

# Pointe Coupee Parish Profile



Report to Stakeholders

December 2009

## About the LSU AgCenter

The LSU AgCenter is dedicated to providing innovative research, information and education to improve people's lives. Working in a unique statewide network of parish extension offices, research stations and academic departments, the LSU AgCenter helps Louisiana citizens make the best use of natural resources, protect the environment, enhance agricultural enterprises and develop human and community resources.



## Program Highlights

### Family & Consumer Sciences

With today's economy, more parents are in the workforce. Parents of pre-school aged children are in need of good quality childcare providers. Finding qualified childcare centers and family care providers in Louisiana can be challenging. Over the past year, the LSU AgCenter Family Development agent conducted a series of four classes (12 hours total) for 46 childcare providers throughout the tri-parish area. Topics included in the series were: Infant Brain Development, Teaching Your Child Responsibility, Childhood Literacy and Childhood Nutrition. Following the courses, 184 certificates were issued to participants. The LSU AgCenter helps participants complete recertification hours to maintain their state licensing for quality child care in Louisiana.



### 4-H Youth Development

As the nation strives to produce more young scientists, the 4-H program in Pointe Coupee Parish joins in the efforts to promote Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) to elementary and high school students. Approximately seven hundred and twenty 4-H'ers meet at monthly school club meetings to participate in a variety of SET experiments conducted by Pointe Coupee 4-H Agents. Each month the students are introduced to the intriguing and exciting sides of science, engineering and technology. From biofuel experiments to forensic science crime scenes, the 4-H'ers are exposed to hands-on lessons that create further interest in this field and promote careers in these occupations.

### Agriculture & Natural Resources

Pointe Coupee is a major agricultural parish that produces soybeans, sugarcane, cotton, corn, wheat, grain sorghum and rice, all being grown on 165,000 acres. Pointe Coupee farmers rely on information from the LSU AgCenter to stay productive. Therefore, the parish hosts an annual Farm Forum with presentations from specialists and researchers who provide the most current research based information available. Due to this specialized training, farmers have been able to reduce inputs thus saving millions of dollars over the past ten years.



## Pointe Coupee Parish Extension Office

**Address:** 180 East Main St.  
New Roads, LA 70760

**Phone:** 225-638-5533

**Fax:** 225-638-5550

**Email:**

pointecoupee@agcenter.lsu.edu

**Web site:**

lsuagcenter.com\pointe+coupee

**Office Hours:**

8:00a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### Miles Brashier

Parish Chair

mbrashier@agcenter.lsu.edu

### Elaine Delatte/Cindy Steib

Administrative Coordinators

## Programs

### 4-H and Youth Development

### Agriculture & Natural Resources (ANR)

Agronomic Crops: Corn,  
Soybeans, Grain Sorghum,  
Cotton, Wheat, Rice  
Fisheries: Crawfish  
Livestock/Cattle  
Environment/Watersheds  
Horticulture/Lawns and  
Gardens  
Pest Management  
Soil & Water Conservation

### Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS)

Parents Preparing for  
Success  
Family Resource  
Management  
FNP -Family Nutrition  
Program  
Nutrition and Health  
Parenting and Family  
Development  
Child Care Provider  
Character Critters  
Workplace Preparedness

**Who we reach.**

**2,184 - Youth** (includes 720 4-H members, 20 school 4-H clubs, 975 students working in school gardens & 489 students in Food & Nutrition Program)

**15,666 - Adults**

7,285 Ag & Natural Resources  
8,381 Family Consumer Sciences

**How we reach them:**

- |                                    |                |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| 4-H Clubs                          | Class Series   |
| Master/Jr. Master Gardener Program | Demonstrations |
| School Enrichment                  | Workshops      |
| Field days                         | Web sites      |
| Newsletters                        | Social Media   |
|                                    | Publications   |

**Expanding our efforts:**

225 Volunteers - 4-H, Master Gardeners, Family & Community, Master Horsemen

**Parish Facts**

LSU AgCenter County Agents provide research-based information on plant, aquaculture, wildlife and animal enterprises to Pointe Coupee Parish clientele. The 2008 total dollar amount from these commodities were:

- Plant enterprises - \$103,360,599.
- Aquaculture and wildlife - \$3,006,607.
- Animal enterprises - \$9,694,655.

**Data from the Louisiana Ag Summary**

**Web site: [LSUAgCenter.com/agsummary](http://LSUAgCenter.com/agsummary)**

- Population - 22,401
- Land area (square miles) - 557.34
- Persons under 18 years old - 24%
- Persons 65 years old and over - 14.7%
- Median household income - \$38,131
- Persons below poverty - 21.4%

**Local Issues & Plans for this year.**

**1. Increase productivity and profitability of Louisiana Agriculture.**

- Conduct variety and verification trials in corn, soybeans and wheat
- Make farm and home visits to provide educational information to solve problems
- Conduct Master Gardener, farmer, cattlemen and horsemen classes
- Use graduates of these classes to provide community service and service learning
- Promote agriculture to the general public
- Sugarcane Field Day
- Environmental training through Farm Forum
- Prescribe Burn School for sugarcane producers

**2. Promote the wise use of natural resources and protection of the environment.**

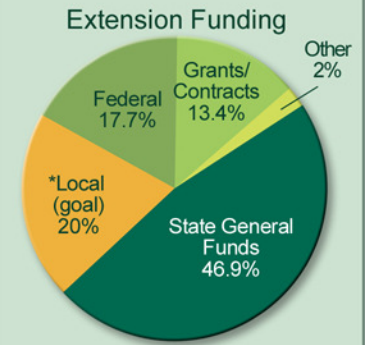
- Junior Master Gardener Program
- Work with NRCS to promote conservation programs and conservation tillage programs
- Certify pesticide applicators and Worker Protection Standards (WPS) through Farm Forum and Iberville Sugarcane Growers Meeting
- Promote wise use of Best Management Practices (BMP) through horticulture and agronomic programs

**3. Build leaders and good citizens through 4-H youth development.**

- Promote Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) Programs throughout the parish
- Junior Leaders will participate in a year long Garden/Environmental Community Service Project
- Create budget and programming awareness

**4. Strengthen families and communities**

- Focus on childhood obesity through Nutrition Program
- Through Financial Management Program, clients will receive training in soft skills such as writing resumes, cell phone messaging and preparing for job interviews
- Through Family Development Program, FCS agents will promote parent involvement in child literacy.



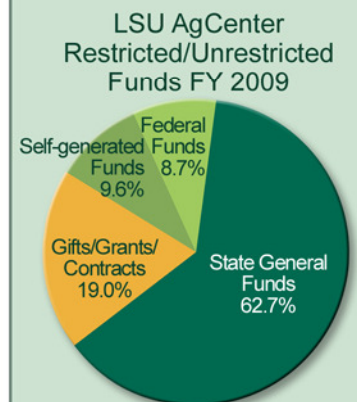
*\*Local Funding  
Pointe Coupee Parish School Board  
Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury*

**How we are funded.**

You are the local supporters and beneficiaries in the LSU AgCenter's Extension programs. Just 20 percent support keeps these programs in your community.

Your parish extension office offers programs in:

- Sustaining Louisiana's agriculture, forestry and fisheries.
- Building leaders and good citizens through 4-H youth development.
- Family, nutrition, health and community development to enhance the quality of life for Louisiana citizens.



For the latest research-based information on just about anything, visit our Web site: [LSUAgCenter.com](http://LSUAgCenter.com)