

**Appointment: 60% Extension, 20% Research, 20% Administration**  
**Requested Action: Promotion to the Rank of Associate Professor (with tenure)**

**TARA P. SMITH**  
**Sweet Potato Research Station**  
**Louisiana State University Agricultural Center**  
**Chase, Louisiana 71324**  
*Curriculum Vitae*

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### ABBREVIATED CURRICULUM VITAE: TARA P. SMITH

B.S. – Biology	University of LA at Monroe, 2000.
M.S. – Biology	Louisiana Tech University, 2001.
Ph.D. – Entomology	Louisiana State University, 2006.
<b>Academic Rank</b>	Assistant Professor/Extension Specialist
<b>Years of Service</b>	4
<b>Publications:</b>	
Refereed	4 ( One submitted)
<i>Louisiana Agriculture</i>	15
Proceedings/Abstracts	11(2 submitted)
Pesticide Screening Reports	17 (4 submitted)
Cooperative Extension Service	19
Newsletter Issues (State and National)	22
Mass Media Newspaper/Magazine Contributions	14 author (18 contributor)
Other Extension Media	2
<b>Poster Display Contributions</b>	6
<b>Television/Video/Radio Interviews</b>	17
<b>Presentations:</b>	
Invited	9
Agent Trainings	3
Submitted	48
<b>External Funding:</b>	
Industry Support	\$188,350.00
Federal (USDA)	Project Director: USDA SCRI Grant: \$2.8 million (2009-2012), LSU AgCenter 1.3 million, Personal \$295,042 USDA/LDAF Specialty Crop Grant - \$77,550 USDA/LDAF Specialty Crop Grant - \$65,000 USDA-ARS-CSREES, Ramp Grant, co-pi, \$100,000
<b>Committees:</b>	
Graduate Student Committees - M.S. / PhD.	1 PhD, 1 M.S.
Departmental and University/Professional	9
<b>Offices held in Professional Organizations:</b>	5

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**TARA P. SMITH**  
**Sweet Potato Research Station**  
**Louisiana State University Agricultural Center**  
**Chase, Louisiana 71324**

**EDUCATION:**

- Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
Doctor of Philosophy, Entomology, May 2006
- Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, Louisiana  
Master of Science, Biology, August 2001
- University of Louisiana at Monroe, Monroe, Louisiana  
Bachelor of Science, Biology, May 2000

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:**

- **September 2008 – Present:** Assistant Professor, Sweet Potato Extension Specialist/Resident Research Coordinator, Sweet Potato Research Station, LSU Agricultural Center, Chase, LA
- **July 2007 – Present:** Assistant Professor, Sweet Potato Extension Specialist/Foundation Seed Coordinator, Sweet Potato Research Station, LSU Agricultural Center, Chase, LA
- **May 2006 – July 2007:** Assistant Professor, Sweet Potato Extension Specialist, Sweet Potato Research Station, LSU Agricultural Center, Chase, LA
- **August 2002-May 2006:** LSU AgCenter, Department of Entomology, Graduate Assistant
- **August 2005 – December 2005:** Laboratory instructor, Louisiana State University, Biology Department, Biology 1208.
- **August 2004 – December 2004:** Teaching Assistant, Louisiana State University, Entomology 2001, Insects in the Environment
- **2000-2001:** Director's Assistant, Department of Human Resources / Biology department. Louisiana Tech University.

**History of Assignments with the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center**

- **September 2008 – Present:** Assistant Professor, Sweet Potato Extension Specialist/Research Coordinator, Sweet Potato Research Station, LSU Agricultural Center, Chase, LA

- **July 2007 – Present:** Assistant Professor, Sweet Potato Extension Specialist/Foundation Seed Coordinator, Sweet Potato Research Station, LSU Agricultural Center, Chase, LA
- **May 2006 – July 2007:** Assistant Professor, Sweet Potato Extension Specialist, Sweet Potato Research Station, LSU Agricultural Center, Chase, LA

#### **Current Duties and Responsibilities:**

##### **60% Extension Appointment, Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center.**

As extension specialist, I am responsible for development, coordination, implementation and evaluation of outreach and educational programs concerning all facets of sweet potato production and all issues affecting the Louisiana sweet potato industry. As extension specialist, I serve as the liaison between clientele and other research and extension personnel in Louisiana and throughout the United States. In doing so, it is my responsibility to provide leadership to parish level faculty to ensure that parish, state and national needs of the industry are addressed. In addition, I work closely with all producers, shippers, packers, processors, industry representatives and research and extension personnel to ensure that the most pressing needs of the industry are addressed in a timely and efficient manner. The primary goal of the sweet potato extension program is to accomplish technology transfer through trainings, workshops, field days and dissemination of research based production and pest management information. Other responsibilities include planning and participation in state and parish level production and advisory meetings and on-farm verification of research based recommendations.

