

Appointment: 100% Extension

Requested Action: Promotion from Assistant County Agent to Associate County Agent

Dennis Burns  
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## **1. Education and Employment History**

Dennis Burns started to work for the LSU AgCenter initially in April of 1994 as a Research Associate for Dr. Henry Mascagni in the Feed Grain Agronomy Program at the Northeast Research Station. Mr. Burns' responsibilities included the layout, planting and harvesting of research plots at both the Northeast Research Station and the Macon Ridge Research Station. Other duties included husbandry of the research plots which included with the coordination and collection of data, plant samples for analysis and data entry. Mr. Burns left the LSU AgCenter in March 1999 to work for the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry in the Boll Weevil Eradication Program. He was promoted to the Manager of the Winnsboro Unit of the BWEP in 2002.

In January 2004, Mr. Burns rejoined the LSU AgCenter as a Research Associate for Mr. Eugene Burris in the Entomology Program at the Northeast Research Station. His responsibilities included the layout, planting and harvesting of research plots. Also included were plot maintenance, data collection and data entry. A part of Mr. Burris' program at the Northeast Research Station included precision agriculture projects. Mr. Burns was involved in this part of the program and became proficient in precision agriculture techniques and procedures for application and data analysis.

Since 2004 Mr. Burns has been the Safety Coordinator for the Northeast Station. He has been responsible for the implementation of the LSU AgCenter's Safety Program at the Northeast Research Station. Mr. Burns has attended several training classes with the Louisiana Office of Risk Management and received training on various safety issues. Mr. Burns has been responsible for the safety training for all new employees, transient and permanent, who have gone to work at the Northeast Research Station. He was also responsible for conducting the annual safety audit and maintaining the records and documentation that went along with the completed audit. Mr. Burns is currently Chairman of the Regional Safety Committee for the Northeast Region in the LSU AgCenter.

In March of 2008, Mr. Burns left the Northeast Research Station and became the Agriculture and Natural Resource Agent for Tensas Parish. Part of his assignment was to assume responsibilities for the Aquaculture Program in the Northeast Region. At this time Mr. Burns became a GeoSpatial Extension Agent working with Precision Agriculture in the Northeast Region.

Mr. Burns graduated from LSU in 1982 with a degree in Agri-Business and is currently working on a Master of Science in Agriculture and Natural Resource Systems Management from

the University of Tennessee at Martin. Mr. Burns has taken three classes as a non-matriculating graduate student at LSU since 2008. These classes along with two classes from UTM have been successfully completed with a gpa of 4.0 for 15 hours of graduate work. Mr. Burns is currently enrolled in a class at UTM for the Fall of 2011 semester with an expected degree completion in 2015.

Mr. Burns was a member of the second class of the LSU Agricultural Leadership Program. He graduated from the program in 1992. He is currently a member of the Agricultural Leaders of Louisiana, which is the alumni organization for the Ag Leadership Program.

## 2. Documentation of Major Program Areas and Initiatives

### Crop Production Agriculture

Since 2008 Mr. Burns has conducted yearly on-farm crop production demonstrations in Tensas and the surrounding parishes. These demonstrations have included cotton, soybeans, rice and corn. An on-farm crop demonstration is the putting into practice the results of the agricultural research done on the LSU AgCenter Agricultural Research Stations. The demonstrations were used to educate producers as to variety performance, pesticide treatments, fertility results, learning precision agriculture techniques and using precision agriculture techniques to determine results under different conditions which exist in commercial agricultural production operations.

Cooperator	Type of Demonstration	Result
2008 Hardwick Planting Company	Cotton Variety	Crop yield and agronomic data was collected for plant stand, plant height, and Nodes above White Flower
Jay James Farms	Cotton Variety	Crop yield and agronomic data was collected for plant stand, plant height, and Nodes above White Flower
Goldman Farms in cooperation with Mr. Eugene Burris	Nematicide application in cotton using prescription applications based on nematode sampling and soil Ec data collected with Veris and strip application methods	Crop yield was collected using a cotton yield monitor and analyzed using precision agriculture methods to compare the application methods across soil zones and further refine the application prescription
Crigler Farms in cooperation with Dr. Charles Overstreet	Nematicide application in cotton using prescription applications based on the producer's knowledge of the field to define the application zones and strip application	Crop yield was collected using a cotton yield monitor and analyzed using precision agriculture methods to compare the application methods across soil zones and

	methods	further refine the application prescription
Lawrence Perritt Farms	Nematicide application in cotton using the producer's knowledge of the field for strip applications to define the soil treatment zones.	Crop yield was collected using a cotton yield monitor and analyzed using precision agriculture methods to define the soil treatment zones and develop an application prescription
Ratcliff Farms in cooperation with Mr. Eugene Burris	Nematicide application in cotton using prescription applications based on the producer's knowledge of the field to define the application zones and strip application methods	Crop yield was collected using a cotton yield monitor and analyzed using precision agriculture methods to compare the application methods across soil zones and develop an application prescription

2009

Hardwick Planting Company in cooperation with Dr. Sandy Stewart	Cotton Variety	Crop yield and agronomic data was collected for plant stand, plant height, and Nodes above White Flower
Walter Butler Farms in cooperation with Dr. Ronnie Levy	Soybean Variety	Crop yield was collected.
Cypress Grove Plantation in cooperation with Dr. Ronnie Levy	Corn Hybrid	Crop yield and agronomic data was collected for plant stand.
Chuck Tucker Farms in cooperation with Dr. Sandy Stewart	Cotton Variety	Crop yield and agronomic data was collected for plant stand, plant height and Nodes above White Flower
James Lentz Farms	Nitrogen Fertility Strips in corn	The purpose of the demonstration was to teach producers how to collect and analyze crop yield data for a treatment effect.
Heath Herring Farms	Nitrogen Fertility Strips in corn	The purpose of the demonstration was to teach producers how to collect and analyze crop yield data for a treatment effect.
Hardwick Planting Company	Nitrogen Fertility Strips in corn	The purpose of the demonstration was to teach producers how to collect and

		analyze crop yield data for a treatment effect.
Balmoral Planting Company	Nitrogen Fertility Strips in corn	The purpose of the demonstration was to teach producers how to collect and analyze crop yield data for a treatment effect.
Goldman Farms in cooperation with Dr. Charles Overstreet	Nematicide application in first year cotton after a one year rotation with corn using a treated strips repeated across the field	Crop yield was collected using a cotton yield monitor and analyzed using precision agriculture methods to compare the application methods across soil zones, treatment zones and further refine the application prescription
Pittsfield Plantation in cooperation with Mr. Eugene Burris	Nematicide application in soybeans using the producer's knowledge of the field for strip applications to define the soil treatment zones.	Crop yield was collected using a combine yield monitor and analyzed using precision agriculture methods to define the soil treatment zones and develop an application prescription
Goldman Farms	Nitrogen Fertility Strips in cotton	The purpose of the demonstration was to teach producers how to collect and analyze crop yield data for a treatment effect.
Ratcliff Farms in cooperation with Dr. Natalie Hummel	Rice Water Weevil Control	Crop yield was collected using a combine yield monitor and analyzed using precision agriculture methods to compare the application methods across treatment zones
Jay James Farms	Nitrogen Fertility Strips in cotton	The purpose of the demonstration was to teach producers how to collect and analyze crop yield data for a treatment effect.
Lawrence Perritt Farms	Variable Rate and Swath Controlled Spray Application	Compared spray applications using manual control versus GPS applications
Chuck Tucker Farms	Nitrogen Fertility Strips in cotton	The purpose of the demonstration was to teach producers how to collect and

		analyze crop yield data for a treatment effect.
Rabb Farms	Nitrogen Fertility Strips in cotton	The purpose of the demonstration was to teach producers how to collect and analyze crop yield data for a treatment effect.

