

Calcasieu Parish Profile



Report to Stakeholders

September 2009

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 & Consumer Sciences

Since 2005, 494 families have completed the Home Buyer Education program taught by the AgCenter in which 59 low income families have received a total of \$635,000 from the City of Lake Charles down payment assistance funds. Over 600 families and school youth participate in the Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (EFNP) which helps participants to make healthier food choices, manage food dollars and increase physical activities, which leads to decrease risk for chronic diseases and decrease level of obesity. LSU/SU Ag Center provides a direct and proven pathway of success and more conscious awareness to the interaction between parent and child by conducting Parenting Classes for 682 families.

4-H Youth Development

Over 1700 youth gained skills in Science & Technology through six monthly 4-H club meeting. 869 youth learned skills in Health and nutrition during Smart Bodies program & body walk. 1,253 Kindergarten youth learned about agriculture production at "Ag Adventures" during SW District Livestock Show. Organized school garden at local inter-city school to give youth hands-on experience in gardening. 234 youth participated in the fastest growing area of 4-H, outdoor skills projects such as shooting and fishing sports.

Agriculture & Natural Resources/ Horticulture

188 cattlemen attended meetings on Bovine trichinosis outbreaks and the new state regulations covering purchasing bulls and management decisions. 4200 garden and landscape participants attended the 10th annual Southwest Louisiana Garden Festival with 752 attending 11 horticulture lectures during the two day event. 88 Local farmers attended production and management meetings for rice and soybeans. The Calcasieu Oyster Task Force has taken on an industry improvement initiative and increase harvest totals from 17,000 to 63,000 sacks over 8 years period. A demonstration site has been constructed by the Parish Police Jury at the AgCenter office for reducing nonpoint source pollution.



Calcasieu Parish Extension Office

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LSUAgCenter.com/Calcasieu

Hours: 8:00a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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Programs

4-H and Youth Development

Agriculture & Natural Resources (ANR)

Fisheries/Coastal Issues
Animal Production
Beef Cattle
Environment/Watersheds
Horticulture/Lawns and Gardens
Pest Management
Urban Forestry
Sugarcane

Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS)

Parents Preparing for Success
Family Resource Management
FNP - Family Nutrition Program
Nutrition and Health

Who we reach.

25,142- Youth (includes 1721 4-Hers' & 59 school 4-H clubs)
 29,113- Adults
 16,560 Ag, Hort. & Natural Resource
 12,553 Family Consumer Sciences

How we reach them:

4-H clubs	Class series
School Enrichment	Demonstrations
Field days	Workshops
Newsletters	Web sites
Publications	Social media
Project Clubs	Camps
Television	Radio

Expanding our efforts:

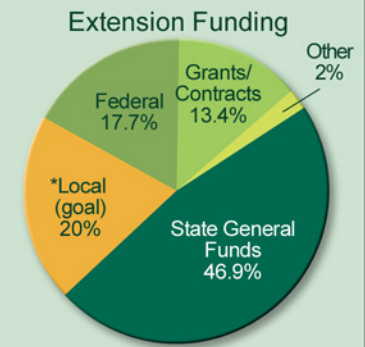
480 Volunteers -
 4-H (202), Master Gardeners(85),
 Family & Consumer Science, Master
 Horsemen

Parish Facts

LSU AgCenter County Agents provide research-based information on plant, aquaculture, wildlife and animal enterprises to Calcasieu Parish clientele. The 2008 total dollar amount from these commodities were:
 —Plant enterprises - \$49,243,517
 —Aquaculture and wildlife - \$8,960,946
 —Animal enterprises - \$63,235,257

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

Population - 185,618
 Land area (square miles) - 1,071.12
 Persons under 18 years old - 25.7%
 Persons 65 years old and over - 12.5%
 Median household income - \$42,018
 Persons below poverty - 17.5%



Local Funding
 Parish Police Jury
 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 & Plans for this year.

1. Increase productivity and profitability of Louisiana Agriculture.

- Conduct commodity producer meetings and field days.
- Use mail, email distributions, web page, newsletters and news media to disseminate timely information.
- Conduct farm and home educational visits
- Conduct variety and related on-farm demonstrations.
- Work closely with commodity and farm organizations.

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

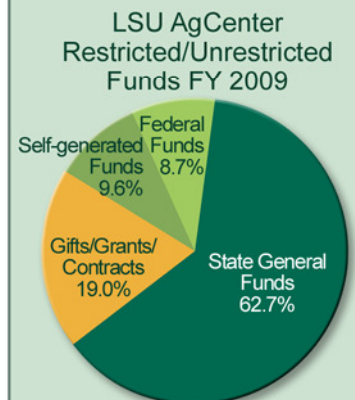
- Managing stormwater has been mandated for many municipal areas in La. A demonstration site has been constructed by the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury at the Calcasieu AgCenter office to include best management practices for reducing nonpoint source pollution.

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

- Develop and implement service learning projects.
- Implement school gardens in parish schools
- Junior Leaders will focus monthly on service related organizations to learn about and volunteer service.

4. Strengthen families and communities

- Market FCS programs in the 3 primary focus areas – Family Resource Management; Family Development; and Nutrition, Diet and Health.
- Conduct Home Buyer Education programs to build financial stability and allow for more homeownership.
- Conduct financial literacy programs on credit scoring, avoiding predatory lenders, and avoiding foreclosure.
- Conduct monthly nutrition education programs for families and youth
- Conduct Positive Parenting workshops for young families.



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