

4-H Pie Contest a Success

Fun was surely had in late July as Jackson County youth foraged for fresh blueberries and heated their ovens for pie bakin'! On July 19, The Jackson County Parks and Recreation summer campers took a field trip with 4-H to Thomas Berry Farm, where they were met by farmer Cindy Anthony. Cindy took some time to explain the importance of local agricultural businesses, as well as the nutritious benefits of blueberries, to the campers before distributing buckets to fill with berries. Soon, the kids were released to explore the ripe bounty around them. The rain did not hold off, but that did not stop the campers. Picking blueberries, in the rain? What fun! Although the weather did eventually cut our time short, each camper had enough berries to munch on and take home.

Then, the blueberry pie baking contest kicked off July 21. Pies were turned in by their respective owners the following week, and then 4-H held the official pie judging! Our judging team included two Jackson County business owners—Thomas Mayo of Little Cove Bread in Sylva, and Lisa McBride of WNC Farm to Table in Sylva. Six pies competed in the contest. Thomas and Lisa judged each pie according to its appearance, crust, sweet/tart balance, and filling consistency. After a substantial sugar intake and collaborative scrutiny, the judges made their decision. They awarded first place to Miles Shelton's 'Black and Blue Delight', second place to Emma Webb's 'Blueberry Crumble Cream Pie', and third place to Jake Lippard's 'Blue 'Beary' Pie'. It was a tough call, as all the pies were delicious and worthy of recognition. All participants did a 'berry' great job!



Pies in the contest with their First, Second, Third, and Participation 4-H ribbons

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