## 2010

Goldman Farms in cooperation with Dr. Charles Overstreet	Nematicide application in a cotton after cotton rotation using a combination of a prescription application based on 2009 nematicide strips and treated and untreated nematicide strips repeated across the field	Crop yield was collected using a cotton yield monitor and analyzed using precision agriculture methods to compare the application methods across soil zones, treatment zones and further refine the application prescription
B & P Custom Applicators	Variable Rate and Swath Controlled Spray Application	Compared spray applications using manual control versus GPS applications
Ratcliff Farms in cooperation with Dr. Natalie Hummel	Rice Water Weevil Control with treatment zones applied using precision agriculture methods	Crop yield was collected using a combine yield monitor and analyzed using precision agriculture methods to compare the application methods across treatment zones
Ralph Bass Farms in cooperation with Dr. Ronnie Levy	Soybean Verification Field	Scouted, made recommendations and collected yield to verify recommendations
Balmoral Planting Company in cooperation with Dr. John Kruse	Nitrogen Fertility Strips in corn	Crop yield was collected using a combine yield monitor and analyzed using precision agriculture methods to compare the nitrogen rates across soil zones and develop an application prescription
Goldman Farms in cooperation with Dr. Sterling Blanche	Cotton Variety Performance by Soil Type/Soil Ec Zone	Crop yield was collected using a cotton yield monitor and analyzed using precision agriculture methods to compare the performance of different cotton varieties across soil types and soil Ec

zones.

2011

Tim White Farms in cooperation with Dr. Sterling Blanche	Cotton Variety Performance by Soil Type/Soil Ec Zone and Plant Growth Regulator Rate	Crop yield will be collected using a cotton yield monitor and analyzed using precision agriculture methods to compare the performance of different cotton varieties at different PGR rates across soil types and soil Ec zones
Guedon Farms in cooperation with Dr. Sterling Blanche	Cotton Variety Performance by Soil Type/Soil Ec Zone	Crop yield will be collected using a cotton yield monitor and analyzed using precision agriculture methods to compare the performance of different cotton varieties across soil types and soil Ec zones.
Chuck Tucker Farms in cooperation with Dr. John Kruse	Nitrogen Fertility Strips in Cotton	Crop yield will be collected using a cotton yield monitor and analyzed using precision agriculture methods to compare the nitrogen rates across soil zones and develop an application prescription
Crigler Farms in cooperation with Dr. Sterling Blanche	Cotton Variety Performance by Soil Type/Soil Ec Zone	Crop yield will be collected using a cotton yield monitor and analyzed using precision agriculture methods to compare the performance of different cotton varieties across soil types and soil Ec zones.
Emfinger Farms in cooperation with Mr. Eugene Burris	Nematicide application in first year cotton after a one year rotation with corn using a treated strips repeated across the field	Crop yield will be collected using a cotton yield monitor and analyzed using precision agriculture methods to compare the application methods across soil types and soil Ec zones and develop an application prescription
Cypress Grove Plantation in cooperation with Dr. John Kruse	Corn Hybrid	Crop yield and agronomic data will be collected.
Barclay Tullos Farms in	Nematicide application in first	Crop yield will be collected

cooperation with Mr. Eugene Burris	year cotton after a one year rotation with corn using a treated strips repeated across the field	using a cotton yield monitor and analyzed using precision agriculture methods to compare the application methods across soil types and soil Ec zones and develop an application prescription
Keahey Farms in cooperation with Dr. John Kruse	Corn Hybrid	Crop yield and agronomic data will be collected.
Chuck Tucker Farms in cooperation with Dr. John Kruse	Cotton Variety	Crop yield and agronomic data will be collected for plant stand, plant height and Nodes above White Flower
Leake Farms in cooperation with Mr. Eugene Burris	Nematicide application in first year cotton after a one year rotation with corn using a treated strips repeated across the field	Crop yield will be collected using a cotton yield monitor and analyzed using precision agriculture methods to compare the application methods across soil types and soil Ec zones and develop an application prescription
Hardwick Plant Company in cooperation with Dr. John Kruse	Nitrogen Fertility Strips in Cotton	Crop yield will be collected using a cotton yield monitor and analyzed using precision agriculture methods to compare the nitrogen rates across soil zones and develop an application prescription
Hardwick Planting Company in cooperation with Dr. John Kruse	Nitrogen Fertility Strips in Corn	Crop yield will be collected using a combine yield monitor and analyzed using precision agriculture methods to compare the nitrogen rates across soil zones and develop an application prescription
Mize Farms in cooperation with Dr. John Kruse	Nitrogen Fertility Strips in Corn in Combination with Other Nutrients	Crop yield will be collected using a combine yield monitor and analyzed using precision agriculture methods to compare the nitrogen rates across soil zones and develop an application prescription
Balmoral Planting Company	Twin Row Corn vs Single Row Corn	Crop yield will be collected using a combine yield monitor and analyzed using precision agriculture methods to

		compare the twin row corn and single row corn.
VanDeven Farms	Fall Application of Fertilizer to Wheat	Crop yield will be collected using a combine yield monitor and analyzed using precision agriculture methods to compare treated to untreated areas.
Rabb Farms in cooperation with NRCS	Use of Cover Crops with Cotton	Planted three types of cover crops and included a native population treatment to plant cotton into.
Malcolm McVay Farms in cooperation with Dr. Ronnie Levy	Soybean Variety	Crop yield will be collected.
Goldman Farms in cooperation with Dr. Charles Overstreet	Nematicide application in first year cotton after a one year rotation with corn using different treatment rate strips repeated across the field	Crop yield will be collected using a cotton yield monitor and analyzed using precision agriculture methods to compare the application methods across soil types and soil Ec zones and develop an application prescription

