

The Wild Woods Wanderings Environmental Camp program completed its 17th year providing youth and



adults an opportunity to explore and study the bottomland hardwoods ecosystem, which comprises a majority of the land in northeast Louisiana. This year's camps hosted 36 participants from twelve Louisiana parishes, one Mississippi county and one Maryland county. Partnering agencies providing support and staff for instruction included the LSU AgCenter, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Poverty Point State Historic Site, Murphy Family Foundation, America's Wetlands Conservation Corps and Poverty Point Reservoir State Park. James Hendrix, Associate Area Agent, Louisiana Master Farmer Program/ Environmental Education, is coordinator for these camps.



Current status of ongoing demonstrations at the Northeast and Macon Ridge Research Stations were presented at the Northeast Research Station Field Day held in July. Three demonstrations, including nutrient run-off related to poultry litter compost applications in cotton; soil pH effect on crop production of cotton, soybeans and corn and effect of poultry litter compost on root-knot nematode populations in cotton, were presented.

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## Franklin Parish Quarterly Report

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## Agriculture and Natural Resources - ANR



Jonathan Campbell, Carol Pinnell-Alison, Ricky Campbell, Jr. and Will Chappell are shown after soybean variety demonstration harvest.

The corn, cotton and soybean variety on-farm demonstrations were harvested in August and September. The hot dry weather speeded up the maturity of the parish's row crops facilitating an early harvest. Unlike recent years, our row crop producers had good weather for harvesting. The variety demonstrations serve as a source of information for producers to use in selecting varieties to plant next year.

This year producers planted 74,500 acres of corn- down 5,000 acres from last year, 45,500 acres of soybeans-up 5,000 and cotton, sweet potato and rice acres were about the same as last year 12,000, 3,300 and 2,500 respectively. The biggest change occurred in grain sorghum with 3,300 acres planted compared to 69 acres last year.

Many agriculture and homeowner questions occur during the summer months. This summer many calls were received related to two insects: the Pine Colaspis Beetle and Armyworms in pastures and lawns. The County Agent uses several methods to help parish residents with their questions: farm and home visits, phone calls, email, newsletters, newspaper articles and office walk-ins. A range of topics have been addressed including crop production practices, plant and animal pest control, pasture management, vegetable gardening, flowers, shrubs, lawns, fruit trees, pecan trees, and the identification of insect, weeds, and diseases.

### 4-H Youth Development

Thirty-one 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders had a great time during the 4-H Camp this summer. They attended fun and

educational sessions each morning and participated in numerous activities during the afternoons and evenings.

Four Franklin Parish youth participated in the district and state level horse shows at the Ike Hamilton Expo Center in West Monroe. 4-H'ers learn responsibility, how to give a public presentation, and become familiar with the horse industry. Franklin Parish 4-H'er Chelsea Campbell placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the state in barrels.

Monthly 4-H meetings will be held at each club to distribute the 4-H newsletter and conduct educational programs focused on safety and workforce preparation.



Six Franklin Parish volunteers attended the Annual Leader Forum in Rayville. The training is a Professional Development day for volunteers in the Northeast Region.

### Family and Consumer Science

Seven 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.

Two child care provider training classes entitled "Children and the Outdoors: Fishing Fun" and "Teaching Children Responsibility: Less is More" were presented this quarter allowing fourteen Child Care Providers to earn hours to help meet their licensing requirements.

Nineteen Early Head Start teachers received 45 hours of training toward their Infant and Toddler Child Development Associate Certification. Fifteen clients were helped with food safety and food preservation questions.



Children participating in the Kids Chef Camp had fun making and eating fruit kabobs.

Twenty-two youth participated in a three day Kids Chef Mini Camp where they learned the importance of eating healthy food and exercising. They also learned some basic cooking skills and got to practice them while making easy and nutritious dishes which they ate during class.

Eight parenting and money management classes were taught for seven participants in the Parents Preparing for Success Program with the Department of Children and Family Services. Five parents completed all six lessons in the course.

## LA Master Farmer Program/ Environmental Education



A Louisiana Master Farmer Phase I training is scheduled for October 20 at the Scott Research and Education Center in Winnsboro. Session I is required and begins at 8:00 am. The cattle session will begin at 10:45 for those with livestock interest and

the row-crop session will begin at 2:00 pm.