

Three first-time homebuyers completed a four lesson course entitled "Charting Your Course to Home Ownership" to earn the home buyer education certificate required for their home loans.

Three LSU AgCenter Family and Consumer Sciences agents are providing 100 hours of training in life skills for ten Franklin Parish inmates participating in the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections' Reentry Preparation Program.



LA Master Farmer Program/ Environmental Education

Presented a demonstration on non-point and point source pollution in a watershed and demonstrated how pollutants move underground in a groundwater model for over 350 students at Ag Adventures.

Two meetings, held in Winnsboro, were dedicated to development of eco-tourism in the Louisiana's northeast region focusing on canoeing and kayaking water bodies in the region.

Participated in a La.Master Farmer Program quarterly meeting to discuss updating Phase I presentations and scheduling upcoming field days and workshops.

Three demonstration plots were initiated for 2011, focusing on soil fertility, pH and nematode suppression.

Two 319 projects related to implementation of Best Management Practices and water quality are in the final stages of approval for initiation.

Franklin Parish Staff

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Agriculture and Natural Resources - ANR



The sweet potato alley was presented to 4th and 5th graders at Ag Alley in West Monroe before AgExpo and Ag Adventures in Delhi. The alley gives students an opportunity to learn about agriculture production in Northeast Louisiana. Sweet Potatoes contributed \$142 million to Louisiana's economy in 2010. The industry is expected to grow with the ConAgra sweet potato processing plant in Delhi.

Worker Protection Standard (WPS) training was given to 36 local agricultural employees. The pesticide safety training is required for employees who work in the agricultural industry. The training is renewed every three years.

Private pesticide applicator recertification training was conducted for 32 applicators. Pesticide applicators who purchase restricted use pesticide are required to be certified as a private applicator. The applicators are recertified every three years.

A gardening program on weed identification and control in lawns was presented to the Crowville Senior Club and the Garden Gate Study Club.

A pesticide safety presentation was given at the Louisiana Pecan Grower's Association meeting in West Monroe.

The Cattle and Row Crop Advisory Leadership Council annual meetings were conducted at which clientele give input into educational programming needs for the parish.



A Cattle Production meeting was held which also served as private applicator recertification training with 21 producers attending. Pasture weed control, clover production, cattle and pasture insects, selection of bulls and pesticide safety were discussed.

A corn hybrid on-farm demonstration was planted on the Campbell farm. On-farm demonstrations are used as an educational tool to let producers and their neighbors view research based practices on their farms.

4-H Youth Development

Six Franklin Parish 4-H'ers represented our 4-H program at the area 4-H Cookery Contest held in February. The Cookery categories were: Rice, Pecan, Sweet Potato, Egg, Chicken, Catfish, Beef and Corn. The Cookery Contest allows 4-H'ers to display their cooking skills as well as learn about health and fitness topics.

Eleven Franklin Parish 4-H'ers participated in the Delhi Livestock Show in February. 4-H members are given the opportunity to show their animal and project they have worked on all year. The youth are taught responsibility skills of taking care of their animal and working with it each day.

Twenty-two youth competed in the Franklin Parish Pet show held in March. Contestants entered their animals in different divisions ranging from "Biggest Ears" to "Best Dressed". The Pet Show gives youth who cannot participate in the traditional animal projects the opportunity to learn the responsibility of caring for an animal, some animal health tips, and showmanship of animals.

Family and Consumer Science

Sammy the Rabbit taught 963 first graders that "Saving is a great habit!" during the 2011 Ag Alley which is an educational component students attend before Ag Expo begins.



The Franklin Parish Little Bookshelf: Born to Be a Reader Program was kicked off in January and by the end of March seventy-five families of infants had received a series of 12 books to read to their infants. Research shows that early literacy strengthens the parent-child bond and increases the child's vocabulary which is linked to greater success in school.

The LSU AgCenter, LAWOKS Career Solutions Center and the Northeast La. Technical College partnered to host a Career Fair for 118 Franklin Parish High School students. The students met with several businesses and attended three educational sessions where they learned about interest inventories, filling out an application, and skills needed for an interview.