### Precision Agriculture

As a Geospatial Agent Mr. Burns has worked with over 100 producers in several different crops since 2008. Early on in the process Mr. Burns realized that the education of producers using precision agriculture would not be accomplished with holding meetings. To learn how to use precision agriculture in the most efficient and profitable way for producers is to do it hands-on. Hands-on education is slower but eliminates the frustration that producers have when they are trying to use precision agriculture on their farms and don't know how to do it or don't understand what the equipment is doing. Crop yield maps contain much valuable information especially if they collect the yields over several years, but many producers don't know how to use this information to obtain the greatest gain from it. Mr. Burns along with Mr. R.L. Frazier, Madison Parish County Agent, held three precision agriculture meetings since 2008. The first meeting had the most attendees, 22 growers and consultants, and had four speakers who gave presentations and the most informative part of the program was at the end when there was an open question/answer session with all the speakers. Realizing this the next meetings were smaller attendance, 10 or less, and were held strictly hands-on using the producers' own data to work with. These meetings demonstrated to Mr. Burns that the education of precision agriculture to producers, consultants and other agricultural professionals is not the most efficient on a group basis. Presentations have been made to groups showing procedures and results but to actually teach the techniques, it is best done one on one with people who have no experience or those that already have a basic understanding of precision agriculture. This teaching is best done on their farms with their equipment. This gives them familiarity and helps

overcome the technological barriers which might be present. The goal of some of the precision agriculture demonstrations that have been with producers hasn't necessarily been to determine the best treatment as to learn how that result was determined.

Mr. Burns has worked with sweet potato growers to analyze soil Ec data, soil zones determined by measuring electrical conductivity, taken with a Veris machine and using the results to design zone/grid sampling plans for both nutrient and nematode management decisions. The management decisions included creating prescription plans for site specific applications of fertilizer and/or nematicides. Continuing the use of the Veris machine as an educational tool, Mr. Burns has demonstrated to producers the value of understanding their soil zones and using them as a basis for soil sampling. In 2007 he wrote site specific cotton nitrogen prescriptions for two growers based on soil Ec data which they applied and then collected yield maps in the fall. In 2008 before planting, Mr. Burns analyzed on the yield maps to coordinate the yields to the soil zones and the nitrogen rate and further refine the nitrogen prescriptions. The producers had already suggested changing the rates in one area of the fields where they felt that nitrogen was lacking during the growing season. Based on their learning experience with Mr. Burns during the previous year these producers expanded their variable rate nitrogen applications to their corn crop..

The use of nitrogen rate treatment strips as tools for educating producers how to use the precision agriculture equipment they already possess and what they may want to purchase has proven to be a valuable tool. Mr. Burns has worked with twelve growers using the nitrogen strip technique to teach precision agriculture techniques. He has also used variety trials which have been harvested with yield monitors to demonstrate to those growers how they can use their equipment to gain valuable data about their farms using precision agriculture techniques.

Mr. Burns has worked with nine growers with Telone applications using three techniques for application placement, site specific, whole field, and grower knowledge, with reference strips, treated and untreated, to be used to fine tune areas that need treatment. He has helped train growers on how to apply Telone and the safety issues involved with its use. Mr. Burns has also assisted growers and commercial applicators in calibrating precision application rigs for both spraying and fertilize applications.

Mr. Burns is currently working in cooperation with Mr. R.L. Frazier, Madison Parish County Agent, on a new project, using light sensors to control precision application of fertilizer, plant growth regulators and cotton defoliant. They are outfitting a high clearance sprayer with light sensors which measure NDVI, normalized difference vegetation index which can be used as a measure of plant growth and health. The light sensors are linked to a field computer and a spray controller, which through the use of an algorithm, control and vary the rate of application by the spraying system. The goal of this project is on-farm demonstrations with producers to show how precision agriculture can be used to only apply what the crop needs and only where it is needed. It will also demonstrate new technology which is available for producers to use on their own farms.

Mr. Burns held a GPS training for three other GEA agents in Calhoun in 2009. He has also given precision agriculture presentations at numerous meetings locally, regionally and nationally. These meetings have included having a stop on the field tours at the Northeast Research Station Annual Field Day in 2009, 2010, and 2011 and the Dean Lee Research Station Annual Field Day in 2011. Mr. Burns spoke at the 2010 Beltwide Cotton Conference in New Orleans, LA on "Using Verification strips to Delineate Treatment Zones". This topic related work done using site specific methods to determine nematicide treatment areas in producers'

fields and how the results were used to measure the outcome. Mr. Burns gave a similar presentation at the National Association of County Agricultural Agents Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference in 2010. In 2011 Mr. Burns gave a presentation at the National Conservation Systems Cotton & Rice Conference, Southern Corn and Precision Ag Conference in Baton Rouge, LA on "Yield Monitor Data Analysis". This presentation centered on the collection, analysis, and use of yield monitor data by producers in various crops yearly and over several cropping seasons. In addition, Mr. Burns has participated in Roundtable Discussion Groups at the 2009 Beltwide Cotton Conference in San Antonio, Tx and the 2009 National Conservation Systems Cotton & Rice Conference, Southern Corn and Precision Ag Conference in Marksville, LA. These discussion groups related precision ag experiences to an audience of producers and researchers. He has also spoken at several local production meetings and field tours for producers and consultants.

### Natural Resources

Tensas Parish is home to very productive wildlife habitat and wildlife populations. Consequently there are numerous hunting clubs located in Tensas Parish. A part of Mr. Burns' ANR responsibilities is to assist these hunting clubs with wildlife food plot management. Working with these clubs usually starts with a visit in the late summer/early fall when the membership is trying to establish cool season food plots for whitetail deer. After evaluating the food plots and talking to the members to determine what their goals are, Mr. Burns will develop equipment suggestions, crop recommendations (seeding rate, fertility and pest control) and a timeline for implementation. Soil samples are always part of the initial visit and appraisal. The following year Mr. Burns will follow-up to see how well the membership is doing with their wildlife food plot production. One thing that he has discovered is that most of the clubs are under equipped for the amount of food plots they are working and this causes problems because they can't get everything done on an a timely basis. Most hunting clubs depend on their members for the labor to prepare and plant the food plots. This reduces the labor expense but interferes with the members' time on the hunting property. Consequentially the food plots are not completely done and wildlife food production suffers along with the wasted expense from not doing the projects correctly. Since 2008, Mr. Burns has worked with 10 hunting clubs on their food plot production and many other local residents who have questions about planting food plots on their own hunting areas.

### Livestock

Mr. Burns works with the livestock and hay producers in Tensas Parish to further enhance their production. He visits the pastures and hayfields and teaches producers how to scout for pests and what treatments to use to control them. In 2009, Mr. Burns put in a demonstration for control of the Imported Fire Ant in a commercial pasture. Mr. Burns also assists with the Beef Shows at the Northeast Louisiana District Livestock Show in Delhi each February.

During the Mississippi River Flood of 2011, Mr. Burns worked with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and cattle producers who ran cattle on the Mississippi River Mainline Levee to remove the cattle from the levee to a secure location with feed and water.

