



# LaYAPP

Louisiana  
Young Ag Producers  
Program  
Application

Learn more about being a part of the business of agriculture through hands-on experiences and classroom instruction.  
**Application deadline: February 1, 2012**





## COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

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November 15, 2011

### MEMORANDUM

**TO: Agricultural and Educational Professionals and Commodity Group Leaders**

**RE: Louisiana Young Ag Producers Program (LaYAPP)**

The United States Department of Agriculture's latest agricultural census reveals that the average age of agricultural producers in the United States is slowly rising and fewer young people are entering the profession. With Louisiana demographics closely mirroring this national trend, there are growing concerns that our state and nation could lose its ability to remain competitive in national and global agricultural markets unless specific action is taken to deal with this critical workforce issue. In 2010, the LSU AgCenter addressed this challenge by directly engaging Louisiana youth in the exploration of the various career options available to them in production agriculture and to lead them to the knowledge and resources to enter this profession. This program is designed to provide a year-long intensive, quality educational experience which includes week-long summer institutes on the LSU-Baton Rouge campus, educational field trips, networking with peers and industry representatives, and pairing up with caring and knowledgeable adult mentors from the agricultural production sector. We completed our first year this past July with a class of thirteen of our best and brightest high school students from across the state and are presently engaged with our outstanding new group of ten. By all indications, I am pleased to report that our initial efforts were met with much success. We therefore wish to continue moving forward with the recruitment of the 2012-2013 Class.

Attached you will find an application and associated information. I ask all of you to assist us in identifying and nominating qualified student candidates for this unique program.

Thanks for working with us to promote this excellent educational opportunity across Louisiana.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul D. Coreil".

Paul D. Coreil  
Vice Chancellor and Director

PDC:jmw

Attachment

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

# LaYAPP—Louisiana Young Ag Producers Program



## **Agriculture. A great career. A great life.**

The LSU AgCenter's Louisiana Young Ag Producer Program (LaYAPP) is a one-year intensive classroom/hands-on, mentor-based experience that introduces high school juniors and seniors to the options available in the areas of food and fiber production and encourages them to consider a career in agricultural production. Whether their journeys will take them to the open fields and pastures of our state's rural landscape or within smaller yet still productive expanses within urban and suburban areas, the program will provide knowledge and resources that will ultimately lead young people to their fields of choice.

## **What are the requirements to apply for LaYAPP?**

- Enrolled in the 11th or 12th grade for the 2012-2013 school term OR enrolled in a Louisiana high school, approved home school or actively pursuing the attainment of a Graduate Equivalency Diploma. Applicant cannot have passed her/his 20th birthday by January 1 of the year of application.
- Demonstrate a sincere interest in entering the agricultural production profession.
- Nomination and letter of support by an educational or agricultural professional.
- Participate in an interview process.

## **What are the benefits of LaYAPP?**

- Participate in an internship with a qualified, enthusiastic mentor during the school term
- Establish networks with selected group of peers and professionals
- Grow personally and professionally
- Create a vision for your agricultural operation
- Possible high school graduation credit
- Receive a monetary stipend after completing all program requirements

## **What are the dates and locations of the activities?**

During the 2012-2013 school term, participants will be expected to take part in the following activities:

### ***July 23-27, 2012***

Five-day LaYAPP Summer Institute held on the LSU campus in Baton Rouge.

### ***October 12-13, 2012 (if funding permits)***

Fall Weekend Institute (Participants and Mentors) - Camp Grant Walker in Pollock, LA

### ***January TBA, 2013 (if funding permits)***

Spring Weekend Institute in conjunction with Young Farmer and Rancher Winter Meeting (Participants and Mentors) - Location TBA

### ***2012-2013 School Term***

Participate in on-site, 50-hour, paid internship with a qualified adult mentor's agricultural production operation. Complete the objectives of the placement experience agreement planned at the 2012 conference with your mentor. Keep records on experience and build a portfolio.

### ***July 2013 (specific dates to be announced)***

LaYAPP Summer Institute will serve as a culmination of the 2012-2013 activities and introductory experiences for the 2013-2014 class. It will also provide opportunities for interaction between the two groups.

