

Webster Parish Profile



Report to Stakeholders

February 2012

About the LSU AgCenter

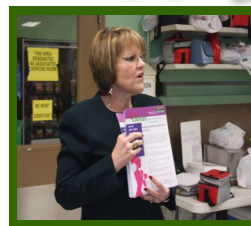
The LSU AgCenter is dedicated to providing innovative research, information and education to improve people's lives. Working in a unique statewide network of parish extension offices, research stations and academic departments, the LSU AgCenter helps Louisiana citizens make the best use of natural resources, protect the environment, enhance agricultural enterprises and develop human and community resources.



Program Highlights

Family and Consumer Sciences

Smart Portions Healthy Weight Program—Smart Portions classes aim to help individuals to achieve a healthy weight to improve their health. The class is conducted for businesses, churches and groups upon request, in addition to being held at the parish Extension office. Any group interested in scheduling these classes can contact Joan Almond for more information.



Smart Bodies for Youth— Each school year, elementary schools in Webster Parish are recruited to be Smart Bodies schools. The schools receive free teaching kits and an opportunity for their students to tour the Body Walk. Teachers receive training by Extension agents and they integrate classroom activities with hands-on-learning to teach children how to build strong bodies and develop active minds. The Smart Bodies program is a joint initiative of the LSU AgCenter and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation. The program is normally held at one school each year. Schools that have participated previously are Stewart, Cotton Valley, Union and Central Elementary. Schools receive approximately \$2,000 of free educational materials for implementing the program. North Webster Upper Elementary School is currently participating in the Smart Bodies Program.

Family Nutrition Program (SNAP-ED) - LaDonna Chreene, Nutrition Educator, works closely with low-income families to teach nutrition lessons for parents as well as pre-school centers such as Head Start. Research-based nutrition information is designed to serve limited-income families and youth. Children and parents are taught to make healthy choices with lower levels of fat and sugar and to eat high fiber and exercise regularly. Groups meet at Head Start centers, Council on Aging centers and Community Action sites.

4-H Youth Development

4-H Youth Development strives to encourage positive character and life skill development in the youth of Webster Parish through experiential learning opportunities and peer role modeling. School club focus this past school year was focused on both these areas through a series of lessons developed by regional agents. This program, called LifeSmarts, focused on such areas as diversity, self-esteem, conflict resolution and bullying through active participation in monthly lessons. Leadership and community involvement are also encouraged at all levels throughout the program, including community service activities, service-learning projects and youth and adult leadership programming. Project clubs are meeting the needs of youth wishing to expand their work in specific project areas, including shooting sports, photography, livestock, horse and Celebrate Girls. Through Focus Group evaluations, youth indicate their growth in character development, leadership, service to community and specific skills as related to project work. Junior Leadership has increased over the past two years, with teens taking a more active role in parish involvement, planning and implementing parish activities and service projects. Plans for the coming year include public speaking focus for elementary age youth and leadership/service-learning focus for junior high and high school club members, as well as expanding opportunities offered to 4-H and non-4-H youth in other project areas and subject matter.



Agriculture and Natural Resources

Master Gardener classes are being offered to interested clientele in early summer. Piney Hills Master Gardeners assist the Extension Service by consulting homeowners, processing soil samples, providing scholarship programs for parish youth and volunteering their services in numerous ways. Classes are held at the parish Extension office on Thursdays in June, July and August.

4-H youth are engaged in livestock programming including beef, dairy, lamb, swine, goats, poultry and horses. A 4-H livestock sale is held each year at the close of the parish fair. This sale generates over \$25,000 annually for the kids of Webster Parish.



Webster Parish Extension Office

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Email:

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Website:

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Office Hours:

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Programs:

4-H Youth and Family Development

4-H:

Character Education
Life Skills Development
Service Learning Projects
Project Clubs

Family Development:

Nutrition and Health
Smart Bodies Nutrition Programs
Family Nutrition Nights
SNAP-ED Nutrition Program

Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR)

Animal Production
Beef Cattle
Environment/Watersheds
Horticulture/Lawns and Gardens
Pest Management
Forestry

Who we reach.

- Youth (includes 1,000 4-H youth members and 19 school 4-H clubs)
- Adults
2,412 Family and Consumer Sciences
1,000 Ag and Natural Resources

How we reach them:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 4-H clubs | Class series |
| School enrichment | Demonstrations |
| Field days | Workshops |
| Newsletters | Websites |
| Publications | Social media |

Expanding our efforts:

- >200 Volunteers -
4-H, Master Gardeners, Family and Community

Parish Facts

LSU AgCenter extension agents provide research-based information on plant, aquaculture, wildlife and animal enterprises to Webster Parish clientele. The current total dollar amount from these commodities is:

- Forestry - \$15,222,693
- Fisheries and Wildlife - \$1,714,602
- Animal enterprises - \$24,383,561
- Plant enterprises—\$24,623,839

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

- Population - 40,544
- Land area (square miles) - 595.22
- Persons under 18 years old - 23.9%
- Persons 65 years old and over - 17%

Local Issues and Plans for this year

1. Continue to serve the people of Webster Parish by offering outreach to clientele. Family and Consumer Science volunteer groups, Master Gardener volunteers, 4-H youth volunteers and adult leaders will all be served and utilized in outreach efforts.

- Promotion of opportunities within each community in the parish.
- Recruitment, training, support and recognition of both youth and adult volunteers.
- 4-H after-school and project club opportunities to expand outreach in outdoor skills, personal development and 4-H project work.

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

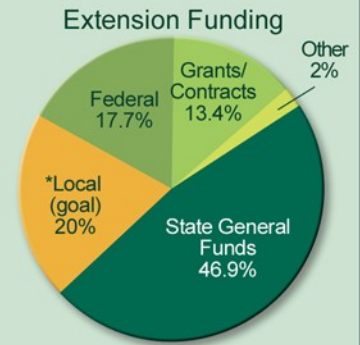
- Environmental topic programs (water, conservation, composting) and presentations at parish events.
- Promotion of environmental service-learning projects with 4-H clubs.

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

- Educational focus on leadership in monthly 4-H club meetings.
- Promotion and encouragement of 4-H clubs to conduct service-learning projects.
- Increase recruitment of teen leaders through Junior Leader Club, school, parish, district and state level experiences.
- Volunteer recruitment, training, support and recognition.

4. Strengthen families and communities.

- Provide increased opportunities for family involvement in 4-H programming in 4-H clubs, after-school and project clubs, as well as special events and camps.
- Businesses will receive support and special programming from AgCenter agents.
- Programming for special interest groups such as family and community service clubs, community groups (garden clubs, churches), Head Start centers, Office of Family Support, Community Action Groups, etc.



Webster Parish School Board—\$20,000 Local Funding

Webster Parish Police Jury- \$18,010.04 Local Funding

Police Jury also funds office space

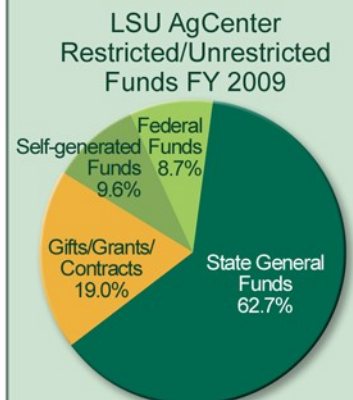
City of Minden—\$12,000

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.



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