

JULY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



AGRICULTURE

July was busy with all different sorts of ag programming. We are in the middle of growing season for most of our crops in this area, and with that we have done many farm visits to assist farmers in this busy time of year. The ag team also partnered with Vance and Granville counties in putting together and conducting a Cover Crop Workshop where we brought famers together to hear what benefit cover crops have in our farming operations from NCSU specialist. We also put together a program with Novozymes North America where we brought farmers together to get an update of some changes that are occurring with Novozymes spent biomass fertilizer that is applied to many farms here in the county. July was also a busy month for 4-H livestock camps and farm field days, from exposing kids to cattle and the dairy industry to getting involved with horses as well.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

4-H continued Summer Palooza into July and had many day camps with wonderful turnout. We held our "Horsing Around" 2 day camp for ages 5-7 and 8-12. 4-Her's learned all about horses and what it takes to care for the animal as well as have a chance to ride the horses led by an adult. 4-Her's learned all about milk from farm to fridge with "Got Milk" day, ages 8-18, including how to make butter in a mason jar, taking a tour of NCSU Dairy in Raleigh NC, and enjoying Howling Cow ice cream after. To close our Summer program, we visited Rocky Mount, NC for the 2023 Youth Summit Event where rising 9th-12th graders had the opportunity to talk with many different colleges and trade schools. The event was presented by Roanoke Cooperative with many other sponsors and speakers all geared around the Ag community.



HORTICULTURE & LOCAL FOODS

A small group of Master Gardener Volunteers traveled to Durham this month to visit the Briggs Avenue Community Garden. We were provided a tour by the garden director, who provided detailed information and insight on how to implement a successful project. The Master Gardener Volunteers are now having follow up discussions to determine the feasibility of a similar effort in Warren County. Our first step will be reaching out to potential partners and supporters.

FARMER'S MARKET

July was a very exciting month at the Farmers Market! We hosted a "Peach Day" event on July 22nd. The event was our biggest turnout yet, resulting in 392 attendees. The event featured a live musical performance, peach samples, and games. In July, at the market you could find plenty of Summertime favorites like peaches, a variety of melons, tomatoes, cream peas and so much more. Also, we welcomed a new vendor, Tyrone Simes, of Simes Family Farm whose offerings included squash and okra.



EFNEP

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) educated youth participants on the topics of food safety, choosing healthy foods, physical activity and food preparation. Program assessments show high levels of impact in the form of knowledge gained and/or implementing changes (74-95%). Our EFNEP program partnered with the Warren County Library this month on these programming efforts.

4-H W.A.Y.

July 2023 was a slower month for 4H WAY, as we have concluded summer programs and are planning for the beginning of the school year. 4H WAY served 8 youths this month, with the biggest success coming from a group of 5 students who volunteered at this year's Ridgeway Cantaloupe Festival on July 15. 4H WAY also served 3 students through Empowerment Sessions focused on goal-setting, conflict resolution, and decision-making.



SMALL FARMS

Small farms unit conducted several farm visits with Warren County Soil Conservation personnel for understanding the technicalities of the new High Tunnel House construction. We attended demonstration and field day at Small Farm Unit in Goldsboro, NC where we learned about growing specialty vegetable crops, cover crop, and the benefits of having honey bees incorporated onto the farm. We traveled to Greensboro, NC with some farmers for the Triad Black Faith Leaders & Black Farmers Network as an opportunity to understand M.O.U. standards and connect ways to sell produce to the Piedmont Triad Community.