



North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Transylvania County Center **2017 Highlights**

In 2017, Transylvania County Cooperative Extension Staff responded to 18,428 citizens through our educational programs and other direct (face to face) communications. Another 48,244 contacts were made through telephone, email, newsletters and news articles to provide educational information and resources. Transylvania County Extension Staff provided hundreds of non-degree credit training hours involving thousands Transylvania County Citizens. Transylvania County Cooperative Extension also has a tremendous volunteer network. Volunteers gave over 4000 hours of service to their communities working on advisory committees, Master Gardener, SHIP and 4-H programs. This equates to an estimated dollar value for services rendered to Transylvania County Citizens of about \$100,000 dollars. In addition, we brought more than \$40,000 in private donations and matching funds from non profits.

4-H and Youth Development:

Nine clubs (132 members), 15 special interest programs (242 participants), and 4 school enrichment programs (309 participants) were managed with the support of 93 adult and 21 youth volunteers and community partners (TCS, PARI, TC Sheriff Dept., Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education, Connestee Fishing Club, Gwynn Valley Camp, The Science House, Cherryfield Farm).

Successes and big impacts:

- TIME for real science program partnership with TCS - high school students conducting research on local issues and earning awards at the district, state, national and international level.
- 4-H "Soil Solutions" science education- had 120 students and 6 teachers doing hands on education.
- Students doing real science with Forestry Researchers- 12 students experienced the entire scientific process including research and data collection.
- Little River Community Revitalization- 15 4-H Youth and their parents take on leadership roles in their community.
- Youth taking on leadership roles through Teen Council Club- 4-H teens identified community needs, acquired grant money, and addressed issues such as college readiness and teen homelessness. Teens are building relationships with other teen activists across NC at district and state 4-H events.

Livestock and Row Crops/ Natural Resources:

Almost 200 farm visits assisting producers with animal health and nutrition.

Successes and big impacts:

- Field day at Rosman High School- 29 students and adults were educated on caring for their livestock through better pasture management.



- Ag Resource Rodeo in Rosman- demonstrated the wide variety of equipment available for local growers to borrow.
- Implementation of Hemlock Cost share program- protected over 1200 trees in riparian areas
- Beef quality assurance training at Brevard High School- Acquired a grant and provided education for 30 students to become BQA certified.
- Western North Carolina Beef Conference- brought 65 producers from different counties for continuing education. Evaluation results showed an impact of \$125,350.
- Upper French Broad Riverfest - aided in planning and implementing the second annual Upper French Broad Riverfest (a natural resource educational event).

Local Foods/ Sustainable plant systems:

Provided production and marketing consultation assistance to this counties gardeners and larger scale producers.

Successes and big impacts:

- 11 Master Gardener volunteers trained, over 2000 hours contributed from 75 volunteers
- Designed and delivered educational programming to meet new market demands for local medicinal herb with 15 programs to over 130 clients.
- Ag Advisory Board successfully adapted VAD ordinance to better support local farms
- Local farmers awarded \$12,000 in ag options grants for new and innovative projects.
- Ag Program Assistant provided over 50 hours of local foods instruction to 379 youth and adults through 19 different learning activities.

EFNEP

Providing hands on nutrition and physical activity education to 559 Transylvania County students.

Successes and big impacts:

- Averaged 5.5 hours of instruction per group
- After receiving a series of at least 6 EFNEP lessons:
 - 76% of students improved dietary intake
 - 24% of students improved daily physical activity
 - 56% of students improved food safety habits

Consumer and Commercial Horticulture:

Providing non-biased education to the horticultural industry in Transylvania County.

Successes and big impacts:

- 31 Continuing education credit classes offered for pesticide license holders
- Increased participation in classes by 18%
- 70 credit hours gained by local landscape contractors
- Value of credits obtained by Transylvania: \$2,010,000

SHIIP:

Volunteer based program through the NC Dept of Insurance, providing non-biased information to people on Medicare for free.

- 899 contact opportunities recorded

- 396 face to face counseling sessions.
- 713 volunteer hours were recorded for the contacts made