## **For more information about LaYAPP, contact:**

Dr. Bobby Soileau: 225-578-5670, [bsoileau@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:bsoileau@agcenter.lsu.edu)

Dr. Mark Tassin - 225-578-2196, [mgtassin@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:mgtassin@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**Visit our web site: [www.lsuagcenter.com/layapp](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/layapp)**

## Louisiana Agricultural Commodities

*Learn more about the wide range of food and fiber which can be produced in Louisiana. Use this information to help you with your agriculture production choice on the application. Please be reminded that this is not an exhaustive list. For information on more choices, you may refer to sites such as [www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com), [www.ldaf.state.la.us](http://www.ldaf.state.la.us), and [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)*

### ANIMAL ENTERPRISES

#### Livestock and Poultry:

**Beef:** In Louisiana, cow numbers in 2009 totaled 602,450 with a reported 11,534 producers. Beef cattle are extremely important to Louisiana's agricultural industry. The top breed of cattle in the United States is the Angus. So, if beef interests you, LaYAPP is the place for you! For more information, visit, [www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com).

**Dairies:** Got Milk???? Milk is not just produced from cows alone. The number of goat dairies is on the increase across the country, with 355,000 milk goats in 2009. As with cow's milk, milk from goats is used for making cheese, yogurt, and ice cream as well as for fluid consumption. In 2008, the total amount of milk production in the U.S. for cows was \$35 billion. The average number of milk cows on farms was 9.3 million, mostly of the Holstein breed. The U.S. government provides many dairy producers with support through many federal and state programs. In 2009, Louisiana, milk production took place in 14 parishes. For more information on this industry, please visit [www.lsuagcenter.com/agsummary](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/agsummary)

**Ducks:** There are about 22 million ducks raised annually in the United States. Most are produced under confinement on specialized duck farms. Although most are raised for meat for family consumption and local sales, there is also an increasing interest on the part of local restaurants to have access to locally-grown ducks for their menu. Some of the breeds of ducks are Pekins, Rouen, and the Muscovy, with all being good egg producers. For more information about raising ducks please visit: [www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com) .

**Goats:** In Louisiana, Goats were produced by 1,184 farmers in Louisiana in 2009. Some variety of goats that are prevalent in Louisiana are slaughter, stocker, cull and show goats. The gross farm value of Goats sold in LA in 2009 was \$2.5 million. The total production value was \$2.7 million. Goats offer products that are in demand such as dairy goats, Goats for fiber and meat goat. An interesting fact about goats in the fiber branch of the industry is that most of the common fibers produced by them are mohair and cashmere. These fibers are high in demand because of their soft, warm, and long-wearing qualities. For more information about goats please visit, [www.lsuagcenter.com/agsummary](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/agsummary) .

**Horses:** Horses and the horse industry are very important to Louisiana Agriculture. In 2009, there were 203,159 horses that were owned by approximately 49,000 people. The horse industry has three main categories: racing, show/competition, and recreational. The horse industry had a farm value of \$521.6 million in the year 2009. The activities of this industry provides an enormous amount of cash flow for the economy of Louisiana. Indeed, according to the American Horse Council, Louisiana's horse industry generates \$2.45 billion per year in impact to the Louisiana economy. So, if you are ready to ride and have fun with equines visit: [www.lsuagcenter.com/agsummary](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/agsummary).

**Poultry (Chickens):** Poultry is the largest animal agricultural industry in Louisiana. There are two main industries: broiler meat and table egg industry. Table egg production in 2008 was 21.9 million dozen eggs, and broiler meat production was at 1.02 billion pounds. Talk about lots of chicken and eggs! Find out more at [www.LSUAgCenter.com/Poultry](http://www.LSUAgCenter.com/Poultry)

**Quail:** In Louisiana, in 2009, there were 20,656 birds produced by 29 producers. Quail has generated a gross farm value of \$72, 296. The total value of production was \$75,911. Eggs are the main product of quail which can be in a basket or marketed fresh. Some breeds of Quail include Japanese Seattle, Silver, Negro, Chinese Quail, Tuxedo Brown Crosses, and Bowwhites. For more information on quail please visit: [www.agribusinessweek.com/quail-production-part-1/](http://www.agribusinessweek.com/quail-production-part-1/) or [www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com)

