

YANCEY COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION NARRATIVES



**James E. Magner, III CED,
Yancey County Center**

Merry Christmas and thanks for all you do for the people of Yancey County.

It was exciting to go before the County Commissioners and recognize their support of Extension. Sheri Schwab, the Director of Extension County Operations, housed in Raleigh, came up just for the presentation. I honestly thought she had other business, but saying “thanks” was the business. It was also exciting to be able to return \$5000 to the County. I know the growers appreciated getting their checks in 14 days this summer. Without that \$5000 it would not have happened.

I also forgot to say thanks to High Country Council of Government who has helped on a number of grant applications. Kelly Coffey helped me work on one application over a weekend to meet a deadline. Also Mayland has been a great supporter. Robert Branch helped fund the initial feasibility study thru the Small Business Center. He has also helped us work on the federal IRS 501c3 form. The Yancey EDC has also been critical to TRACTOR success! When funders see such support it makes it easier to raise money. A \$200,000 grant has been submitted to NCSU. This is a new opportunity and I am hopeful Yancey Extension will get it.

Proud of the work Linda Semon continues to do with the youth of the county. Hope Robinson and Amberly Glover are just two of the many who are touched by 4-H. The number of volunteer hours the 4-H puts in continues to amaze me.



**WIEBE FARMS, TRACTOR
PRODUCERS DELIVERING
WINTER SQUASH**



**DANNY'S BROCCOLI IS READY
TO BE PACKED AND SOLD BY
TRACTOR**



**DANNY THOMASON, TRACTOR
PRODUCER IN HIS FIELD OF
YOUNG BROCCOLI**

Stanley Holloway cont...

meeting with and talking to a number of potential applicants over the last couple of months. Twelve Yancey County producers met the Nov. 1 “intent to apply” deadline and at least seven of them continued the application process and met the Dec. 13 application deadline. Extension staff met with each of these applicants a minimum of 2 times to assist them with the application process. The applications will be reviewed in early January. The 2014 WNC AgOptions Program is operating with reduced funding from the NC Tobacco Trust Fund and competition will be high; however, we are hopeful that Yancey County producers will continue to be prominent in the program’s funded projects.

In addition, 11 farm/site visits were conducted regarding soil testing (1), commercial fruits/vegetables (3), home landscaping (4), livestock (2), and tobacco (1). Over 50 office visits and numerous telephone/e-mail correspondences regarding a wide array of agricultural topics.

Jeremy Delisle cont...

Blueprint for a Profitable Mountain Farm, Cattle Production Workshops, Shared-Use Equipment Demonstrations, High Tunnels Workshops, Organic Growers School and the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project Business of Farming Conference.

**HERE'S TO
CELEBRATING A
PROFITABLE AND
PRODUCTIVE 2013 AND
LOOKING FORWARD
TO IMPROVING IN
2014!**

JEREMY DELISLE



Agriculture & Horticulture
Stanley Holloway

As winter approaches, farming activities have slowed, somewhat lessening the calls to the Extension center; however, November and December have been busy for the agricultural staff. As we wrap up the first full season of the TRACTOR Facility, we have been meeting and working with a number of existing growers and potential new growers with the planning process for the 2014 production and marketing year. As the TRACTOR Project moves forward, interest from prospective growers and potential markets continue to increase.

The WNC AgOptions program announced the call for 2014 grant proposals in October and Extension staff have been



Horticulture & Agriculture
Jeremy Delisle

November and December have been busy months for producers and Extension alike. Farm visits have continued as plans are made for the 2014 production season. This is a time to look back on the past season and make revisions in order to improve for the coming season. WNC AgOptions grant applications have all been submitted by producers. Extension has worked closely with a number of them to ensure that their applications are competitive. TRACTOR has hosted two producer meetings in order to prepare and plan to meet market demand for 2014. Program planning for the first quarter of 2014 is well underway. Planned program offerings include GAPs Tier 1 training,



Agriculture
Adam McCurry

As we finish up this year a lot of our time has been spent working with growers on planning for next year’s harvest. We have been talking with a number of growers that are interested in growing for TRACTOR. Interest in growing for TRACTOR has increased mainly because of word of mouth advertisement. We are also working on plans for a number of workshops and trainings that will begin in mid January. With 2013 being the toughest growing season due to the weather that I have ever seen, we have hopes of a better 2014. Local farmers will have a great year.

Hannah Nichols cont...

we will enter 2014 remembering our main objective is to serve this community and positively impact the lives of those we reach.

**AS 2013 COMES
TO AN END AT
YANCEY COUNTY
COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION,
WE ARE PREPARING
TO ENTER 2014 WITH
ENTHUSIASM.
HANNAH NICHOLS**



**Family & Consumer Sciences
Hannah Nichols**

As 2013 comes to an end at Yancey County Cooperative Extension, we are preparing to enter 2014 with enthusiasm as we look toward the future. This month I completed the New Professionals Orientation training series for Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) agents. Attending the training has allowed me to become familiar with the various types of programming available through NCSU. With this in mind, we have formed the FCS Advisory Council to help us identify the specific educational needs in Yancey County, and how to better reach our target population. With 2013 behind us,

Peirce Bingham cont..

