



LA Master Farmer Program/ Environmental Education



Harvest of cotton plots in Louisiana Master Farmer Program demonstrations were completed and data is being analyzed.

LMFP Phase II field day was held at Somerset Plantation in Newellton, LA, operated by Jay Hardwick. Multiple site stops showcased rotational cropping, grade stabilization and maintenance, crop residue management, utilization of GPS/GIS technology and much more. Over 28 attended the field day.

2 Louisiana Master Farmer Program Phase I trainings were conducted for an 8 parish area.



Presentations were conducted at northeast region schools and the Sparta Groundwater Workshop in Ruston, LA. Emphasis was focused on the importance of the Louisiana Master Farmer Program and utilization of best management practices by agricultural producers and homeowners to protect water resources. Over 650 youth and 35 teachers attended the workshop.

Participated in the Animal Waste and Water ACE Meeting. Presented on-going demonstrations and 319 Projects currently involved in.

Completed the QAPP for the Lake St. Joseph Water Monitoring 319 Project and equipment calibration requirements. Targeted date for the monitoring to begin is January, 2012.

Designed pipe-drops for the Tensas River 319 Project and awaiting account notification for bid solicitation. Conducted several farm visits to design monitoring strategies and planted 60 foot wheat field border associated with project.

Franklin Parish Staff

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Ginger Boutwell..... Extension Agent, FCS

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Agriculture and Natural Resources – ANR

A private pesticide applicator recertification training was held with twenty-nine applicators attending. Topics covered were weed and disease management of row crops, fertility concerns in row crops, irrigation water concerns and regulatory requirements on the Worker Protection Standard and pesticide drift management.

The parish agricultural commodity summary was completed for 2011. Franklin Parish was second in the state for corn acreage with 81,659 acres and an average yield of 169 bushels per acre. We led the state with wheat acres with 29,763 acres and an average yield of 68 bushels. We were fifth with cotton production with 21,517 acres and an average yield of 900 pounds of lint per acre. Our soybean yield was 50 bushels per acre. We were second in sweet potato acreage with 3,312 acres and a yield of 438 bushels per acre.

4-H Youth Development



Eighteen 4th-6th grade 4-H members participated in a Pumpkin Workshop where they learned about growing pumpkins, the nutritional value of pumpkins and had fun carving their own pumpkins. Junior Leadership Club members gained leadership skills by helping the younger members carve their pumpkins.

Ninety-Three youth participated in the Leaf Identification Contest in October, where they collected 15 different leaves and identified them in a notebook. Youth were required to identify the scientific name of the leaves as well.



Ninety-six youth participated in the annual Holiday Foods Festival Cookery Contest where they could choose to enter up to eight different commodity categories. Youth enjoyed an educational program about eating correct portions presented by Ginger Boutwell, LSU AgCenter employee. First place winners will represent Franklin Parish in March at the Area Cookery Contest held in Rayville.

Fifteen Youth participated in the parish Photography Contest where they had the opportunity to use their creative skills and showcase their work.

Two Franklin Parish 4-H members applied and were chosen to represent Franklin Parish on the Northeast Regional youth Board. Members of the board will have the opportunity to teach 7th and 8th graders at Challenge Camp in March.

Family and Consumer Science



“Franklin Parish Little Bookshelf: Born to be a Reader” program funded again this year by the Louisiana Children’s Trust Fund was kicked off in October. Parents of newborns can register at the Health Unit when they go for their

newborn’s check-up. The parent receives a backpack filled with 12 infant books and information on reading to children stressing the importance of literacy in a young child’s development. This quarter 70 parents received books in the program.

“Noon Nibbles” lunch-n-learn programs this quarter included “iNutrition: MyPlate”, “Twenty Tips to Cut Food Costs” and “Healthy Holidays: Make and Take Gifts”.

4-H Cookery contestants and their parents learned about the new MyPlate icon through the Connect My La presentation “iNutrition: MyPlate”.



Several activities were conducted at Franklin Parish Head Start this quarter all focusing on nutrition and childhood obesity. Through donations from several local businesses the LSU AgCenter was able to help Head Start plant a garden of greens, cabbage, lettuce and petunias. The children helped to plant, water and thin out the greens for better growth.

During the annual Head Start Health Fair over seventy parents received nutrition information and learned how their waist-to-hip ratio can be an indicator to their health. 176 children and 22 adults visited the “Germ Cave” and learned about proper hand washing and how it can help keep you healthy. “Twenty Tips to Cut Food Costs” was the topic of a program presented to 102 participants at “Grandparents Day” at Head Start.