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**Rabbits:** Most often people like to care and raise rabbits as a backyard activity. Rabbits can be pets, show animals, or commercially grown as a food commodity. Rabbits have been produced for over 3000 years. Many people raise them for meat, research, pets, show, and pelts. There are two types of rabbit species: the doe and the buck. To gain more knowledge on rabbit production, visit: [http://msucares.com/livestock/small\\_animal/index.html](http://msucares.com/livestock/small_animal/index.html)

**Sheep:** Sheep production took place in 56 parishes in Louisiana during 2009 and were produced by 366 producers. The total number of lambs marketed (slaughter, feeder and club/show) was estimated 2,158 for approximately \$260,000 in 2009. Some of the sheep varieties in Louisiana include stocker and cull sheep. Wool production has been estimated at 20,723 pounds. The total farm gate value of sheep sales was 2.4 million in 2009. According to the American Sheep Industry Association, lamb consumption is heavier on the east and west coasts of the United States because of higher ethnic population. For more information visit: [www.lsuagcenter.com/agsummary](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/agsummary)

**Squab:** What is squab? Well, it happens to be a young pigeon. Squab has been bred for food for many centuries in early Asian and Arabic cultures. It has been said to be one of the most easiest meat products to digest. They are not subject to diseases as other game birds and fowls and are relatively easy to raise. If you are interested becoming involved in this unique industry, visit [www.squab.com/product/nutrition.htm](http://www.squab.com/product/nutrition.htm)

**Swine:** The United States is the world's second-largest producer of pork. In December 2009, the USDA estimated 65.8 million hogs were in the US and of that, 60 million were market hogs. The five largest pork processing firms in the U.S. are Smithfield Foods, Tyson Foods, JBS Swift, Hormel Foods Corporation, and Cargill Meat Solutions. Louisiana pork producers numbered 423 in 2009. Some of the top parishes are St. Martin, Calcasieu, Vermillion, Rapides, Beauregard, and Richland parishes. The total value of swine production in the whole state of Louisiana was 2.76 million in 2009. For more information on swine production please visit: [www.lsuagcenter.com/agsummary](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/agsummary)

### **FISHERIES:**

**Alligators:** Louisiana has an alligator farming industry that harvests 140,000-170,000 alligators valued at more than \$12 million annually. Alligators also are a renewable natural resource, with more than \$20 million generated annually from alligators/alligator eggs harvested. Is this industry for you?

**Catfish:** Louisiana's commercial catfish growers had sales of \$9.9 million during 2008, with the majority of producers located in the northeastern portion of the state.

**Crawfish:** Louisiana crawfish consists of two species: red swamp and white river. The crawfish farming industry in Louisiana is located on more than 1,200 farms and the majority of the "wild" catch is centered in the Atchafalaya River Basin. Did you know the first crawfish harvest occurred in 1880, with 23,400 pounds of crawfish with a value of \$2,140? In 2008, the live crawfish catch contributed more than \$125 million to the Louisiana economy!

**Oysters:** Louisiana leads in oyster production in the United States. Oysters are typically produced either naturally, managed, or cultivated. In 2009, 35,571 thousand pounds of oysters were harvested throughout the U.S. totaling approximately \$136,493 thousand in value. In 2008, Louisiana was the largest producer in the region and in the nation, having 1.5 million sacks of oysters totaling \$3.5 million. The industry structure has four main sectors comprised of harvesters, wholesalers, processors, and retailers. Louisiana's industry is mostly organized on a lease-base industry where the oysters are cultivated on both public seed grounds and privately leased state water bottoms. For more information on the oyster industry, visit, [www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com).

**Shrimp:** The harvest of this shellfish in Louisiana contributes significantly to the states economy. There are over 300 species of shrimp and each one had there own distinct flavor and texture. There are even blue, black and tiger shrimps. About 5 billion pounds of shrimp are produced every year. Twenty-percent are farm raised in the aquaculture business. Visit or [www.shrimpfacts.net](http://www.shrimpfacts.net).

## PLANT ENTERPRISES

### **AGRONOMIC CROPS:**

**Cotton:** Did you know that cotton production started in Louisiana in 1729? Cotton is the best-selling natural fiber in America today, supplying the global demand now and far into the future for textiles and a wide range of other products. Louisiana is one of the four major cotton producing states along with Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi.

**Forages:** There are many types of forages such as ryegrass, bermudagrass, bahiagrass, perennial peanuts and switchgrass, all of which fall under the category of hay and are beneficial to the livestock industry. In 2009, hay was produced from 100 acres of alfalfa and 326,710 acres of grassland and was sold by 3,440 producers. The total farm value for hay sales in Louisiana was \$130.6 million in 2009.