## Aquaculture

In 2008 Mr. Burns conducted a poll with the County Agents in the Northeast Region about aquaculture growers and their needs. Mr. Burns made extensive contacts with the catfish producers in the Northeast Region to determine how he could assist them in their operations. The catfish producers' main focus for him was to keep them informed about any government programs or regulations which might affect their operations. Due to escalating expenses, foreign imports and low prices the future of the catfish producers has been bleak and since 2008 there is very little catfish production in Louisiana. Mr. Burns has assisted catfish producers with three governmental programs since 2009. Two of the programs were federally funded feed assistance programs which aided producers to offset the high feed costs. Mr. Burns coordinated with Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry in hosting two informational meetings for catfish producers and assisted with the program promotion and sign up. The third federally funded program was conducted in 2010 and 2011 and was a Trade Assistance Program which helped producers transition from catfish production into another agricultural enterprise or assist them in remaining in catfish production. This program was conducted by Ag-Economists from the LSU AgCenter and Mr. Burns coordinated with them to promote and sign up producers for the program. He also assisted the instructors from the LSU AgCenter in hosting the training meetings. All of the eligible catfish producers participated in these three programs.

Mr. Burns has sought to make contacts with the turtle producers in the Northeast Region. These producers are a small relatively unknown part of aquaculture production in Louisiana and have had little interaction with the LSU AgCenter. Mr. Burns worked with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry in promotion and sign up for two federally funded feed assistance programs. Two meetings were arranged and hosted by Mr. Burns with the turtle producers concerning these programs. While turtle production in Louisiana is not a dynamic industry, Mr. Burns has maintained his contacts and keeps abreast of the occurrences in the business.

In the Northeast Region there are only a few commercial crawfish farms. Mr. Burns has worked with those producers for weed control and forage production to improve their operations. There are several fishermen who fish the wild sloughs and bayous for wild crawfish and Mr. Burns has discussed their operations with them and how they might be able to improve them. Mr. Burns held a crawfish production meeting in 2009 in Concordia Parish.

Mr. Burns was responsible for the catfish and crawfish education exhibits at the Mini-Farm at the Ag Alley and Ag Expo held in 2009 and 2010. These exhibits gave information and insight into aquaculture production in Northeast Louisiana.

## Horticulture

Mr. Burns is also responsible for assisting homeowners with their lawn and garden projects. He makes visits to their homes and works with them to determine the best course of action for their project/problem. Landscapes and gardens are a continual learning experience and he aids this by sending out the Horticulture Hints to the clientele in Tensas Parish. Mr. Burns assisted the St. Joseph Tailgate Market, a farmer's market, when they were forming and held meetings to try and gain vendors at the Market. He has gone to St. Joseph Tailgate Market and had a question and answer booth for people to stop at. In cooperation with agents from Richland, Madison, and East Carroll, we started a Master Gardener class in the spring of 2009

which included 3 people from Tensas Parish. Mr. Burns taught two lessons for the Master Gardener class and assisted the other agents with parts of their lessons. Mr. Burns has worked with Betsy Crigler, Tensas Parish 4-H Agent, to establish four school garden projects at schools in Tensas Parish. He also assisted Mrs. Crigler with a 4-H landscaping project at Tensas Elementary School in St. Joseph. Mr. Burns worked with Mrs. Crigler and students in the LASAL Program in the Honors College at LSU to build and plant two landscape beds on the Tensas Parish Courthouse Square. This project was done with financial assistance from a local nursery and the Tensas Parish Police Jury.

Mr. Burns actually answers more lawn and garden questions from people he sees in public places in Tensas Parish than actual office calls/home visits.

### **3. Advisory Process and Critical Issue Responsiveness**

Mr. Burns holds an Agriculture and Natural Resource Advisory Committee meeting annually usually in January. He makes a personal invitation via a phone call and obtains almost 100% attendance. Mr. Burns ANR Advisory Committee consists of 12 - 15 members and is made up of producers, local USDA personnel, banking representatives, Tensas Parish Police Jury members and agriculture consultants. The suggestions concerning programming are acted upon the following year. Past recommendations have been irrigation workshops, precision agriculture work, fertility work, faster release of Tensas Parish variety yield results in the fall in preparation for the upcoming year

Mr. Burns has held Aquaculture Advisory Committee meetings with both the turtle producers and catfish producers. Both sets of the producers had similar requests from Mr. Burns. Their main concerns were knowledge of any government programs for feed assistance, converting aquaculture ponds into CRP and alternative uses for ponds. The turtle producers also would like any assistance with the release of turtles into the pet market in the United States.

Mr. Burns participates in the Tensas Parish Overall Advisory Committee Meetings held annually. In the last two years the meeting has been held in conjunction with the personnel from the Northeast Research Station as a way of involving the people of Tensas Parish with the NERS. Past recommendations have included furthering educational opportunities through distance learning. Delta Community College established a distance education site at our office and has held classes for Tensas Parish High School students.

### **4. Innovative Teaching Methods, Knowledge and Application of New Technology**

Mr. Burns uses several different methods to communicate to the clientele in Tensas Parish. He maintains email address lists which are separated by topic. Mr. Burns also keeps an address list of the clientele which do not have email addresses to mail information out to.

Mr. Burns has also developed cell phone text lists that enable him to quickly send information to agricultural producers.

Mr. Burns along with Mr. R.L. Frazier started the LSU Precision Ag Blog to disseminate precision agriculture information and tips.

Mr. Burns was involved in the current development of the Tensas Parish Extension Facebook page. This work was started in the summer of 2011 and is currently being established as a source of information for Tensas Parish residents.

The Precision Agricultural Strip Demonstration has proven to be an effective teaching tool and one that works well with producers due to its simplicity and ease of application.

### 5. Program Delivery Effectiveness Demonstrated by Evaluation, Change and Adoption

The Precision Agriculture Program that is conducted by Mr. Burns is promoting adoption of GIS techniques by producers. One measure of this is the number of calls about precision agriculture from outside Tensas Parish that he is receiving. In the summer of 2011, he has begun working with two producers from Franklin Parish, one from Richland Parish, and a consultant from Grant Parish. Mr. Burns has received calls from two equipment dealers in Louisiana asking for help with their customers precision agriculture needs. In Tensas Parish the use of yield monitors and spray equipment outfitted with GIS controlled variable rate and swath control has increased.

### 6. Development and Presentation of Research Based Materials

Mr. Burns has given many presentations to many different groups since 2008. He has worked to develop and present current and useful information of interest to the particular group that he is speaking to. Mr. Burns also teaches at the Private Pesticide Recertification meeting and the Worker Protection Standard for Agricultural Workers to pesticide handlers in Tensas Parish. He holds one Private Pesticide Recertification Meeting and one WPS Handler Training meeting annually. For WPS Handler Training during other times of the year Mr. Burns will do the training for workers needing it.

