

Morehouse Parish Profile



Report to Stakeholders

March 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.



Morehouse Parish Extension Office

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Programs

4-H and Youth Development

Agriculture & Natural Resources (ANR)
Animal Production
Environment/Watersheds
Horticulture/Lawns and Gardens
Pest Management
Corn
Soybeans
Rice
Cotton

Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS)
Parents Preparing for Success
Family Resource Management
FNP -Family Nutrition Program
Nutrition and Health

Program Highlights

Agriculture and Natural Resources

More than 70 producers received knowledge of farm profitability and environmental education at our annual Parish Crops Tour in July 2010. A parishwide growers' meeting held in February 2010 provided knowledge of pesticide safety, water quality issues and research based information on corn, soybeans and cotton to over 60 producers. Grain crops continue to be the dominant commodity grown in Morehouse Parish with more than 200,000 acres grown in corn, soybeans and rice for 2010, with a dollar amount of over \$163 million.



Family and Consumer Sciences

Families deal with multiple issues in raising children, eating right and spending smart in order to live well. FCS focuses on these issues in providing programs for Morehouse families. Nutrition education provided through programs such as the Family Nutrition Program, Smart Choices and others teach how to make healthier lifestyle choices. Parenting classes teach skills needed to raise children from birth through adolescence. Child care provider training hours enrich both the provider and child care setting. Financial literacy programs help clients manage their money more wisely. The Volunteers for Family and Community club works to extend the educational and community efforts within the parish as well.



4-H Youth Development

The Morehouse Parish 4-H Youth Development program strives to create a sense of belonging with the youth in Morehouse Parish. The following strategies are utilized to build a sense of belonging among club members, their peers and adult volunteers. All youth are encouraged to participate in contests and planned activities. Youth are encouraged to present demonstrations or illustrated talks during club meetings. Youth are also being reached by many different school enrichment activities. All fifth-graders in the parish are invited to Morehouse Progressive Agriculture Safety Day where they are taught lessons on safety. Character Critters are used to teach kindergarten students the importance of character. Science enrichment is being taught to sixth-graders at one of the junior high facilities.



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Who we reach.

1450 - Youth (includes 376 4-H members and nine school 4-H clubs)
 22,250- Adults
 2,850 Ag and Natural Resources
 19,500 Family Consumer Sciences

How we reach them:

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

Expanding our efforts:

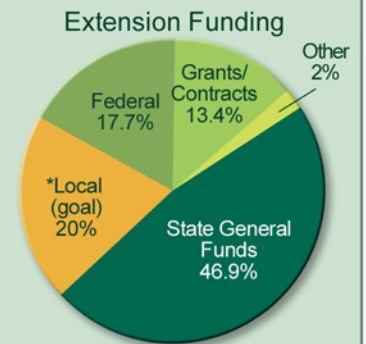
78 Volunteers - 4-H, Master Gardeners, Family and Community, Master Horseman

Parish Facts

LSU AgCenter county agents provide research-based information on plant, aquaculture, wildlife and animal enterprises to Morehouse Parish clientele. The 2010 total dollar amount from these commodities was:
 —Plant enterprises - \$163,249,786
 —Aquaculture and wildlife - \$611,775
 —Animal enterprises - \$2,768,844

Data from the Louisiana Ag Summary Website: LSUAgCenter.com/agsummary

Population - 28,223
 Land area (square miles) - 794.25
 Persons under 18 years old - 24.9%
 Persons 65 years old and over - 15.3%
 Median household income - \$32,168
 Persons below poverty - 25.2%



**Local Funding
 Morehouse Parish Police Jury
 Morehouse Parish School Board
 Dedicated millage tax to the Morehouse Parish Office*

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.

- Continue farm and home visits, parishwide field day and crop result demonstration on all crops
- Write news column, Web page content and seminars on agriculture practices

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

- Educate 4-H youth on composting and re-cycling
- Educate producers on current disposal of pesticide containers and waste

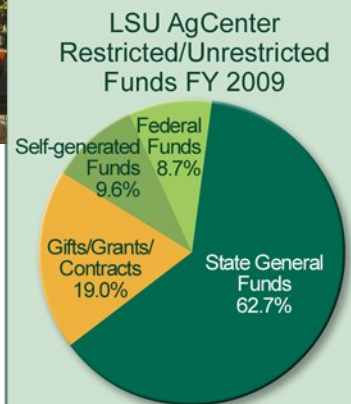
- Certify producers who use restricted use pesticides
- Provide water quality educational programs

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

- Provide opportunities for youth to participate in educational workshops
- Focus on character education in school club programs
- Develop and implement service learning projects throughout the parish
- Provide opportunity for youth to participate in shooting sports program

4. Strengthen families and communities.

- FNP clients will receive training on feeding their families nutritiously on a budget
- Provide child development training
- Teach classes on reducing credit balances and examining spending habits



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