

Acadia 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

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Acadia Parish is the largest rice producing parish in the state. In 2010 Acadia grew 85,000 acres of rice. The county agent has developed a Rice and Soybean Advisory Committee which gives valuable input into the educational programs conducted in the parish. The advisory committee identified maximizing yields as a top priority to keep producers in business during these tough economic times. With the increase in production inputs, producers must maximize yields to increase profitability. Extension programs such as field days and production meetings give the producer the latest research and updated production practices. The producers also receive information on variety selection, environmental issues and marketing updates.



Pesticide safety was also listed as a top priority at the advisory committee meetings. Two pesticide re-certifications were held where 120 producers and home gardeners learned pesticide safety, handling, disposal and renewed their private pesticide applicators card.

Family and Consumer Sciences

In the current economic climate, wise money management is critical to everyone, including teens. Each summer educators, who are interested in learning how to teach high school students about money management may enroll in a free workshop offered by the LSU AgCenter. The youth financial educator's workshop utilizes the National Endowment for Financial Education's High School Financial Planning Program. The lessons covered included financial planning, budgeting, investing, using credit wisely, keeping money safe and secure, risk management and careers. Evaluation of the program has shown that financial knowledge, behavior and confidence by students are significantly improved. A teen Financial Fitness Challenge group consisting of 22 youth has been established. It is designed to teach them the basics of earning, spending, saving, borrowing and protecting and is in partnership with the Acadia Sheriff's Department.



4-H Youth Development

Acadia Parish has 1,337 youth enrolled in 30 traditional 4-H clubs and 257 Cloverbud club members. The youth development program focuses on leadership development for youth and adults, volunteer management, and enriching the lives of these youth through age appropriate competitions, project workshops, community service-learning activities, livestock programs, overnight camps, outdoor skills training and identifying the knowledge, skills and competencies essential to conducting 4-H youth development. Survey data indicates that 58 percent of the youth enrolled in the program who participate in the events and activities offered believe that youth who feel they belong to a group have a greater sense of independence, are more motivated and have fewer behavioral problems in school. Seventy-five percent of the youth in the Junior Leadership program feel a sense of belonging as members of the group.



Acadia Parish Extension Office

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Crowley, LA 70526

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Website:
LSUAgCenter.com/Acadia

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

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Programs

4-H and Youth Development

Agriculture & Natural Resources (ANR)
Beef Cattle
Rice
Soybeans
Horticulture/Lawns and Gardens
Pest Management
Crawfish
Environment/Watersheds

Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS)
Parents Preparing for Success
Family Resource Management
Family and Child Development
Nutrition and Health

Who we reach.

12,125 - Youth (includes 1,337 4-H members and 30 school 4-H clubs, Youth Wetlands Week-248 youth; Smart Bodies Program—365 youth)

17,500 - Adults
 7,500 Ag and Natural Resources
 8,000 Family and Consumer Sciences

How we reach them:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 4-H Clubs | Workshops |
| Field Days | Websites |
| Newsletters | Radio Programs |
| Publications | Newspaper Articles |
| E-Mail Updates | Demonstrations |
| Television Programs | Facebook |

Expanding our efforts:

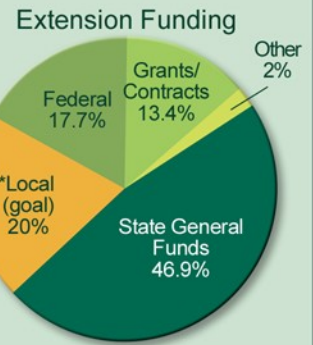
- 180 Volunteers -
- 4-H, Family and Community, Agriculture

Parish Facts

LSU AgCenter county agents provide research-based information on plant, aquaculture, wildlife and animal enterprises to Acadia Parish clientele. The 2010 total dollar amount from these commodities was:
 —Plant enterprises - \$97,334,074
 —Aquaculture and wildlife - \$50,344,510
 —Animal enterprises - \$9,228,216

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

- Population - 60,070
- Land area (square miles) - 655.28
- Persons under 18 years old - 27.5%
- Persons 65 years old and over - 12.6%
- Median household income - \$33,098
- Persons below poverty - 23.5%



**Local Funding
 Acadia Parish Police Jury
 Acadia 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

- Rice and Soybean Production Day
- Rice and Soybean Field Day
- News column, radio program, television program for the public
- Email updates and newsletters
- Farm and home educational visits

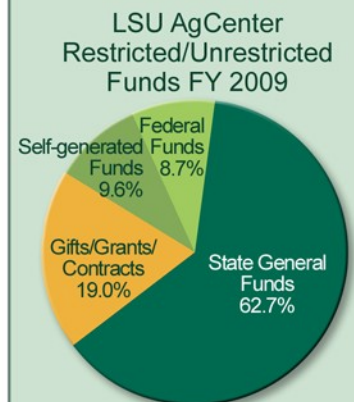
2. Build leaders and good citizens through 4-H youth development

- Enhance the existing volunteer development program to include additional resources and incentives
- Marketing Extension programs
- Form bullying task force to provide curriculum to schools and to address issues to older students on social media networks



3. Strengthen families and communities

- Social Media Safety/Etiquette
- Workforce Readiness
- Time Management



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