Making a difference

JANUARY 2015

John Kringler, Chair & Cropping Systems

• Cass County Ag. Improvement Annual meeting held in Casselton. CCAIA applied for an allotment of ND Genesis, two rowed Barley released by NDSU for increase in 2015.
• Kevin and Betty Skunes, Arthur received the Fargo Rotary Award as farm couple of the year. Cass County 4-H Clubs were also recognized at the event.
• I moderated the Sugarbeet Research Reporting session and attended Northarvest Bean Day, Wild World of Weeds and Soils, Soil & Water Workshop.
• Lisa Magney was hired as Secretary to replace the retiring Sharon Larson.

Kelcey Hoffmann Agriculture

• This month has been busy with producers coming in and wanting to walk through the Farm Bill program. I finished the last meeting of the series with FSA and NRCS this month in Kindred and presented at an insurance meeting on the Farm Bill in Casselton.
• Held my livestock committee meetings for the upcoming 4-H year and working on ways to increase participation in the livestock area with these parents and members.

Maxine J. Nordick, 4-H Youth Development

• The annual 4-H Youth Project Activity Day was held this past January providing twenty-three (23) hands-on project classes on a variety of topics ranging from Hydroponics to Indoor Greenhouse to Making a Lamp to Building a Bat House. A committee of 4-H volunteers along with myself planned the classes, recruited the volunteers and facilitated the activity day event. Twenty-three (23) volunteers taught classes to over 120 youth. Offering these classes gives youth an opportunity to experiment and develop skills in specific project areas of interest.

Monique Snelgrove 4-H Youth After School Program

• Tactile and inquiry based activities teach 4-H’ers about the plant and animal communities of riparian habitats. In this lab youth built a wild turkey call and handled animal artifacts, including pelts, feet, and skulls.
Michelle Strang, EFNEP/FNP Adult Nutrition Program

After several years of research and coordination, the first food policy council in North Dakota, the Cass Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission (CCFSAC) is about to be launched. The goal of the CCFSAC is to impact all levels of our community’s food system to assure that residents of Cass and Clay Counties have access to safe, nutritious and affordable foods. The commission’s work will be to research and then provide recommendations regarding best practices, ordinances and policies that will improve the production, distribution, sales and consumption of healthy and locally grown foods within our region. Representation from Fargo, West Fargo, Dilworth, Cass and Clay Counties commissions has been finalized.

Rita Ussatis, Food and Nutrition

This month several new series were started with the youth of Cass County:

- Jefferson 3rd graders began their seven lesson series, Go Wild with Fruits and Veggies.
- McKinley kindergarteners jump started their first MyPlate experience with the 2 Bite Club, which focuses on trying new foods from each food group.
- Madison 4th grade also began Banking on Strong Bones, which is a 5 part series dedicated to improving intake of calcium rich foods.

Nikki Johnson, EFNEP/FNP Youth Nutrition Program

This is my group from Freedom Resources learning how to cut a fresh pineapple and cilantro before making black bean and pineapple quesadillas. This was our third lesson in the Cooking 101 curriculum that focused on how to eat healthy when short on time.

Todd Weinmann, Horticulture

In addition to phone calls, emails, and drop ins: I have had meetings with Dakota Medical foundation; setting up container garden and other horticulture trainings with various youth groups. Working with my Mentee; attended/advised on his Crop Improvement and Seed Increase Meeting. Valley News Live Interview on “Home Garden Series: Successful Seed Starting at Home”. KVRR Fox TV interview on “Tips for Selecting Vegetable and Flower Varieties for Northern Climates Training”. Extension Leadership Team Internship Training.

Sue Quamme, Parenting Resources

January was a busy month of reports and collaborations for the Parenting Resource Center. Impact report, plan of work, quarterly program report, performance review were completed. I met with personnel from the YWCA, PATH of North Dakota, YouthWorks and Family Wellness to begin conversations on ways to collaborate and work together with programing, special events and resources. Parenting topics were presented to the JOBS group at Job Service, teen parents at Woodrow Wilson High School, and clients at Centre Inc. I also spent some time taking the course “Design for Learning” through Kansas State University.

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