

Lafayette 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

Information and education to help citizens live well is provided by Family and Consumer Science staff in Lafayette Parish. The AgCenter offers several parenting classes including the Every Touch Counts program, which is offered to neo-natal parents from Women's & Children's Hospital and clients from the Family Tree. Other parenting classes are offered to court-ordered parents. Topics include anger and stress management, improving self-esteem and other positive parenting practices. Nutrition classes are also offered to limited resource individuals throughout the parish. Topics covered include planning and preparing nutritious meals, physical fitness activities, and safe handling and storage of food.



4-H Youth Development

Youth Development Research indicates the development of a sense of belonging is connected to psychological well-being. Youth who feel they belong have a greater sense of independence, are more intrinsically motivated, and have fewer behavior problems in school. Examples of 4-H activities conducted to increase a sense of belonging include: Teen Retreat, Get Acquainted Activities at Teen Leader Meetings, Ag Olympics for livestock exhibitors, orientation meetings for participants prior to 4-H Camp and 4-H University, solicitation of youth voice through 4-H advisory groups, and more. Survey data indicates that in Lafayette Parish, 72% of 4-H members feel like a member of the group, 64% feel accepted, and 62% feel it is okay to be him/herself. These parish statistics exceed statewide evaluation results. Lafayette Parish offers a 4-H club program to youth at nearly all public and parochial schools across the parish with eligible grades, as well as to a number of home school students.

Agriculture & Natural Resources

Environmental concerns are an important issue to citizens across Louisiana, especially those in more urban areas. Agricultural programs conducted by the LSU AgCenter in Lafayette Parish have focused on Best Management Practices (BMPs) that encourage agricultural producers, growers, and home owners to utilize farming, gardening, and landscape maintenance practices that are not only profitable but also environmentally sustainable. Ongoing agricultural educational programs in the parish like the Master Gardener, Master Farmer, Master Cattle Producer, and Master Horseman programs not only educate participants on BMPs, but also develop leadership and volunteerism skills. As an example Master Gardener volunteers contributed over hours of volunteer hours and logged more than miles during 2008 in their efforts to assist the LSU AgCenter extend its outreach and disseminate researched based information to the citizens of Lafayette Parish.



Lafayette Parish Extension Office

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Office Hours:

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Programs

• 4-H and Youth Development

• Agriculture & Natural Resources (ANR)

Corn, Soybeans & Grain Crops,
Sugarcane
Agricultural Crop Production
(General)
Animal Production (General)
Beef Cattle
Horticulture/Lawns and
Gardens, Master Gardener
Coordinator
Pasture and Forage
Aquaculture, Environment/
Watersheds

• Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS)

Expanded Food and
Nutrition Program (EFNEP)
Family Resource Management
Family Development
Nutrition and Health
Parents Preparing for Success

Who we reach.

6,623 - Youth (includes 1,623 4-H members & 51 school 4-H clubs)
 38,216 - Adults
 27,490 Ag & Natural Resources
 10,726 Family Consumer Sciences

How we reach them:

4-H clubs	Class series
School Enrichment	Demonstrations
Field days	Workshops
Newsletters	Web sites
Publications	Social media

Expanding our efforts through the use of Volunteers (758) in the areas of:

4-H, FCS, Master Gardeners and other "master" program participants

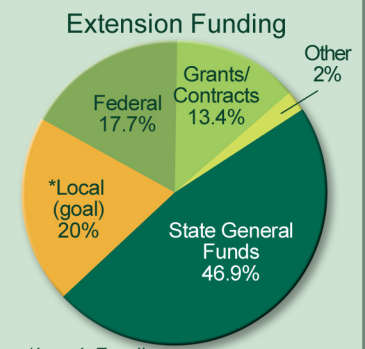
Parish Facts

LSU AgCenter County Agents provide research-based information on plant, aquaculture, wildlife and animal enterprises to Lafayette Parish clientele. The 2008 total dollar amount from these commodities were:

- Plant enterprises - \$35,294,298.
- Aquaculture and wildlife - \$2,333,359.
- Animal enterprises - \$63,594,253.

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

Population - 206,976
 Land area (square miles) - 269.83
 Persons under 18 years old - 25.8%
 Persons 65 years old and over - 10.2%
 Median household income - \$44,568
 Persons below poverty - 15.2%



*Local Funding
 Parish Consolidated Government
 Parish School Board

How we are funded.

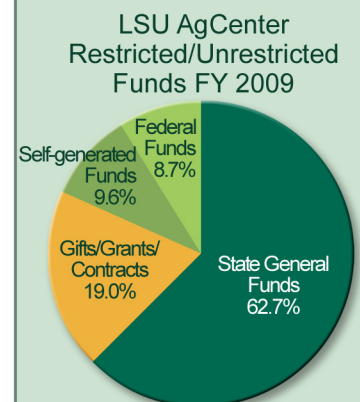
You are the local supporters and beneficiaries in the LSU AgCenter's Extension programs. Just 20 percent support keeps these programs in your community.

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 Next Year

1. Through 4-H, increase proficiency in science through hands-on learning experiences.
 - Hands-on science lessons conducted at monthly club meetings
 - Science experiments conducted at major events such as Officer Training, Fall Fest & Achievement Day
 - Junior Leaders service-learning projects focus on environmental science (wetland ecology)
2. Through Family and Consumer Science programs strengthen families and communities.
 - EFNEP clients will receive training on feeding their families nutritionally on a budget.
 - Youth at three Lafayette Parish schools will participate in the AgCenter's Smart Bodies program.
 - Teach classes on reducing credit balances and examining spending habits.
 - Conduct workshops on disaster preparedness.
 - Parents will receive training on positive parenting practices.
 - Child care providers will receive training on ways of having developmentally appropriate activities in their classrooms and homes.
3. Through Ag & Natural Resources, producers, home owners, 4-H livestock exhibitors and volunteers will:
 - Further enhance knowledge and adoption of BMPs and leadership skills by participation in the various "Master" programs offered by the AgCenter
 - Enhance character and animal management skills through participation in Acadiana District Livestock and Horse Shows
 - Assist the Lafayette Parish LSU AgCenter/LCES office in increasing community visibility and utilization of AgCenter services through improved reporting to local governing bodies, participation in the overall Parish Advisory Leadership Council, and increased media efforts



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

Louisiana State University Agricultural Center: William B. Richardson, Chancellor, Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station: David J. Boethel, Vice Chancellor and Director, Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service: Paul D. Coreil, Vice Chancellor and Director
 Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. The Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.