Day "Ecobot" Challenge and also celebrate National 4-H Week during October 7-13, 2012. The afterschool 4-H and Magic programs are focusing on careers in science again this year. This month they participated in a predator and prey activity where students created a predator device of their very own to share with the group and then take home. This very creative group is learning the skills it takes to be a scientist, such as observation, investigation, gathering data and reporting to others.

Two 4-H Youth Volunteers took a five-hour 4-H Ambassadors workshop with me to help them attain the Silver Level. They also completed 25 hours of community service electives through 4-H. Speaking of volunteers, this month the 4-H Green Team members from different clubs have volunteered at: the Dig In Garden, the Empty Bowls Project, ATRC, Reconciliation House, Humane Society, Wellspring Farm, the Mountain State Fair, Cane River Playground and out at the schools. Some 4-H Members recorded Public Service Announcements at WKYK announcing 4-H Week.

The 4-H Elementals from Cane River Middle School led by Nelda Phillips had the opportunity of serving as group leaders at a "Bear Hunt" science inquiry event led by Jamie Pate at Bee Log Elementary. The event was featured on WLOS Tammy Watford's Never Stop Learning Report and can be seen at http://www.wlos.com/shared/news/features/never-stop-learning/stories/wlos_bee-logers-bears-300.shtml (Look for the CRMS Red Shirts!)

Sybil Chapman
School Enrichment Program



This month I began the School Enrichment program. I delivered science kits to 2nd – 5th grades. I have begun teaching Character Counts in 2nd and 3rd grade classrooms at four schools. I have a total of 69 second-graders and 44 third-graders.

I started teaching CareerSmarts with the Mountain Challenge Program on Mondays. The students took several tests to determine what job they would be more interested and would align with their personalities. In the coming weeks I will seek mentors in the field of their interest and shuttle them to the businesses each week. This will help them determine the job they will or will not be interested in when they graduate.

I hope to start CareerSmarts at Cane River Middle School in the next few weeks.

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

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