**Oats:** Oats are considered a feed grain as well as for human consumption. There are several varieties and species of oats produced in the U.S. In 2009, the gross farm value of oat production in Louisiana was \$600,000. For more information, visit: [www.lsuagcenter.com/agsummary](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/agsummary)

**Rice:** One of the world's most important cereal crops, rice has been grown in the U.S. for more than 300 years. It also is an important part of Louisiana's culture, diet and economy, with an industry valued at more than \$300 million. Interested?

**Soybeans:** Soybean production in Louisiana contributes nearly \$230 million to the economy. Hundreds of food and non food products can be made from this humble legume, one of the world's most versatile crops. Is soybean production in your future?

**Sugar Cane:** Sugarcane is produced on more than 450,000 acres of land in 25 of the 64 Louisiana parishes, generating more than \$2 billion in economic value.. Louisiana produces about 16 percent of the total sugar grown in the United States, employing approximately 32,000 people on 690 farms and 18 factories.

**Wheat:** There are two different types of wheat crops: hard red wheat and hard white wheat crops. It is the third largest crop in the United States following corn and soybeans. Wheat, especially the hard red category, has five subcategories or classes that have unique characteristics for their uses such as milling, baking, pasta, and other characteristics. Eighty percent of US wheat production is winter wheat.

### **FORESTRY:**

**Forestry:** Trees are the No. 1 crop in Louisiana ----- grown in family and commercial forests throughout the state. In 2008, forestry had a \$3.3 billion impact on our state economy, and more than 15,000 people held good manufacturing jobs in this field.

**FRUIT AND/OR SPECIALTY CROPS PRODUCTION [If you choose one or more under this category, please write "Fruit and/or Specialty Crops" as your choice of Production Area on your application.]**

**Blackberries:** Blackberries are native to Louisiana and many commercial varieties are well adapted to our state's growing conditions. Being a great source of vitamins and fiber, it's no surprise that consumer demand has been increasing for fresh fruits such as this one!

**Blueberries:** Commercial blueberry production in Louisiana had its beginning more than 40 years ago with the introduction of improved varieties of rabbiteye blueberry. Since then, acreage has grown steadily because of increased consumer demand. Blueberries are a great source of antioxidants, fiber and vitamin C.

**Citrus:** The parishes of Plaquemines, Terrebonne and Lafourche are at the epicenter of most of our state's commercial production of delicious and nutritious citrus fruits. Two of the more popular citrus crops grown are navel oranges and satsumas, although lemons and kumquats also are produced. In 2008, these crops had a gross farm value of \$7.4 million.

**Figs:** Figs were one of the first fruits to be cultivated in ancient times. Louisiana produces fig varieties that do not require pollination. There are many variations of this specialty crop such as LSU Purple, which is dark purple and harvested in July.

**Herbs:** Herbs are considered as a plant that is used for health needs, adding flavor to foods and for fragrances. They are also used to make teas and to add to foods that are cooked. Many are grown for fragrances which are used in potpourri, sachets, and nosegays. More than twenty-five percent of herbs that are produced are used as active ingredients for modern drugs.

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**Muscadines:** In Louisiana, muscadine production is divided into fresh fruit and commercial production. Currently, they are grown for fresh fruit on 53 acres by 35 growers and are usually sold anywhere from \$5-\$12 per gallon. Muscadine production also has uses for wine production. Wine production with the use of muscadines is mainly concentrated in East Feliciana Parish. The value of muscadines in 2009 was approximately \$400,000.

**Mushrooms:** Did you know that there are over 2000 mushroom species that are edible? In 2008-2009 season, 817 million pounds of U.S. mushrooms were produced with a total value of \$957 million. There are approximately 285 commercial growers in the United States of mushrooms.