Topic	Meeting	Date	Location
LDWF Hunter Safety Course	4-H Camp	5/2008	Pollack, LA
Yield Monitor Data Use	Yield Monitor Workshop	7/15/2008	St. Joseph, LA
Using Precision Agriculture	Master Farmer Field Day	7/18/2008	Newellton, LA
Grain Bin Management	Grain Bin Workshop	7/21/2008	Tallulah, LA
Field Day Tour Guide	Dean Lee Research Station Field Day	8/21/2008	Alexandria, LA
Lead LA I Leadership Class	Tensas School Board Meeting	10/7/2008	St. Joseph, LA
Lead LA I Leadership Class	Waterproof Town Council Meeting	10/13/2008	Waterproof, LA
Lawn and Garden Information	Horticulture Lunch-n-Learn	10/22/2008	St. Joseph, LA
Farmer's Markets	St. Joseph Tailgate Meeting	10/21/2008	St. Joseph, La
Lead LA I Leadership Class	Tensas Police Jury Meeting	9/23/2008	St. Joseph, LA
Lead LA I Leadership Class	Tensas Revitalization Alliance Meeting	9/23/2008	St. Joseph, LA
Gardening Information	Tensas 4-H Garden	9/29/2008	St. Joseph, LA
Safe Handling,	Telone II Meeting	12/10/2008	St. Joseph, LA

Equipment and Results from Telone Applications			
LEAD LA I Class	LEAD LA I Leadership Training Class	1/2009	St. Joseph, LA
Mini-Farm	Ag Alley	1/13-15/2009	West Monroe, LA
Mini-Farm	Ag Expo	1/16-17/2009	West Monroe, LA
Mini-Farm	Ag Adventures	1/23/2009	Delhi, LA
Worker Protection Training	Tensas Crop Production and Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification Meeting	1/28/2009	St. Joseph, LA
Assistance with NRCS Programs	Tensas Parish Public Meeting	2/5/2009	St. Joseph, LA
Mini-Farm	Ag Adventures	2/10/2009	Delhi, LA
St. Joseph Tailgate Market	Farmer's Market Meeting	3/12/2009	St. Joseph, LA
Tensas Parish Crop Conditions	Tensas Parish FSA County Committee Meeting	4/2/2009	St. Joseph, LA
Ag Safety Day	Tensas Progressive Ag Safety Day	4/22/2009	St. Joseph, LA
Soybean Research Project	Northeast Research Station Field Day	6/17/2009	St. Joseph, LA
GPS Training	Agent Training	7/7/2009	Calhoun, LA
Grain Bin Management	Grain Bin Workshop	7/10/2009	Newellton, LA
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and USDA Aquaculture Feed Assistance	Aquaculture Feed Assistance Meeting	7/15/2009	Jonesville, LA
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and USDA Aquaculture Feed Assistance	Aquaculture Feed Assistance Meeting	7/15/2009	Winnsboro, LA
Answered Gardening Questions	St. Joseph Tailgate Market	7/25/2009	St. Joseph, LA
Field Day Tour Guide	Dean Lee Research Station Field Day	7/29/2009	Alexandria, LA
Horticulture Program	Tensas Garden Club	10/08/2009	St. Joseph, LA
Crop Conditions in Tensas Parish	Tensas Parish FSA County Committee Meeting	11/5/2009	St. Joseph, LA
Yield Monitor Data Analysis	Precision Ag ACE Meeting	12/08/2009	Baton Rouge, LA
Yield Monitors and Yield Data Use	Certified Crop Consultant Training Workshop	12/10/2009	Rayville, LA
Mini-Farm	Ag Alley	1/12-16/2010	West Monroe, LA
Mini-Farm	Ag Expo	1/17-18/2010	West Monroe, LA
Cropping Expectations	Tensas Rotary Club	1/26/2010	St. Joseph, LA

in Tensas Parish			
Horticulture Information	Master Gardener Class	2/2010 - 7/2010	Tallulah, LA
Worker Protection Training	Tensas Crop Production and Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification Meeting	2/1/2010	St. Joseph, LA
Yield Monitors and Yield Data	Beginners Rice School	3/4/2010	Tallulah, LA
Crop Conditions in Tensas Parish	Tensas Rotary Club	3/18/2010	St. Joseph, LA
2009 Crop Results in Tensas Parish	NRCS/Tensas-Concordia Soil & Water Committee Meeting	3/25/2010	St. Joseph, LA
Ag Safety Day	Tensas Parish Progressive Safety Day	4/27/2010	St. Joseph, LA
Irrigation Scheduling	Tensas Parish Irrigation Workshop	5/5/2010	Newellton, LA
Yield Monitor Data, Collection and Analysis	Northeast Research Station Field Day	7/20/2010	St. Joseph, LA
Crop Condition in Tensas Parish	Tensas Rotary Club	9/7/2010	St. Joseph, LA
Site Specific Application of Telone II	Dow Telone Meeting	9/22/2010	St. Joseph, LA
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and USDA Aquaculture Feed Assistance	Aquaculture Feed Assistance Meeting	11/3/2010	Jonesville, LA
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and USDA Aquaculture Feed Assistance	Aquaculture Feed Assistance Meeting	11/3/2010	Winnsboro, LA
Crop Results for Tensas Parish	Tensas Rotary Club	12/9/2010	St. Joseph, LA
Assessment of Ag Infrastructure in Tensas Parish	Tensas Parish Ag Assessment Meeting	12/2/2010	St. Joseph, LA
Yield Monitor Data Analysis	Yield Monitor Workshop	12/13/2010	Melville, LA
Sweet Potato Production	Ag Alley	1/12/2011	West Monroe, LA
Sweet Potato Production	Ag Expo	1/14/2011	West Monroe, LA
Worker Protection Training and Drift Management	Tensas Crop Production and Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification Meeting	1/20/2011	St. Joseph, LA
WPS Handler Training	Tensas WPS Handler Training	2/9/2011	St. Joseph, LA
Worker Protection Training and Drift Management	Concordia Crop Production and Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification	2/22/2011	Monterey, LA

	Meeting		
Sweet Potato Production	Ag Adventures	2/23/2011	Delhi, La
Worker Protection Training and Drift Management	Catahoula Crop Production and Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification Meeting	2/24/2011	Jonesville, LA
WPS Handler Training	Concordia WPS Handler Training Meeting	3/8/2011	Ferriday, LA
WPS Handler Training	Concordia WPS Handler Training Meeting	3/8/2011	Monterey, LA
Conservation and Precision Agriculture	Daughters of American Revolution Meeting	3/10/2011	St. Joseph, LA
Drainage Issues and Production Agriculture Practices	Concordia Parish Drainage Board Meeting	3/24/2011	Vidalia, LA
Using Crop Sensors to Control Variable Rate Applications	Northeast Research Station Field Day	6/28/2011	St. Joseph, LA
Cotton Yield Data Collection	Dean Lee Research Station Field Day	7/28/2011	Alexandria, LA

## 7. Publications (Print and Electronic)

### Tensas Parish Extension Quarterly Report

Burris, Eugene, Burns, Dennis, McCarter, Kevin S., Overstreet, Charles, Wolcott, Maurice C. 2007. Evaluation of the effects of TeloneII on Nitrogen Management and Yield in Louisiana Delta Cotton. In Proceedings. 9th International Conference on Precision Agriculture. 2008, CD ROM

Burris, Eugene, Burns, Dennis, McCarter, Kevin S., Overstreet, Charles, Wolcott, Maurice C. Use of GIS/GPS Technique to Analyze Early Season Treatment Strategies in Cotton. 2008. In Louisiana Agricultural Science Association Proceedings, pp 19.

