

Bossier Parish Profile



Report to Stakeholders

January 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

Divorce is a traumatic event for families and can be especially hard for children. Working in cooperation with the 26th Judicial District Court, the parish Extension agents offer a Divorce: Children in the Middle class on a monthly basis to educate parents and children how "not to be" or "how not to put" the children in the middle. The classes are court ordered for everyone who files for divorce with children. To address the problems of the effects of divorce on the family, a class is offered for both adults and children 8-17 years of age. The Family and Consumer Sciences agent teaches the adult classes and the 4-H agent teaches the children's classes. More than 4,000 adults and 2,500 children have attended these classes since 1999.

4-H Youth Development

The main focus for this year's 4-H club meetings was character education and the 4-H members demonstrated their character by donating items to the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital satellite (located at the Feist- Weiller Cancer Center) and to the Providence House. Some of the items donated to the St. Jude's satellite and the Providence House were suckers, Little Debbie snacks, snack crackers, coloring books, crayons, paper towels, toilet paper, hand sanitizers, Kleenex, construction paper and reading books which were used as supplies for the residents. It is estimated that this saved these two organizations approximately \$7,500, freeing up these funds for other projects or activities.



Agriculture and Natural Resources

At the Ark-La-Tex Forestry Forum, a panel of experts discussed incentives to attract new forest product industries to our region. The forum centered around economic development opportunities for forestry, which is the largest agricultural enterprise in the state and especially in this region. Potential for biofuel production on Louisiana forests was addressed. Landowners were also supplied with such management tools as access to the latest aerial images and helpful forestry websites. More than 1.4 million acres of forest land owned or managed were represented. Environmental programs also target hundreds of Bossier Parish youth throughout the year. Additionally, Project Learning Tree workshops provide Bossier Parish educators with hands-on environmental education student activities that are correlated to the Louisiana Grade Level Expectancies.



Bossier Parish Extension Office

Address: P. O. Box 370
Benton, LA 71006

Phone: 318-965-2326

Fax: 318-965-3712

Email: Bossier@agcenter.lsu.edu

Website:
LSUAgCenter.com/Bossier

Office Hours:
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Ricky Kilpatrick

Parish Chair
rkilpatrick@agcenter.lsu.edu

Alison Smith

Administrative Coordinator
asmith@agcenter.lsu.edu

Joy Matthews

Administrative Coordinator
jmatthews@agcenter.lsu.edu

Programs

4-H and Youth Development

Service Learning
Outdoor Skills
Operation Military Kids

Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR)

Forestry/Wildlife
Beef Cattle/Pasture
Environment/Watersheds
Horticulture/Lawns & Gardens
Pest Management
Urban Forestry

Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS)

Parenting Classes
1st Time Homebuyer Classes
Family Resource Mgmt.
Nutrition and Health
Expanded Foods & Nutrition
Education Program

Who we reach.

- 3,150 - Youth (includes 1,385 4-H members and 25 school 4-H clubs)
- 9,885 - Adults
 - 4,725 Ag and Natural Resources
 - 5,160 Family and 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:

175 Volunteers - 4-H, outdoor skills, club leaders, judges, advisory councils, livestock club, workshop presenters

Parish Facts

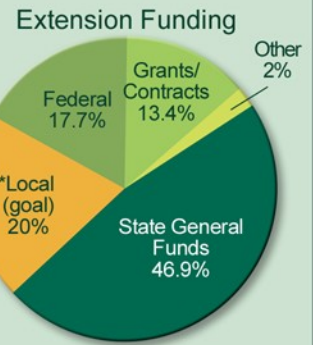
LSU AgCenter county agents provide research-based information on plant, aquaculture, wildlife and animal enterprises to Bossier Parish clientele. The 2010 total dollar amount from these commodities was:

- Plant enterprises - \$27,944,047
- Aquaculture and wildlife - \$1,910,497
- Animal enterprises - \$93,720,611

Data from the Louisiana Ag Summary

Website: LSUAgCenter.com/agsummary

- Population - 111,492
- Land area (square miles) - 839.25
- Persons under 18 years old - 25.7%
- Persons 65 years old and over - 12%
- Median household income - \$49,331
- Persons below poverty - 13.6%



**Local Funding Parish Consolidated Government Parish School Board*

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 Ark-La-Tex Forestry Forum.
- Continue to publish quarterly Timber Tales newsletter.
- Disseminate educational information through mass media, seminars, field days and workshops.
- Conduct farm and home educational visits.

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

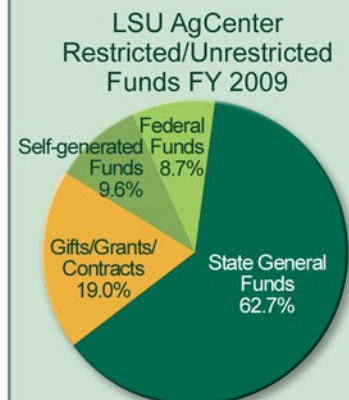
- Conduct Project Learning Tree workshops for educators and through parish in-services and university education methods courses.
- Provide information and promote the use of Forestry Best Management practices.
- Provide youth environmental programs through 4-H, schools, Scouts and other groups.

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

- Continue building membership in Junior Leader club by offering a wide variety of projects and opportunities for personal development.
- Continue improving junior livestock program by increasing scholarship opportunities and improving leadership skills.

4. Strengthen families and communities.

- Teach first-time home buyer classes.
- Continue to teach parenting classes for the courts, probation office and Bossier Sheriff Correctional Facility.
- Work with community collaborative to promote prison re-entry programs.
- Educate the public to prevent home foreclosure and to seek financial stability and security by reducing debt and improving money management.



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