**Nursery Operations:** The nursery and landscape industry is made up of thousands of small family businesses that grow, retail, install and care for plants and landscapes. According to the USDA, the nursery and greenhouse industry comprises the fastest growing segment of U.S. agriculture. The industry also generates biomass in the form of pruning and culling waste which may be utilized for energy production and converted to agricultural mulch. The nursery and landscape industry employs more than 600,000 workers during peak seasons. In Louisiana, commercial nursery crop production had a gross farm value of \$82.2 million in 2009. If you are interested in landscaping, lawn care, this is the industry for you, visit:

[www.lsuagcenter.com/agsummary](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/agsummary)

**Peaches:** There are two types of peaches: clingstone and freestone. Clingstone peaches “the flesh clings” to the stone of the peach which makes it easier to process. The Freestone peaches “freely separate” from the flesh, which makes it easier for consumption. They were commercially produced in 23 states as of 2009. In that same year, the United States had 118,730 acres of peach trees in production. In Louisiana in 2009, the gross value of peaches was \$5.1 million, currently grown on 342 acres by approximately 40 commercial producers.

**Pears:** Just because pear production is concentrated in the Northwest United States doesn't mean that they cannot be produced by the great producers of Louisiana. The total U.S. production in 2009 was 936,200 tons which were valued at \$350.6 million. (Now that's a lot of pears!) The U.S. had 257 organic farms in 2008 that were certified and produced pears. There are several different types of pears produced commercially which include the European or French Pear, the Asian pear which is “apple-like” in texture and the oriental hybrid, which ranges from a gritty texture to a dessert quality of fruit. Sixty percent of the crop is sold fresh and the other forty percent of the crop is processed and canned.

**Plums:** In 2008, the production of fresh plums increased to 160,000 tons and yields rose from 5.2 to 5.4 tons per acre. The U.S. is a net exporter of plums, increasing to 25.7 million pounds in 2008. Nearly all of the commercially grown plums are hybrids of the Japanese plum. Currently, California is once again the dominant producer of plum. The total crop value in 2008 was \$57 million. Even though plums are primarily grown in California because of suitable climate conditions, there are still many ways to grow and produce plums in Louisiana.

**Strawberries:** Strawberries are the leading fruit crop in the state, with 2008 data indicating 395 acres grown for a gross farm value of \$15 million. Strawberries are one of the more nutritious fruits to eat, being low in fat and calories and high in fiber, vitamin C and antioxidants.

### **NUTS:**

**Pecans:** The 2008 harvest for Louisiana pecans was approximately 4.5 million pounds with a value of more than \$4 million. This nutritious nut is grown in 39 Louisiana parishes and used in pies, cookies, candies, and other desserts.

**VEGETABLE CROPS** [If you choose one or more under this category, please write “Vegetable Crops” as your choice of Production Area on your application.]:

**Artichokes:** Artichokes are best purchased during the months of March through May. There are fifty varieties of artichokes grown worldwide. Although you can grow artichokes just about anywhere, the state of California is the main supplier of artichokes to the United States and occurs year-round. The average production over the past five years has been over 4 million pounds.

**Asparagus:** This vegetable dates all the way back to colonial times and is a high-value, labor intensive perennial crop which is harvested primarily from January to June. Seventy-five percent of the crop produced in the USA was intended for fresh-market uses in 2009. Production had totaled 797,000 cwt. in 2009 and the total value reached \$85.9 million. Asparagus was grown on 2,605 farms total in the USA.

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**Beans:** There are many types of beans raised for human consumption. Some varieties include kidney beans, navy beans, pinto beans, and black beans. The leading states in the U.S. that grow beans are North Dakota, Michigan, Nebraska, Colorado, California, and Idaho. When these beans do not meet the quality standards for human consumption, they are usually used as livestock feed.

**Cucumbers:** Do you think it is a fruit or a vegetable? According to some research, a cucumber is indeed a fruit because it contains seeds to reproduce, but because of its uses it is considered by our culture to be a vegetable. Cucumbers can also be pickled for which we get one of our favorite sour or dilled snacks. Either way, whether fresh or pickled, cucumbers are good to grow and very healthy to eat.

**Eggplant:** The eggplant is a member of the potato family. There are different varieties of eggplants that range in many colors from dark purple to mauve and from yellow to white. Contrary to the popular belief, the eggplant is one of the most popular vegetables in the world. Its origins are in the country of Italy where it has been grown for centuries.

**Garlic:** The 2009 U.S. garlic crop production has increased over the years and reached \$196.1 million in 2009. This crop was introduced to the United States in the 1700s, but did not gain popularity until the 1920s. Historically, garlic was used for health and medical purposes. Garlic can be and is produced in Louisiana; however, the top three producers of garlic are California, Oregon and Nevada.