Smith, Tara, Burris, Eugene, Burns, Dennis. "Evaluation of foliar insecticides for control of Lepidopteran species in sweet potato, 2007.", Arthropod Management Test 2008

Burris, Eugene, Burns, Dennis. "Efficacy of Trimax Pro Combinations Against Tarnished Plant Bug on Cotton, 2007", ESA Arthropod Management Tests. AMT Report No. F9

Burris, Eugene, Overstreet, Charles, Burns, Dennis, Wolcott, Maurice C. "Evaluating Avicta Complete Pac on an Alluvial Soil Infested with Nematodes." 2007. In Proceedings Beltwide Cotton Conference. Memphis TNN.

Burris, Eugene, Burns, Dennis, McCarter, Kevin S., Overstreet, Charles, Wolcott, Maurice C. 2007. Evaluation fo the effectso on Telone II on Nitrogen management and Yield in Louisiana

Delta Cotton. In Proceedings. 9th International Conference on Precision Agriculture. 2008, CD ROM

Cook, Donald R., Leonard, Billy R., Burris, Eugene, Burns, Dennis. 2008. "Impact of field margin vegetation management of tarnished plant bug, *Lygus lineolaris* (Palisot de Beauvois) infestations in cotton, *Gossypium hirsutum* (L.)", Second International Lygus Symposium. *J. Insect Science* 8(49): 7-8.

Burris, Eugene, Burns, Dennis, Cook, Donald R. "Evaluation of selected insecticides against cabbage/soybean looper on sweet potato, 2006", *Arthropod Management Tests*. AMT 32 (2007) Report No. E46

Overstreet, C., E. C. McGawley, D. Burns, and R. L. Frazier. 2011. Edaphic factors involved in the delineation of management zones for *Rotylenchulus reniformis*. *Journal of Nematology* 43: (in press)

Louisiana Agriculture. GIS/GPS Techniques help evaluate soil insect and nematode pest control strategies in sweet potatoes. Spring 2009. Vol. 52, No. 2. pp. 28-29.

Burris, Eugene, Clawson, Ernest L., Burns, Dennis, Cook, Donald R., Hutchinson, Robert L. Gis and Gps procedures to help improve cotton pest management, 8th International Conference on Precision Agriculture

Overstreet, C., E.C. McGawley, M. Wolcott, D. Burns, E. Burris, and G.B. Padgett. 2010. Using verification strips to define nematicide response areas to the Southern root-knot and reniform nematodes in cotton in the alluvial soils of the mid-South, U.S.A.

Overstreet, C., E. C. McGawley, D. Burns, and R. L. Frazier. 2011. Edaphic factors involved in the delineation of management zones for *Rotylenchulus reniformis*. *Journal of Nematology* 43: (in press)

Hummel N., Stout M., Burns D., Courville B., Daniels G., Fontenot K., Frey M., Gauthier S., Lee D., and Ring D. 2010. Rice water weevil management demonstration in commercial rice fields in Louisiana, 2009. 101st Annual Research Report - Rice Research Station. 256-257.

Burns, D., E. Burris, and C. Overstreet. 2010. Using verification strips to delineate treatment zones. Pp. 60-66 in *Proceeding of the Beltwide Cotton Conference*, New Orleans, LA, January 4-7, 2010. National Cotton Council, Cordova, TN.

Overstreet, C., E.C. McGawley, E. Burris, D. Burns, B. Padgett and R.L. Frazier. 2010. Site-specific management strategies used in Louisiana. Pp. 52-59 in *Proceedings of the Beltwide Cotton Conference*, New Orleans, LA, January 4-7, 2010. National Cotton Council, Cordova, TN.

Overstreet, C., E.C. McGawley, E. Burris, D. Burns, B. Padgett and R.L. Frazier. 2010. Site-specific management strategies used in Louisiana. *Proceeding of the Beltwide Cotton Conferences*, New Orleans, LA January 4-7, 2010, pages 52-59.

Overstreet, C., E.C. McGawley, M. Wolcott, D. Burns, E. Burris, and G.B. Padgett. 2010. Using verification strips to define nematicide response areas to the Southern root-knot and reniform nematodes in cotton in the alluvial soils of the mid-South, U.S.A.

Hummel N., Stout M., Burns D., Courville B., Daniels G., Fontenot K., Frey M., Gauthier S., Lee D., and Ring D. 2010. Rice water weevil management demonstration in commercial rice fields in Louisiana, 2009. 101st Annual Research Report - Rice Research Station. 256-257.

Overstreet, C., E. C. McGawley, D. Burns, and M. Wolcott. 2010. Using apparent electrical conductivity and verification strips to define nematode management zones in cotton. *Journal of Nematology* 42:261-262.

Overstreet, C., E. C. McGawley, D. Burns, and R. L. Frazier. 2011. Edaphic factors involved in the delineation of management zones for *Rotylenchulus reniformis*. *Journal of Nematology* 43: (in press)

Burris, E. D. Burns, J.E. Jones, and C. Overstreet. 2009. Using Sensor Data to Evaluate Early Season Pest Control Strategies. *Proceedings of the Beltwide Cotton Conferences*, Pp. 664-668.

Overstreet, C., M. Wolcott, G. Burris, and D. Burns. 2009. Management Zones for Cotton Nematodes. *Proceedings of the Beltwide Cotton Conferences*, Pp. 167-176.

## 8. Mass Media, Web Page Development and Maintenance

Mr. Burns is the content reviewer for the Tensas Parish website. Listed below are mass media articles from Mr. Burns.

Topic	Media	Date	Contribution
Rice Outlook	Tensas Parish Rice List Serve	2008-09	Distributed via email and mail
Soybean and Feed Grain Review	Tensas Parish Row Crop List Serve	2008-09	Distributed via email and mail
Cotton Newsletter	Tensas Parish Row Crop List Serve	2008-09	Distributed via email and mail
Horticultural Hints	Tensas Parish Home & Garden List	2008-11	Distributed via email and mail
Field Notes	Tensas Parish Rice List Serve	2008-11	Distributed via email and mail
LA Market Outlook	Tensas Parish List Serve	2008-11	Distributed via email and mail
Fact Sheets	All Ag List Serve	2008-11	Distributed via email and mail
Crawfish Workshop	The Concordia Sentinell	2/11/2009	Authored
St. Joseph Tailgate Market Meeting	Tensas Gazette	3/18/2009	Authored