We continue to discuss with Gear Up and 4-H how we can collaborate and make all of our programs integrate to serve the most kids, and reach those most in need. Finally starting in January we will facilitate Love and Logic parenting classes as a resource for court referrals and DSS, but classes will be open to everyone. As always thank you for your continued support of The Mountain Challenge Program.



**Mtn. Challenge
Peirce Bingham**

Mountain Challenge has been very busy at our school sites Cane River, Bald Creek, Burnsville and Mountain Heritage. We are also looking forward to the summer and a second year of summer programming for "At Risk" youth. Last years program was two months long 8 hours a day, 5 days a week and was a big success. Grants are being written to defer some of the extra costs and we hope to have another intern from Mars Hill University this year. It has also been my pleasure to work with Linda Semon and 4H to help start a 4H club at Cane River, creating another after school resource.

Jo Simpson cont...

4-H after school students from Bee Log and Bald Creek made holiday cookie mix jars to give to their families for Christmas. The children filled canning jars with ingredients to make cranberry oatmeal cookies and then decorated the lid. Youth had to read the recipe and measure the ingredients that went in the jars, enhancing reading and math skills. More importantly, they felt the joy of giving this holiday season; something all of us need to remember.

I am looking forward to the upcoming year with plans to visit Burnsville Elementary students next month.



**Expanded Food & Nutrition
Education Program
Jo Simpson**

Youth EFNEP or nutrition, as always, has been very busy teaching students throughout the county the importance of a healthy diet and food safety. During the month of November, 195 students from South Toe and Bald Creek Elementary graduated from the new "Show Me Nutrition" lessons. Programming began in December at Micaville Elementary reaching 155 students. Youth learned how to make and plan healthy snacks such as: fruit salads, hummus wraps, natural sodas, spinach salad and much more along with fun moving activities.

Linda Semon cont...

semester 4-H Discovery afterschool participants learned about the environmental concerns that amphibians face in our world. I dressed up one of the members as a frog to the delight of their peers to learn how frogs survive in the wild.

4-H CLUB NEWS

The Infinibot's



Regional FIRST PLACE in the State First Lego League

Cane River Elementals



As a community service project, the Elementals, led by Nelda Phillips, donated a animal treat basket to the Yancey County Humane Society

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY A VERY HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO ALL THE FIREMEN WHO DONATE THEIR TIME TO HELP OUT.

SYBIL CHAPMAN



4-H Discovery
Linda Semon

The Infinibot's 4-H team was awarded 1st in robotics and first place overall at the regional event in Boone and qualifying them for the State First Lego League robotics competition in Raleigh January 12th. The newly formed Cane River Middle School Elementals 4-H Club assisted by 4-H Leader Nelda Phillips and 4-H Teen Leader Hope Robinson completed a great service project and presented it to the Yancey County Humane Society. They filled a basket full of goodies for animals and staff that included dozens of yummy handmade dog treats they baked themselves. This past



School Enrichment,
Sybil Chapman

Character Counts ended the year at Clearmont with a total of 138 contacts after 6 lessons. I also finished Bald Creek third grade Character Counts with a total of 180 contacts after 6 lessons.

CareerSmarts seventh grade class at Cane River Middle School made a product to sell to learn about profit and loss in a business. They are very excited about what they are learning and are truly interested in entrepreneurship. The total contacts is 15 each time I meet with them.

I am continuing to tutor in afterschool at Bald Creek and Bee Log. The teachers have reported how much better the students are reading and also making better grades on spelling tests.

Alexander Houston taught fire Safety to the third graders at South Toe. There is a total of 27 contacts in the class.



Youth at the Bald Creek Afterschool site as they learn by being creative and having fun.



Bald Creek Afterschool
Susie Hedrick &
Elizabeth McIntosh

November was a month of Thanksgiving activities. Along with our regular schedule the students also enjoyed learning about Thanksgiving. They made pilgrim hats, colored and worked puzzles. All the students enjoyed the puzzle activities which taught them reading and math while having fun. Our dulcimer players are practicing extra hard to get ready for the Christmas program. Jo Simpson taught nutrition while teaching the children to make homemade gifts of cookie mix in a jar which they can give to the person of their choice. We had a great time doing most of the same things in December and hope all have a wonderful Holiday with lots of Christmas cheer.



Bee Log Afterschool
Gail England &
Lesia Phillips

The big news this month for Bee Log Afterschool children is their 4-H project books, coordinated by Linda Semon in conjunction with the volunteers. Most of the children have completed projects in sewing, gardening, jewelry making, recycling and rabbits and chickens. The children have also made gifts for their parents and Christmas ornaments during craft time. Thank you to Jo Simpson who taught the children about good nutrition while making a healthy gift for their family during our Christmas Party. Thank you again to all the volunteers and special thanks to Sybil Chapman who tutors the children with their reading skills.

**WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE
THIS TIME TO WISH ALL
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

Gail England



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PHOTOS FROM THIS YEAR



AS WE LOOK BACK AT 2013, MAY WE EVER BE REMINDED OF THE MAIN REASON WE BELIEVE IN COOPERATIVE EXTENSION AND 4-H. WE ARE PROFESSIONALS LINKING THE UNIVERSITY TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE HOMES. THE STAFF VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME AT MANNA FOODS AS A WAY OF GIVING BACK.
HAPPY 2014!!!
THE EXTENSION & 4-H STAFF