

# Tangipahoa Parish Profile

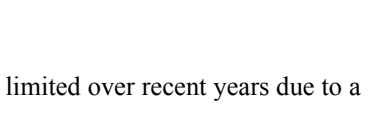
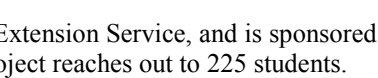


Report to Stakeholders

April 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

The Family Book Bag is a project promoting better eating, more physical fitness and reading in the home to local kindergarten students in schools in northern Tangipahoa Parish. Each week, students take home a satchel of books to be read in the home. When these are returned to school, the child is rewarded with an incentive promoting physical activity. The books to be read at home encourage better eating and reading at home. This program is a project of the Tangipahoa Volunteers for Family and Community (VFCE) Busy Bee's, an all-volunteer arm of the LSU Extension Service, and is sponsored completely by donations from local businesses and grants. This project reaches out to 225 students.

### 4-H Youth Development Program 2011

Wood duck populations in southeast Louisiana have been limited over recent years due to a lack of suitable nesting cavities. More than 60 Tangipahoa Parish 4-H'ers, leaders and adult volunteers joined with Tickfaw State Park to build, mount and maintain duck boxes. This is the fourth year that Tangipahoa Parish 4-H has supplied duck boxes for the park. The 4-H'ers learned the importance of duck boxes on the wood duck population and how to make duck boxes. They also learned how to measure and cut wood, drill, hammer and work together as a team. The youth developed a sense of belonging to a group, the generosity of providing a safe, clean and inviting nest for the ever seeking hen, and after the box is mounted, the satisfaction of mastering a completed project.

### Agriculture and Natural Resources

Tangipahoa Parish is known for growing strawberries and vegetables. With all the health issues faced today, the LSU AgCenter is encouraging families to grow and eat more fruits and vegetables. The Tangipahoa Master Gardeners have been trained and are working with students in putting in square-foot gardening, conducting horticulture seminars on gardening and hosting an educational plant show that provided Tangipahoa residents with horticulture information.

Additionally, forestry continues to play an important interest to Tangipahoa residents. Landowners continue to seek information on how to maintain their forest within the urbanization of Tangipahoa Parish.

## Tangipahoa Parish Extension Office

**Address:** 305 E Oak St.  
Amite, LA 70422

**Phone:** 985-748-9381  
985-748-5462

**Fax:** 985-748-3787

### Email:

Tangipahoa@agcenter.lsu.edu

### Website:

LSUAgCenter.com/tangipahoa

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

### Sandra Benjamin

Parish Chair

sbenjamin@agcenter.lsu.edu

### Jennifer Bordelon

Administrative Coordinator

jbordelon@agcenter.lsu.edu

## 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
- Worker Protection Standards

### Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS)

- Tangipahoa Volunteers for Family & Community
- FNP--Family Nutrition Program
- Leadership & Volunteer Development

**Who we reach.**

9,000 - Youth (includes 1,250 4-H'ers  
30 school 4-H clubs and activities  
for Youth Wetlands Week )  
59,528 - Adults  
31,528 Ag and Natural Resources  
28,000 Family Consumer  
Sciences

**How we reach them:**

4-H clubs	Class series
School enrichment	Demonstrations
Field days	Workshops
Newsletters	Websites
Publications	Social media
TV / Radio / Newspapers	

**Expanding our efforts:**

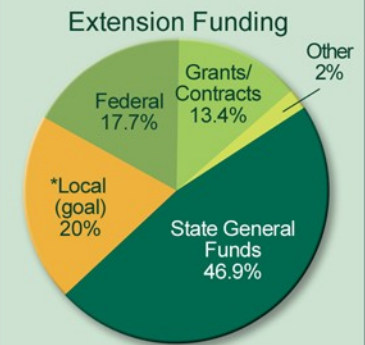
400 Volunteers -  
4-H, Master Gardeners, Family  
and Community, Cattlemen's Assoc.

**Parish Facts**

LSU AgCenter county agents provide re-  
search-based information on plant, aquacul-  
ture, wildlife and animal enterprises to Tan-  
gipahoa Parish clientele. The 2010 total  
dollar amount from these commodities was:  
—Plant enterprises - \$42,589,318  
—Aquaculture and wildlife - \$1,615,477  
—Animal enterprises - \$34,267,871

**Data from the Louisiana Ag Summary**  
**Website: [LSUAgCenter.com/agsummary](http://LSUAgCenter.com/agsummary)**

Population - 118,688  
Land area (square miles) - 790.24  
Persons under 18 years old - 26.4%  
Persons 65 years old and over - 11.3%  
Median household income - \$39,604  
Persons below poverty - 22.9%



*\*Local Funding  
Tangipahoa Parish Council  
Tangipahoa 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 Dairy Day
- Conduct beef producers' field day and annual meeting
- Conduct Florida Parishes Forestry Forum
- Conduct Spring Garden Day
- Conduct Master Gardener programs
- Present garden workshops
- Conduct farm and home visits
- Write newsletter, newspaper columns and Web page content

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

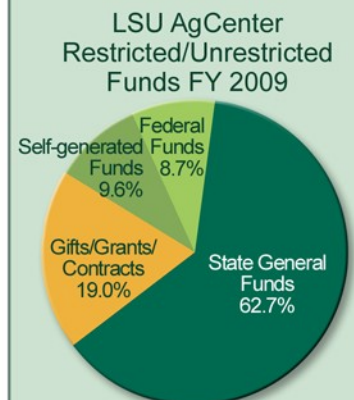
- Encourage producers to participate in the Master Farmer program
- Encourage forest landowners to participate in the tree farmer and stewardship programs
- Continue with the wetlands restoration program with 4-H youth and leaders
- Conduct pesticide certification and agricultural worker protection programs

**3. Build organizational and community leaders as well as good citizens.**

- Conduct 4-H officer/leader training
- Conduct character education programs in schools
- Conduct 4-H Junior Leadership programs
- Conduct organizational management and leadership skills programs through FCE
- Recruit 4-H Junior Leaders to serve on citizenship; fashion, food and fitness; and science, engineering and technology state 4-H boards

**4. Strengthen families and communities.**

- Conduct programs to prevent chronic diseases
- Present programs on healthy eating habits
- Conduct programs on healthy weight management
- Present programs on financial security and debt reduction



For the latest research-based information on just about anything, visit our Web site: [LSUAgCenter.com](http://LSUAgCenter.com)