Ag Safety Day	Tensas Gazette	5/5/2009	Authored
Yield Monitor Workshop	Tensas Gazette	7/23/2008	Authored
St. Joseph Tailgate Market Meeting	Tensas Gazette	10/15/2008	Authored
La Food and Fiber Monitor	Tensas Parish All Ag List Serve	2008-09	Distributed via email and mail
Tensas Parish Flooding	Vicksburg Evening Post	9/7/2009	Contributed
Farmers, Sellers Feeling the Pinch	The Daily Reville	9/17/2009	Contributed
Walking Safety	Tensas Gazette	10/15/2009	Co-Authored
Crop Damage	Tensas Gazette	10/15/2009	Authored
Verification Strips	LSU AgCenter Website	11/23/2009	Authored
MidSouth Telone Digest	Telone II Newsletter	2010	Contributed
Soybean Population	Tensas Gazette	1/21/2010	Contributed
Ornamental Horticulture Email Updates	Tensas Parish Commercial Landscapers List Serve	2010-11	Distributed via email
Verification Strips – Defining Management Zones	GeoSpatial Newsletter	12/1/2010	Authored
LSU Precision Ag Blog	Internet Blog	2011	Authored/Co- Authored
Economic Downturn and Imports hurt Catfish Industry	LSU AgCenter Communications	3/25/2011	Contributed
Understanding Data Crucial in GPS	Cotton Farming Magazine	6/2011	Co-Authored
Burns explains Yield Monitor Data at NERS Field Day	Tensas Gazette	6/2011	Authored
GIS Newsletter	GIS Newsletter		Authored
Growth Characteristics of Cotton Varieties	LA Crops Newsletter, Volume 2, Issue 8	8/2011	Co-Authored
Corn Farmers without irrigation have rough year	Natchez Democrat	8/22/2011	Interviewed

## 9. Cooperation/Collaboration with Other Faculty

Mr. Burns cooperates with numerous other faculty members throughout the LSU AgCenter. He regularly works with Mr. R.L. Frazier on GIS projects in Madison and Tensas Parishes and the Northeast Region. Mr. Burns is currently cooperating on research/demonstration projects with Dr. Charlie Overstreet, Dr. John Kruse and Dr. Sterling Blanche. Mr. Burns' role in these projects deals with the GIS aspects. He has also assisted Dr. Don Boquet, Mr. Eugene Burris and Dr. Keith Morris with past projects.

## 10. External Funding, Material Support and Grants

Mr. Burns has applied for and received two grants for assistance with his agricultural work. In 2010, Mr. Burns along with R.L. Frazier, Madison Parish County Agent, applied the the Louisiana Soybean and Feed Grain Research and Promotion Board for a \$7000 grant entitled *Education of Corn Producers in the Application of Precision Agriculture using Yield Maps and Check Strips*. This grant would be used to educate producers in precision agriculture. The basis for the grant application was to work with producers to maximize production across these variable environments without over or under application of inputs and for this the use of precision agriculture equipment is vital. Understanding how to use the available precision agriculture equipment or justify the purchase of equipment is a major factor in being able to realize any gains from having the equipment. Precision agriculture equipment and the data produced from the use of this equipment can be confusing and overwhelming to a producer. Using a simple basic demonstration with a sidedress nitrogen application to corn allows a producer to understand the concepts of a precision agriculture application, the yield data collection and the analysis of the resulting data. Each step in this process would teach producers about a different phase of precision agriculture. Mr. Burns and Mr. Frazier also used the grant to hold a meeting in St. Landry Parish with producers on working with yield data and two software programs. This was a hands on meeting where each agent worked with five producers who had brought some of their own data for analysis.

In 2010 Mr. Burns received a grant from Dow AgriSciences for \$4000. This is for work that he assists Dow AgriScience with the application of Telone II, a nematicide, in row crops. The use of Telone II as a nematicide in Louisiana is a true site specific application. The nematicide control nematodes and gives yield increases but the best results seem to come from site specific applications. While a Research Associate at the Northeast Research Station, Mr. Burns worked with other AgCenter Researchers and Extension personnel to develop techniques to determine where these site specific applications need to be made to achieve the best results. As a ANR Agent Mr. Burns main involvement with Dow AgriSciences is during the yield data analysis. The yield data is analyzed and the results determined based on soil types and/or soil Ec zones. The use of Telone II treated strips initially to develop prescriptions which include treated and untreated strips for further refinement are the ultimate goal for the cooperating producers.

Mr. Burns has applied for another grant from Dow AgriSciences for \$5000 for 2011 work with site specific applications and yield data analysis using precision agriculture techniques of Telone II.

## 11. Presentations at Professional and Clientele Targeted Conferences and Meetings

Topic	Meeting	Date	Location
Precision Agriculture Roundtable Discussion	Beltwide Cotton Conference	1/5/2009	San Antonio, TX
Precision Agriculture Roundtable Discussion	National Conservation Systems Cotton & Rice Conference, Southern Corn and Precision Ag Conference	1/27/09	Marksville, LA

Using verification strips to delineate treatment zones.	Beltwide Cotton Conference	1/4/2010	New Orleans, LA
Site Specific Nematicide Applications	National Association of County Agricultural Agents Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference	7/13/2010	Tulsa, OK
Yield Monitor Data Analysis	National Conservation Systems Cotton & Rice Conference, Southern Corn and Precision Ag Conference	2/1-2/2011	Baton Rouge, LA

## 12. Continued Coursework, In-Service Training, Sabbaticals, Professional Involvement

Mr. Burns has attended numerous trainings to further his professional development and knowledge.

Topic	Meeting	Date	Location
Master of Science in Agriculture and Natural Resource Systems Management	Graduate School at the University of Tennessee-Martin	1/2010 – present	Online
Cotton	ACE Meetings	2008 – 2010	Baton Rouge, Winnsboro and Alexandria, LA
Soybeans & Feed Grains	ACE Meetings	2008 – 2010	Baton Rouge, Winnsboro and Alexandria, LA
Precision Agriculture	ACE Meetings	2008 – 2010	Baton Rouge, Winnsboro and Alexandria, LA
Precision Agriculture Data Analysis	Cotton Incorporated Precision Ag Meeting	3/13-14/2008	Cary, NC
Weed and disease control in wheat, rice entomology, cotton fertility and sweet potato production	ANR Agent Training	3/20/2008	Winnsboro, LA
Various Topics	Louisiana Agricultural Scientists Association	3/26/2008	Baton Rouge, LA
Weed and Disease Control and Variety Information	LSU AgCenter Wheat Field Day	4/17/2008	Winnsboro, LA
Soil Information	NRCS Soils Workshop	4/17/2008	Winnsboro, LA
Precision Agriculture	Cotton Incorporated	11/1/2009	Austin, Tx