##### **20% Research Appointment, Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center**

Research responsibilities include serving as coordinator of the LSU AgCenter sweet potato foundation seed program. Specific duties include coordinating and managing all aspects of the seed program including greenhouse and field production, harvesting and marketing of foundation seed. In addition, I work closely with producers and researchers to evaluate the performance of foundation seed once it is incorporated into on-farm seed programs. Additional research responsibilities include participation and execution of both independent and collaborative research projects involving production and pest management issues in sweet potato.

##### **20% Administrative Appointment, Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center**

Current administrative responsibilities include serving as Resident Coordinator of the Sweet Potato Research Station. Primary responsibilities include overseeing the station budget, managing all aspects of greenhouse, field, storage and marketing of foundation seed, on-station research activities, maintenance of grounds and facilities, serving as immediate supervisor to research associate/farm managers at the station and serving as the risk management officer for the unit. Specific duties include daily and seasonal allocation of all equipment and resources, approval of routine personnel requests related to evaluations, leave, merit increases, time sheets, travel vouchers and personnel activity reports. In addition, as research coordinator, I am responsible for planning and coordinating special events, field days and insuring compliance with AgCenter policies and rules.

## **DOCUMENTATION OF MAJOR PROGRAM AREAS AND INITIATIVES**

### ***Commodity Value: Sweet Potato***

The gross farm value of Louisiana sweet potatoes exceeded \$48 million in 2009 and the value of the crop after value-added packaging and processing exceeded \$80 million (LSU AgCenter AgSummary 2009.) Sweet potatoes are considered a high-value specialty crop in the United States. Input costs can exceed \$3000.00 per acre and producers must intensely manage all aspects of their crop to remain profitable and sustainable. The sweet potato extension program is proactive in responding to the needs of the industry and is responsible for disseminating timely research based information to the stakeholders through a variety of educational outreach initiatives and media.

### ***LSU AgCenter Sweet Potato Research Station***

The LSU AgCenter Sweet Potato Research Station virus-tested foundation seed program provides foundation seed to all sweet potato producers in Louisiana. The virus-tested foundation seed program is largely responsible for maintaining the integrity of popular commercial cultivars, such as the Beauregard. Viruses and mutations can quickly accumulate in planting stock which can lead to cultivar decline and reduced productivity on-farm. Producers who utilize virus-tested seed realize increased yield and quality on-farm.

**Sweet Potato Outreach and Education Program:** The sweet potato educational and outreach program is inclusive of all matters relative to the sweet potato industry in Louisiana. I am responsible for both developing research based materials and programs to serve all facets of the industry. Furthermore, I am responsible for compiling and disseminating this information to producers, processors and other industry personnel. Specific activities of the sweet potato extension program include verification of applied research on-farm, design and development of educational materials and delivery of educational information to clientele. Program concentrations include: sweet potato production, pest management, economic information, foundation seed programs, crop insurance and consumer perception and marketing.

### **Specific Extension Program Objectives:**

- 1) To develop and disseminate research based information on all matters related to sweet potato production and pest management to the sweet potato industry
- 2) To conduct on-farm demonstrations and engage in regular interaction with sweet potato producers and processors to evaluate novel production and/or pest management approaches and to remain informed on all current industry information. Once new issues arise extension programming efforts are modified accordingly to address the most pressing needs of the industry in a timely manner.
- 3) To serve as the liaison between the producers and all other facets of the industry, including research faculty, regulatory entities and other industry affiliates.

**Sweet Potato Research Verification Program:** The sweet potato research verification program aims to evaluate LSU AgCenter research based recommendations on-farm. This program is a multidisciplinary project that encompasses all aspects of sweet potato production, storage and marketing. Producers work very closely with extension personnel throughout the production year to incorporate LSU AgCenter recommendations into their on-farm production

scheme. Detailed economic information is collected throughout the duration of the study and is subsequently compiled and analyzed by Dr. Kurt Guidry in the Agricultural Economics department. This information is provided to the cooperating producers. The sweet potato verification program was initiated in 2007 on one producer's farm. The program is currently entering its fourth year and we are currently working with a producer in both the North and South Louisiana production regions of the state.

**Sweet Potato Education and Outreach:** Informing the general public and consumers about the importance of sweet potatoes is a strategic goal of the sweet potato extension program. This is accomplished through agricultural fairs aimed at educating school children and the general public. A sweet potato display portraying the main facets of production is used to communicate the economic and nutritional importance of the crop in Louisiana, throughout the United States and across the globe. In addition to the above mentioned activities, popular press and trade magazine articles are published on a regular basis to inform the public about the crop and the industry in general.

### **ADVISORY PROCESS AND CRITICAL ISSUE RESPONSIVENESS**

**Statewide Sweet Potato Advisory Committee:** The statewide sweet potato advisory group was initiated in the winter of 2006 to address the concerns of the industry and to allow for open communication between LSU AgCenter extension and research personnel, producers and processors and industry representatives. The advisory meeting is held in early December of each year. The advisory process gives producers and opportunity to provide input and constructive suggestions as to where our research and extension needs should be focused to ensure that Louisiana remains an effective competitor in the sweet potato industry of the United States.

