

Burden Center Profile



Report to Stakeholders

June 2010

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.



Research Highlights

Burden Center functions primarily as a field and greenhouse research facilitation unit for many AgCenter scientists located in AgCenter department and schools in Baton Rouge, LA. These scientists conduct a wide array of research projects on vegetables, fruits, and ornamentals including turf grass.

Vegetables

Vegetable scientists investigate things like environmental modifications and the use of solarization and/or plasticulture technology to grow better vegetables more sustainable manner by reducing the use of inputs like pesticides. The organic production of vegetables also is being studied and demonstrated at Burden Center.

Sweet Potatoes

A team of AgCenter scientists comprised of horticulturists, entomologists, plant pathologists and a plant breeder conduct field trials at Burden Center as part of their protocol to develop new varieties of sweet potatoes that are more genetically stable, productive, and pest resistant. These efforts have played a vital role in the development and recent release of Beauregard, Bienville, and Evangeline as significant new sweet potato varieties.



Fruits

Variety evaluations are being conducted on Southern High Bush blueberries, strawberries, figs, and low-chill peaches. Three new varieties of figs ('O'Rourke', 'Champagne' and 'Tiger') were released in 2007. Mayhaw genotypes are being evaluated for their nutritive and processing value. Six varieties of satsumas (mandarin Oranges) are being tested at the northern limits of their habitat in a longevity study for cold hardiness. An irrigation system designed to provide freeze protection is being used to determine its efficacy to mitigate cold damage to these trees.



Ornamentals

The addition of silicon and/or calcium to vase solutions are being evaluated as vase life extenders for fresh cut flowers. These treatments as supplemental fertilizers are also being evaluated to determine their ability to improve stem strength of poinsettia.



Rose Demonstrations

Earth Kind, Griffin Buck, and other low maintenance roses are on display for public viewing at Burden Center.

Burden Center Office

Address: 4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Location: Burden Center is located on Essen Lane at I-10.

Phone: 225-763-3990

Fax: 225-763-3993

Email:

Chegwood@agctr.lsu.edu

Web site:

LSUAgCenter.com/Burden

Office Hours:

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

Monday-Friday

Clinton P. Hegwood, Jr.
Resident Director & Professor

Size: 440 acres including 200 acres of forested green space with walking trails, 15 acres of formal garden (Windrush Garden), the lone E. Burden Conference Center, the Steele Burden Memorial Orangerie, the All America Rose Selection display garden, the All America Selections garden, the Vi & Hank Stone Memorial Camellia Collection, and the Rural Life Museum.

Research focus:

Horticulture

- Vegetable crops
- Fruit crops
- Ornamentals including container and greenhouse nursery crops, and annual and perennial bedding plants trials
- Demonstration research: Rose kinds and varieties, Crepe myrtle varieties, Gingers
- Turf research
- Medicinal plant research

Significance of Burden Center Research

Vegetable, fruit, and ornamental research data are provided to Louisiana growers to help them stay up to date with the latest crop production technology, varieties and smart growing practices to minimize costly inputs and increase productivity and competitiveness. Sweet potato team research, for instance, has resulted in the release of Bienville and Evangeline, two new varieties that are more genetically stable and pest-resistant than many commercially produced sweet potato varieties grown in the United States. O'Rourke, Champagne and Tiger are three new fig varieties that have been released for home garden and commercial production.

2009 Horticulture Industry Facts

Total value of horticulture crops to the Louisiana economy was over \$591.4 million

- Commercial vegetables - \$125.1 million
- Fruit crops - \$77.5 million
- Home gardens - \$178.6 million
- Nursery and ornamentals - \$124.1 million
- Sweet potatoes - \$84.5 million
- Greenhouse vegetables - \$1.4 million

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

Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station

Louisiana's unique combination of crops — ranging from corn, cotton, rice and sugarcane to extensive forestry, poultry, cattle and fisheries industries — presents challenges for providing research-based information to ensure sustainable agricultural production systems.

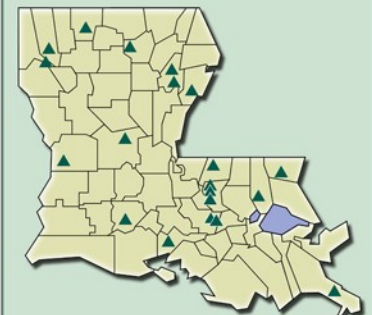
To address the needs of these industries, the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station operates 11 departments shared by the LSU AgCenter and the LSU College of Agriculture, as well as 20 research locations across the state. To fund the basic and applied research, scientists compete for federal and state grants and checkoff dollars provided by some farmers' groups, along with state and federal dollars. Many of the facilities also sustain their research operations through the sale of agricultural commodities produced on the stations.

The LSU AgCenter has the most successful record of commercialization of intellectual property in the LSU System. Since 2000, nine new companies have been started based on licensed technology from LSU AgCenter. The income is distributed among the LSU System, the inventors and more research.

Future Plans

Burden Center will continue to function primarily as a research facilitation unit dedicated to research activities on horticultural crops, including fruits, vegetable, ornamentals and turf grass. In addition to field plots, greenhouses and nursery areas, Burden Center has many more assets that can and are being used for teaching, research and service activities. These include Windrush Gardens, 200 acres of forested green space containing several miles of nature trails (Trees & Trails); the All America Rose Selection Display Garden; the All America Selections Garden; the Vi and Hank Stone Memorial Camellia Collection; the Steele Burden Memorial Orangerie; the ornamental ginger garden; the Barton Arboretum and Memorial Live Oak Garden, and the LSU Rural Life Museum.

When implemented, a major master plan developed in 2009 will connect all these elements that make up Burden Center into a unified destination that provides a welcoming and engaging experience for those who conduct research and extension work and for those who visit its public spaces. This master plan also will create a 43-acre gateway into Burden and what will be the Center for Urban Horticulture. This urban horticulture center will serve as a state-of-the-art Master Gardener teaching facility and will contain many demonstration gardens displaying the latest research findings for growing horticultural plants



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

Visit our Web site: www.LSUAgCenter.com

Louisiana State University Agricultural Center: William B. Richardson, Chancellor. Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station: David J. Boethel, Vice Chancellor and Director. Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service: Paul D. Coreil, Vice Chancellor and Director
 The LSU AgCenter provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.