



LA Master Farmer Program/ Environmental Education

Presented lectures and conducted demonstrations for 2 Environmental Science classes (water quality), 4 Earth Science classes (map and compass) and 1 Biology class (entomology).

Completed harvest and data collection for 3 La. Master Farmer demonstrations related to soil erosion, soil fertility, water quality, tillage systems, cover crops and nutrient management.



Presented an overview of the La. Master Farmer Program at Delta Dairy, LLC Field Day, which was accredited for Phase II completion in the La. Master Farmer Program.

Presently involved in 2 EPA 319 grants to establish baseline information on one impaired body of water in Tensas Parish and improve water quality in the Tensas River via implementation of multiple Best Management Practices on site specific locations.



Organized and conducted the Wild Woods Wanderings Advanced Camp, in which 10 youth and 21 adult volunteers demonstrated skills in ATV safety, canoeing, outdoor cooking, orienteering with compass and GPS, tackle crafting, fishing, wildlife observation and hiking.

Conducted La. Master Farmer Program training at the Scott Center in October, with 10 producers completing Phase I.

Franklin Parish Staff

Agents:

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|-----------------------------|---|
| James Hendrix | <i>Parish Chair/ Area Agent, LA Master Farmer Program, Env. Education</i> |
| Ginger Boutwell | <i>Extension Agent, FCS</i> |
| Laura Bradley | <i>Assistant Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development</i> |
| Carol Pinnell-Alison | <i>County Agent</i> |

Classified Staff:

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| Kathleen Burnett | <i>Administrative Coordinator 3</i> |
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Agriculture and Natural Resources - ANR

Parish crop yields and harvested acres are finalized. Cotton acres were up some this year with 13,128 harvested yielding on average 834 pounds of lint. Corn acres were down with 74,527 harvested and a yield of 157 bushels per acre. Soybean acreage was up with 45,524 acres and a yield of 44 bushels per acre. Grain Sorghum had the largest increase in acreage with 3,384 and a yield of 37 cwt. per acre. Wheat acres were down with 11,738 and a yield of 52 bushels per acre. Rice acres were about the same as last year with 2,594 and a yield of 67.57 cwt. per acre. Sweet potato acreage was about the same but with good harvest weather the yield was better than the last two years with 400 bushels per acre. The largest loss in acreage is with catfish ponds. Only 750 acres are in production with a yield of 5000 pounds per acre. The parish has 27,000 acres in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).



Fifty-two individuals attended private pesticide applicator recertification training which included information on disease, insect and weed control in corn, cotton, soybean and wheat. Information was presented on the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) and pesticide drift management.

4-H Youth Development

Eighty-two youth participated in the Leaf ID Contest where they collected 15 different leaves and identified them in a notebook.

Forty-three youth participated in the annual Holiday Foods Festival Cookery Contest where they could choose to enter up to 8 different commodity categories. Youth also learned



about living and eating right to help prevent cancer from Kara Austin, Franklin Parish American Cancer Society Community Representative. First place winners will represent Franklin Parish in March at the Area Cookery Contest held in Rayville.



Eleven 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 pumpkin.

Twenty-nine youth participated in the parish photography contest where they had the opportunity to use their creative skills and showcase their work.

Family and Consumer Science

Family and Consumer Sciences agents from Franklin, Richland and Union are teaching lessons from the La. Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections' Reentry Preparation Program to inmates in Caldwell, Franklin, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland and Union parishes. The overall goal of the program is to reduce recidivism by improving the educational, vocational, employment and personal development of the offender. Seventy-two offenders are taking part in the program in Franklin and Richland parishes.



Twenty-eight participants attending "Noon Nibbles", the lunch 'n' learn program held monthly at the Franklin Parish Library, learned to make 15 nutritious meals from 25 ingredients; how to stay connected through social media such as Facebook, Twitter and Youtube, and finally, how to make some inexpensive gifts to give to friends and family.

Family Community Christian School received strawberry plants as part of their participation in a grant awarded the LSU AgCenter Extension Service titled "Growing a Garden 101." School gardens are becoming a popular way to engage students in learning about subject matter through hands-on experiences.

Over sixty-five Head Start families received information on healthy lifestyles at the annual Head Start Health Fair. Each participant was given a 2011 calendar containing a simple healthy recipe each month.

Three of the six parents attending parenting class this quarter completed the parenting course and gained valuable information to help in parenting their young children.



"Franklin Parish Little Bookshelf: Born to be a Reader" program got kicked off the week before Christmas. The parents of newborns can register at the Health Unit when they go for their newborn's check-up and sign-up for the program. 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.