

Washington Parish Profile

Report to Stakeholders

April 2011



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 and Consumer Sciences

Due to the current economic climate, we have seen an increase in demand for residents needing base financial management education. To help residents with financial issues, the SAIL (Saving and Investing for Life) program was offered. In the program, participants learn the importance of improving one's financial stability and security by reducing debt and improving money management. Post survey results suggest that 91 percent increased investing for retirement, 71 percent paid off some high cost debt and 54 percent increased their net worth.



Through the LSU AgCenter family economics program, participants have learned to manage their finances, implement a saving and investing plan leading to increased financial stability and security, reducing the demand for public assistance. Conducted 49 trainings with 77 participants reached on parenting, budgeting, credit, taxes, time management, nutrition and transportation.



4-H Youth Development

With one of three children in Washington Parish considered either overweight or obese, there is a great need for healthy lifestyle education. In response to this epidemic, the Smart Bodies program has been offered to 10 schools in Washington Parish over the last four years. As a result of this program, 1,200 children were reached during the '07-'08 school year, 600 in '08-'09, 939 in '09-'10 and 1,092 in '10-'11.

Youth who participated in 4-H healthy living programs, such as Smart Bodies, make better food and exercise choices, which leads to less nutrition-related illness, leading to lower health cost and a healthy workforce.



Agriculture and Natural Resources

The dairy industry has experienced the most significant losses since 1984, the number of dairies in Washington Parish have gone from 193 farms to 43. Programs offered by the Louisiana Farm Bureau, USDA Farm Service Agency, LA Department of Agriculture & Forestry, Natural Resources Conservation Service and LSU AgCenter are providing the educational and financial resources to assist those impacted commodities which include: dairy, forestry, nursery and horticulture.

Through row crop programs, supported by research and outreach which include: research verification programs, participants adopt environmentally and economically viable production benefiting the local economy and contributing to economic stability.

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Programs

4-H and Youth Development

Character Education, Wetlands Education, Shooting Sports

Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR)

Animal Production—Beef, Dairy

Horticulture/Lawns and

Gardens— Commercial

Vegetables (Watermelons)

Pest Management

Forestry

Community Resources

Development

Family and Consumer

Sciences (FCS) - Family and

Human Development

Parents Preparing for

Success

Family Resource Management

FNP-Family Nutrition

Program

Family Wellness

Who we reach.

4,344 - Youth (includes 783 4-H members and 22 school 4-H clubs)
 16,467 - Adults
 4,804 Ag and Natural Resources
 11,663 Family and Consumer Sciences

How we reach them:

4-H clubs	Class series
School enrichment	Demonstrations
Field days	Workshops
Newsletters	Websites
Publications	Social media
Telephone	WEB TV

Expanding our efforts:

125 Volunteers -
 4-H, Master Gardeners, Family and Community Leaders

Parish Facts

LSU AgCenter county agents provide research-based information on plants, forestry, wildlife and animal enterprises to Washington Parish clientele. The 2010 total dollar amount from these commodities was:

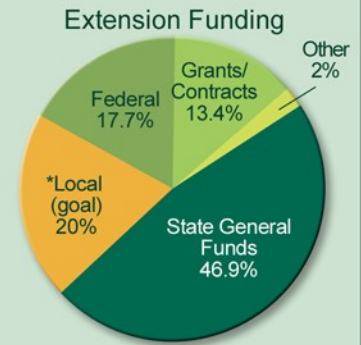
—Plant enterprises - \$23,880,975
 —Forestry - \$14,851,950
 —Dairy, Beef, others - \$25,533,423

Data from Louisiana Ag Summary

Website: LSUAgCenter.com/agsummary and State and County QuickFacts Website:

www.quickfacts.census.gov

Population - 45,669
 Land area (square miles) - 670
 Persons under 18 years old - 25.6% = 11,691
 Persons under 5 years old - 7% = 3,197
 Persons 65 years old and over - 14.3% = 6,531
 Persons per household = 2.5
 Median household income - \$30,725
 Persons below poverty - 24.1% = 11,006
 Other age groups—53.1% = 24,250



Washington Parish Council
 Washington Parish School Board
 Bogalusa City School Board
 Town of Franklinton
 City of Bogalusa

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.

Local Issues and Plans for this year

1. Increase productivity and profitability of Louisiana Agriculture.

- Conduct forestry and livestock field days
- Write news column, Web page content, Web TV and conduct seminars on agriculture practices
- Conduct Master Gardener field days to involve general public
- Conduct farm and home educational visits
- Hold meetings and other activities to meet the needs of clients with research-based information
- Use Master Gardeners on community/school horticulture programs



2. Encourage more community and economic development projects

- Support the new Bogue Chitto State Park
- Develop a new industrial park for the western part of the parish
- Hold monthly economic development meetings on the east and west side of the parish to support economic development considering that since Hurricane Katrina, the North shore has been a magnet for industrial re-location
- Working on the development of a 1,100-acre recreational complex for the western side of the parish



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

- Work with senior students on financial management
- Develop and implement service learning projects throughout the parish
- Further the Healthy Lifestyles mandates in parish schools by implementing the Smart Choices program

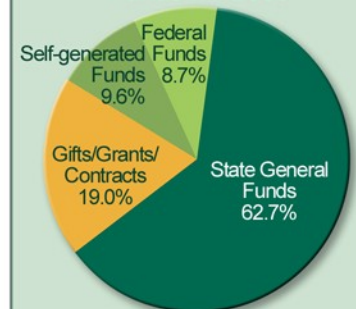
4. Strengthen families and communities

- Develop and strengthen Family and Consumer Sciences programs across the parish
- Promote best practices for budgeting and child care
- Develop early literacy skills among children and families in the parish
- Continue to teach classes to residents on financial management/family and human development.
- Build and strengthen partnerships with other organizations in the parish

5. Offer Parents Preparing for Success Program

- Offer six-week training on parenting and money management education to Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP) clients.

LSU AgCenter Restricted/Unrestricted Funds FY 2009



For the latest research-based information on just about anything, visit our Web site:
LSUAgCenter.com