

Ouachita Parish Profile



Report to Stakeholders

December 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

4-H Youth and Family Development

Nutrition Programs are designed to help citizens increase their nutrition knowledge, gain skills in healthy food preparation, and improve eating habits. The Nutrition Connections Coalition is working to foster collaboration among agencies related to nutrition education. Educational programs include series of classes for children and adults on nutrition and health. Educational efforts such as Family Nutrition Nights are utilized to bring parents together with children to promote healthy lifestyles through hands-on educational activities. The Germ Cave exhibit is used to teach proper hand washing to prevent foodborne illness and the spread of germs. The Traveling Kitchen curriculum teaches basic food preparation skills to parents to equip them with skills to prepare healthy meals for their families.

The growing rate of litter in Louisiana is costing nearly \$40 million a year. Ouachita 4-H educates youth on the negative impact of litter on the environment and community. Over 4,200 youth participated in various environment programs. 751 students participated in Youth Wetland Awareness about various types of wetland found throughout the state and how to become more involved with wetland conservation. The growing rate of childhood obesity concerns many parents. 4,500 youth toured the Body Walk exhibit on the importance of eating healthy.

Agriculture & Natural Resources

The Master Gardener Program has 97 active members, totaled over 3500 volunteer hours of community service and 716 continuing education hours. The NELAMG Association hosted the 2010 State Louisiana Master Gardener Conference (300 attended), sponsored the Ag Expo Horticulture Seminar (239 attended), monitored the demonstration garden areas at Calhoun Research Station, and conducted many educational workshops and programs for regional clientele.

The Formosan Subterranean Termite continues to spread throughout Ouachita Parish. Approximately 25 pest control operators were trained to identify insect pests so the correct control measures might be applied. The spread of the Formosan Subterranean Termite is monitored by placement of light and wooden bait traps. Reports are submitted to pest control operators, parish web site, LSU AgCenter's Department of Entomology and Louisiana Department of Agriculture.

Ouachita Parish currently has over 52,000 acres in crop production. Grain crops, such as corn and soybeans, have increased over the last few years. Demonstration variety plots of corn and soybean were conducted. Results from demonstration plots were used by producers to determine which varieties perform best in this area.

Ouachita Parish Extension Office

Address: 704 Cypress Street
West Monroe, LA 71291

Phone: 318-323-2251

Fax: 318-387-9376

Email:

Ouachita@agcenter.lsu.edu

Web site:

LSUAgCenter.com/Ouachita

Office Hours:

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Richard Letlow

Parish Chair

RLetlow@agcenter.lsu.edu

Jill Hodge Guterrez

Administrative Coordinator 3

jhguterrez@agcenter.lsu.edu

Programs

•4-H and Youth Development

•Agriculture & Natural Resources (ANR)

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

•Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS)

Parents Preparing for Success
FNP - Family Nutrition Program
Nutrition and Health

Who we reach:

46,000 - Youth
 30,250 Youth Development
 15,750 Nutrition, Youth Wetlands & Ag Alley
 19,979 - Adults
 8,763 Ag & Natural Resources
 11,216 Nutrition, Parents Preparing for Success & Ag Alley

How we reach them:

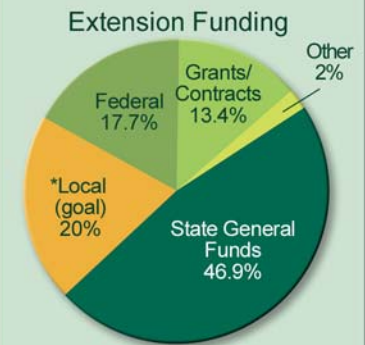
4-H Clubs	Class Series
School Enrichment	Demonstrations
Workshops	Newsletters
Website	TV Talk Show
Publications	Talk Radio
Field Days	

Parish Facts

LSU AgCenter County Agents provide research-based information on plant, wild-life, aquaculture and animal enterprises to Ouachita Parish clientele. The 2010 total dollar amount from these commodities were:
 Plant enterprises - \$35,417,414.
 Aquaculture/Wildlife - \$2,419,869.
 Animal enterprises - \$21,287,334.

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

Population - 151,502
 Land area (square miles) - 610.53
 Persons under 18 years old - 26.5%
 Persons 65 years old and over - 12.3%
 Median household income - \$39,056
 Persons below poverty - 21.9%



**Local Funding:
 Ouachita Parish Police Jury
 City of West Monroe
 Ouachita Parish School Board
 City of Monroe
 Monroe City School System*

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 & Plans for this year.

1. Strengthen families and communities.

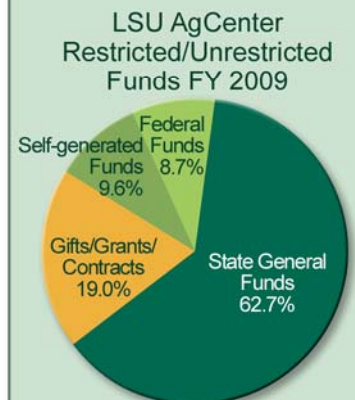
- Offer Family Nutrition Night events at schools, churches and community organizations.
- Promote the online Eat Smart course to School Food Service personnel.
- Offer classes promoting positive behavior change related to nutrition and health.
- Promote the Smart Bodies Childhood Obesity Prevention Program.

2. Increase awareness of health and environmental issues for 4-H Youth.

- Utilize the LSU AgCenter's Body Walk exhibit of choosing healthy eating lifestyle and incorporating exercise into daily routines.
- Incorporate environmental programs during club meetings, Earth Day, Ag Alley, Ag Adventures, newsletters and after school enrichment

3. Increase productivity and profitability of Louisiana Agriculture.

- Conduct variety demonstrations on corn and soybeans
- Increase number of demonstration gardens at Calhoun Research Station
- Increase activity in community and school gardening projects
- Expand Formosan Subterranean Termite trapping area to new areas of infestation
- Recruit guest speakers at monthly cattlemen's meetings
- Increase 4-H livestock exhibitor's knowledge of personal farm finances



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