**Greens:** Greens include spinach, turnips, mustard, collards, and kale. Greens are cool season crops which can be grown in both the spring and the fall and belong to the cruciferous family. They are a good source of vitamins A, C, K, iron, and calcium. and are easy to plant, grow, cook, harvest, and maintain.

**Irish Potatoes:** Potatoes are the top vegetable crop in the U.S. They are grown commercially in 36 states with the state of Idaho growing more potatoes than any other state. They are cool-season vegetables and are grown primarily in the late winter and spring and sometimes in the late summer and fall. Overall, there are two varieties of potatoes suitable for our climate: red-skin and white-skin.

**Okra:** Okra! Okra is a member of the mallow family, related to cotton, hibiscus and hollyhock. It grows best in warm climates and is available year round, peaking the most during summer months. An interesting fact about okra is that the fiber from mature okra can actually be used to make rope and paper. How cool is that?? It's like two industries in one that a producer like yourself can get involved with!

**Onions:** Onions are divided into two categories: spring/summer fresh onions and fall/winter storage onions. Spring/summer fresh onions are available in yellow, red, and white during the months of March-August. Fall/winter Storage onions are available August through April. Approximately eighty-seven percent of the onions produced in the U.S. are yellow, eight percent are red, and five percent are white. In Louisiana, the green onion is very special to the state and it grows in abundance during the fall season. Onions are not just the vegetables that make you cry! They're also great on burgers and in cooking!

**Peas:** Peas are very suitable for growth in the home garden. Peas are grown for either their edible seeds or pods. There are many types of peas: sugar snap peas, English peas, snow peas, and black-eyed peas, just to name a few.

**Peppers:** Peppers are very popular to Louisiana. They are closely related to the tomato, Irish potato and eggplant. They can be classified as sweet, mild, or hot. Some types of peppers include bell peppers, chili peppers, jalapeno, ancho, cayenne, habanero, and Tabasco. They are grown in well-drained soil with lots of sunlight.

**Squash:** One of the most popular and productive warm season vegetables in Louisiana is none other than squash. They belong to the gourd family called the "cucurbits" and are a good source of vitamin A. There are both winter and summer squash varieties.

**Sweet Potatoes:** Louisiana ranks third in the United States among the top sweet potato producing states. The total value of the 2008 sweet potato crop in our state was more than \$27 million. An excellent source of vitamins A and C, they are used to produce a wide range of food and non food products. Interested?

**Tomatoes:** In Louisiana, tomatoes are grown on approximately 600 acres valuing \$14.3 million dollars. Tangipahoa and Plaquemines parishes in Louisiana both boast as being leaders in production. Tomatoes are actually a fruit and not a vegetable, but have nutrients that are found in both fruits and vegetables.

**Zucchini:** One of the most popular vegetable crops grown in home gardens is the zucchini. Zucchini is a type of squash and is considered a summer squash. This vegetable is a very easy to grow and maintain and it only takes mainly 2-3 months for a full harvest.

## **Application**

### **Purpose**

The LSU AgCenter's Louisiana Young Ag Producer Program (LaYAPP) is a one-year intensive classroom/hands-on mentor-based experience that introduces high school junior and senior students to the options available to them in the areas of food and fiber production and to encourage them to enter this profession. The program will provide knowledge and resources which will ultimately lead them to entering their field of choice.

### **The Program**

If selected as a Louisiana Young Ag Producer and complete the program, you and your mentor will be honored at a special ceremony to the Louisiana Farm Bureau Convention which will be held in Summer 2013. One night's lodging and valet parking will be provided.

### **During this program you will also:**

- Participate in an internship with a qualified, enthusiastic mentor during the school term.
- Learn great "tricks of the trade" that enable young producers to overcome common challenges.
- Establish a network with select group of peers and successful professionals!
- Grow personally and professionally and create a vision statement for your operation.
- Become eligible for earning high school graduation credit if you are enrolled in agriscience class.
- Receive a monetary stipend after completing all program requirements.

### **Selection Criteria**

Selections will be made based on the following criteria:

1. Must be in the 11th or 12th grade for the **2012-2013** school term.
2. Must be enrolled in a Louisiana high school or approved home school or actively pursuing the attainment of a Graduate Equivalency Diploma. Applicant cannot have passed her/his 20th birthday by January 1 of the year of application.
3. Demonstrate a sincere interest in entering the agricultural production profession.
4. Nomination and a letter of support by an educational professional.
5. Interview process.