Data Analysis	Precision Ag Meeting		
Extension Programing	LSU Graduate School	Spring 2009	Distance Education
Program Evaluation	LSU Graduate School	Fall 2009	Distance Education
Plant Disease Training	LSU AgCenter	Fall 2009	Baton Rouge, LA
Cotton Crop Seminar	Cotton Incorporated	11/2009	Tunica, MS
Cotton Presentations	Beltwide Cotton Confernce	1/2009	San Antonio, TX
Cotton Presentations	Beltwide Cotton Conference	1/2010	New Orleans, LA
Employee Training	New Extension Employee Training	10/2008	Baton Rouge, LA
Weed, Disease, Insect and Variety Information	Northeast Rice Field Day	7/21/2008	Rayville, LA
Tourism Information	Miss-Lou Tourism	8/14/2008	Vicksburg, MS
Cotton Insect Recommendations	Cotton Insect Training	11/24/2008	Winnsboro, LA
Soybean Informatino	Tri-State Soybean Meeting	1/9/2009	Oak Grove, LA
Weed, Disease and Insect Control in Row Crops	ANR Training	1/20/2009	Winnsboro, LA
Row Crop Information	Northeast Crop Forum	1/21/2009	Delhi, LA
Crop Problems with Soybeans	LA Crops Symptomology Symposium	2/11/2009	Alexandria, LA
Row Crop Field Information	DeltaPine Land Field Tour	7/29/2009	Leland, MS
GIS Information	GIS Training Class	Spring 2010	Alexandria, LA
Crop Problems with Cotton and Rice	LA Crops Symptomology Symposium	2/10/2010	Alexandria, LA
Insect Information	Rice Entomology Training	3/1/10	Crowley, LA
Row Crop Information	Terral Field Day	7/15/2010	Scott, MS
Market Maker Training	LA Market Maker Training	7/26/2010	Winnsboro, LA
Crop Information	LA Ag Consultants Association Fall Meeting	10/14-15/2010	Marksville, LA
Precision Agriculture Sensor Technology	Cotton Incorporated Precision Ag Meeting	11/10/2010	Memphis, TN
Pesticide License	Commercial Pesticide	3/10/2011	Alexandria, LA

Recertification	Recertification Meeting		
Weed, Disease, Insect and Variety Information	Northeast Rice Field Day	7/13/2011	Rayville, LA

### **13. Participation in Public Policy and Community Issues**

Mr. Burns works with the Tensas Parish Police Jury with agricultural issues related to Tensas Parish. In 2010, he presented a vegetation control plan for the Tensas Parish Industrial Park which they initiated in 2011.

Mr. Burns has done GIS work for Mr. James Hendrix, Environmental Agent for the Northeast Region, with watershed projects concerning Lake St. Joseph and Tensas River in Tensas Parish.

Mr. Burns worked with the St. Joseph Tailgate Market during its establishment. This is a local farmer's market held each Saturday during the summer.

### **14. Awards and Recognition**

Mr. Burns was a member of the research team which won the Tipton Team Research Award in 2006. This award was presented for the team's work in precision agricultural research.

### **15. Agency and State Collaboration**

Since 2008, Mr. Burns has and continues to work very closely with the USDA offices in Tensas Parish. He has worked with the County Director for the Farm Service Agency to document crop conditions in Tensas Parish each year. This has given the agricultural industry in Tensas Parish a stable and consistent report of conditions before and after disaster events which have occurred. Mr. Burns works with the Tensas Parish Natural Conservation Resource Service office on Environmental Quality Incentive Program that target precision agriculture. This program assists producers with acquiring and using precision agriculture equipment. Mr. Burns' role is education of the producers in the data collection and management of the precision agriculture operations and how to use the results.

Mr. Burns has worked with the USDA Farm Service Office in Franklin Parish with catfish programs that have been available since 2008.

### **16. Other Scholarly or Creative Activities**

Mr. Burns arranged the Tensas Lead LA I Class which was the first class initiated under the Delta Initiative Grant. This was leadership class for Tensas Parish residents to give them the skills to become involved with activities in the parish. He promoted, recruited the class members and arranged the meals. The class graduated 20 members who all agreed that the class was very successful.

Mr. Burns serves as Co-Coordinator for the Tensas Progressive Ag Safety Day which has been an annual event since 2009. This event is held through the Progressive Ag Foundation and occurs in April at the Tensas Ag Arena in St. Joseph. All the fifth and sixth graders in Tensas Parish, 4-H Junior Leaders, teachers, parents and other volunteers equaling 150 participants each

year go through 10 stations where they interact with the instructors through hands-on activities to learn about safety not just on the farm but in their everyday lives. One of the goals of the Tensas Progressive Ag Safety Day is to make students aware not only that they live in a working agricultural community but also that their everyday safety is their responsibility.

When Mr. Burns became the ANR Agent in Tensas Parish he became involved in the Mini-Farm part of the Ag Alley and AgExpo which take place in January in West Monroe each year. He was responsible for adding aquaculture to the Mini-Farm exhibits and education material. Mr. Burns brought live catfish and crawfish for display.

In 2008 and 2009, Mr. Burns assisted with the Diesel Equipment Operations Contest at 4-H U. He has also served as a Dorm Supervisor at 4-H U during 2008 and 2011.

## **17. Organizations Advised**

Tensas Parish 4-H Advisory Committee  
St. Joseph Tailgate Market

## **18 University Service**

Mr. Burns has been the Safety Coordinator for the Northeast Research Station since 2004. He has conducted quarterly safety meetings and safety trainings as needed. Mr. Burns annually trains all student and transient workers at the Northeast Research Station. Mr. Burns has gone through several safety training classes to further qualify him as Safety Coordinator. He also initiated a Regional Safety Committee for the Northeast Region to simplify and coordinate the safety programs between the Extension Offices, the Macon Ridge Research Station, the Sweet Potato Research Station and the Northeast Research Station. In 2010, Mr. Burns worked with Dr. Donnie Miller at the Northeast Research Station to transition to his taking over of the Safety Program.

Mr. Burns has been the mentor for Mrs. Nan Huff who was recently hired as ANR Area Agent for Concordia and Catahoula Parishes. He has worked with Mrs. Huff on current crop demonstrations in Concordia and Catahoula Parishes and with establishing programming goals and options for the two parishes.

In 2010, Mr. Burns was appointed to the position of Parish Chair for the Tensas Parish Extension Office.

## **19. Professional Service**

Mr. Burns is a member of the LA County Agents Association and served as Secretary from June 2010 to June 2011.

Mr. Burns is a member of the Tensas Farm Bureau.

Mr. Burns is a member of the Louisiana Farm Bureau.

Mr. Burns is a member of the Louisiana Catfish Farmers and have assisted with their activities at the Franklin Parish Catfish Festival.

Mr. Burns was a member of the Louisiana Agricultural Scientists Association

Mr. Burns is a member of the Louisiana Crawfish Farmers Association.

Mr. Burns is a member of the Agricultural Leaders of Louisiana

## **20. Other External Community Service**

Mr. Burns serves as a member of the Tensas Parish 911 Committee which oversees the management and operation of the 911 Emergency System for the Parish. He works with the Tensas Homeland Security Office and is part of the Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Team which provides emergency services for Tensas Parish in case of a nuclear emergency at the Grand Gulf Nuclear Plant located across the Mississippi River from Tensas Parish. He has worked with this office since 2009.

Mr. Burns assisted with the turf renovation of the Vidalia High School Football Field in 2011. The field was renovated with a new irrigation system and resprigged with Celebrity Hybrid Bermudagrass. Fertility and pest control issues were addressed as needed during the summer.