### **Cost to Participant**

Participants selected for the program will be assessed a \$200.00 tuition fee to defray costs.

**Applications must be postmarked no later than February 1, 2012. All applications must be typed.** Interviews will be held during the month of **February 2012** and candidates will be notified soon thereafter of their selection status.



Applications must be postmarked by \_\_\_\_\_ (date).

**RESUME:**

Prepare a resume and attach it to this application. Be sure to include the following information; education, employment and occupational experiences, 4-H/FFA/other school organization involvement, community activities, awards and honors, and any other pertinent information.

**ESSAY QUESTIONS:**

Prepare responses to the following questions and limit to one full page for each question. Be sure to include your name on the top of each page and attach to this application. **All responses must be typed in 12 point Arial Font.**

1. Why are you interested in participating in LaYAPP and how do you expect to benefit from it?
2. Describe any experience you have had in agricultural production. If you have had none, please describe one or more areas in which you are interested.
3. Describe the personal, educational and professional goals you would like to achieve in the next five years. What obstacles do you feel you will face in achieving these goals and how do you plan to overcome them?
4. What changes/advancement do you see the production agriculture industry facing in the next five years?

**ATTACH A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION BY AN LSU AGCENTER EMPLOYEE/VOLUNTEER, AGRISCIENCE INSTRUCTOR/FFA ADVISOR, SCHOOL COUNSELOR, QUALIFIED AGRICULTURAL PROFESSIONAL OR IN-SCHOOL/HOME SCHOOL TEACHER.**

**NOMINATION FORM**

Nominations can be made by an LSU AgCenter employee/volunteer, Agriscience Instructor/FFA Advisor, school counselor, qualified agricultural professional or an in-school/home school teacher.

The LSU AgCenter's Young Ag Producer Program (LaYAPP) is a one-year, intensive classroom/hands-on, mentor-based experience that introduces high school junior and senior students to the options available to them in the areas of food and fiber production and to encourage them to enter the profession. This program will provide knowledge and resources which will ultimately lead them to entering their choice of an agricultural production enterprise. Candidates must demonstrate a sincere interest in entering the profession, agree to attend the summer institutes held in 2012 and 2013, and complete 50 internship hours with a qualified mentor during the 2012-2013 school term.

**The educator-coordinator (nominator) agrees to do the following:**

1. Assist the student and mentor in any way possible to meet the objectives of the placement agreement within the internship experience.
2. Visit the internship site as needed and consult with the mentor on a regular basis.
3. Devote adequate time and energy to ensure that the student has a meaningful internship experience.
4. Work closely with the mentor on all problems concerning the mutual welfare of all parties and especially for the successful progress of the student.
5. Evaluate the student's progress on the job periodically throughout the school term. This evaluation will be conducted in conjunction with the mentor and student.

**Name of nominee:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominated by (typed):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of nominator:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Institution:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_

**State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

Attach a Separate Letter of Recommendation

## Certification

I certify that all the information given on this application is complete, true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if I am accepted into the program, I must fulfill all obligations (attend 2012 and 2013 Summer Institutes, 50-hour internship with mentor and, if funding permits, attend the Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 Weekend Institutes) in order to receive the program stipend. I hereby grant the LSU AgCenter permission to use any photographic images of myself taken during the program for activities for publicity purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

If you have any questions regarding this program or application, please contact Dr. Bobby Soileau at 225-578-5670, [bsoileau@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:bsoileau@agcenter.lsu.edu) or Dr. Mark Tassin at 225/578-2196, [mgtassin@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:mgtassin@agcenter.lsu.edu). The LaYAPP web page can be found at [www.lsuagcenter.com/layapp](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/layapp).

### Make sure that the following items have been completed:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Information form has been typed and completed
- \_\_\_\_\_ Resume
- \_\_\_\_\_ All essay questions are typed and completed
- \_\_\_\_\_ Nomination form is completed and signed by a qualified educator/  
sponsor
- \_\_\_\_\_ Certification form is signed and dated

### Please mail your completed application to:

LSU AgCenter  
Louisiana Young Ag Producers Program  
c/o Dr. Bobby Soileau  
102 J. Norman Efferson Hall  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803