**Parish Level Advisory Committees:** In addition to the state level advisory process, parish level meetings are held at least yearly but on as needed basis to allow producers to provide input into local programming initiatives and issues they may be experiencing on a local scale.

**Issues and response initiatives discussed at 2008 advisory meetings included:**

- ***Increased management and improved production efficiency as it relates to increased profit.*** Planned activities in response to this issue include demonstrating a prototype decision support system on-farm to enhance production and management decisions. A recently funded USDA: Specialty Crop Research Initiative project will focus on improving production efficiency, quality and food safety. These issues were identified by the industry as critical areas for research and their input will be critical as we move forward with research and outreach activities.
- ***Further evaluating the commercial production potential for the Evangeline variety.*** Activities were conducted to evaluate alternative fungicides for management of sclerotial blight and also to evaluate yield of Evangeline on-farm as it compares to Beauregard. Recommendations for proper management of Evangeline plant beds were disseminated to the industry and Evangeline is currently a dominant cultivar in Louisiana. Disease issues in plant beds are being managed effectively with current recommendations.
- ***Assessing the disaster situation encountered in 2008 and the implications it will have for 2009 and beyond.*** Response is to remain diligent in evaluating the high cost of production (evaluating various inputs) in conjunction with research verification plots

and other on-farm studies with producers. Economic reports associated with each research verification field have been generated by Dr. Kurt Guidry and in turn communicated to the industry. These reports along with routine review and update of LSU AgCenter enterprise budgets are providing the needed economic assessment information producers asked for.

**Issues and response initiatives discussed at the 2009 state sweet potato advisory meeting included the below series of questions. A facilitated discussion with all members of the advisory group resulted in the responses, all of which are included below. *Updated activities regarding the suggestions are also included.***

**1. What are the major issues affecting the industry?**

- Production Efficiency
- Labor Laws/Regulations
- Varieties for bulk harvest
- Financing and credit issues
- Disaster recovery
- Pest Management
- Seed Issues "Availability"
- Storage

**What additional information do you need from extension programming efforts?**

- updates on soil moisture management
- Nitrogen application timings

*A recent extension publication on nitrogen management addresses this concern.*

**What additional information do you need from research programming efforts?**

- Engineering research for added mechanization, developing bulk harvesters and working on prototype tape transplanter
- Irrigation management research
- Consistent yields
- Sugarcane beetle research

*Concerns 2-3 are being addressed through projects associated with the USDA:SCRI project on sweet potato.*

*Research on all facets of insect management are ongoing.*

**2. If you could make one change in the sweet potato extension program what would it be?**

- The sweet potato extension program is doing a great job.
- Develop some means of developing cooperation and information exchange between all states in the gulf coast production region.

**3. What additional info would you like to see in newsletter and ext publications?**

- Overall good job and we have what we need.
- Incorporate more information from other production regions in the newsletter and also elaborate on price and movement of the crop.
- Preferred delivery method was indicated as being hard copies vs. email and web based delivery.

**4. What are your primary weed management concerns?**

- Lack of chemicals
- Application issues
- Timing with irrigation

Problem weed species were listed as smell melon, nutsedge, pig weeds, alligator weed and ground cherry.

*Research is ongoing to address weed management issues in sweet potato.*

**5. What are your primary insect management concerns?**

- Sugarcane beetle (monitoring and control)
- White grubs
- Maintaining Sweetpotato Weevil mandatory spray program (LDAF)

*Research is ongoing to address these issues. In addition, LSU AgCenter personnel are working closely with LDAF to regularly update recommendations related to sweetpotato weevil monitoring and management.*

**6. What is your primary disease issue?**

- Sclerotial blight in Evangeline plant beds.

*Studies have been ongoing in 2008-2010 to address disease issues in Evangeline plant beds.*

**7. Enterprise budget utilization, are how should they be updated to better reflect your operation?**

- Most indicated that they are not used (by producers) but that lending institutions do use them. Ideas for improvement included:
- Updating yearly
- Having a range of production costs
- Adding 8 row and 4 row equipment costs



## **INNOVATIVE TEACHING METHODS, KNOWLEDGE AND APPLICATION OF NEW TECHNOLOGY**

**Sweet Potato Research Verification Program:** This is a multidisciplinary program that requires extensive participation and cooperation from the cooperating producers. This program provides producers a first hand opportunity to incorporate LSU AgCenter recommendations on-farm with the hands on participation of extension personnel. Producers dedicate acreage to the program and are subsequently provided recommendations and ultimately economic information to aid in future decisions regarding their farming operation.

**“Louisiana Sweet Potato News”, Newsletter:** The newsletter is a quarterly publication disseminated via email and traditional mail to all sweet potato producers in the state. In addition to producers, processors, LSU AgCenter personnel and other industry representatives receive the newsletter. The newsletter provides updates on all facets of the crop including crop updates, market updates, research information (submitted by several LSU AgCenter personnel) and industry news. The newsletter affords producers an opportunity to stay in touch with all aspects of the industry. Information contained in the newsletter often spawns follow-up questions that are addressed through on-farm visits and phone calls. The newsletter is also disseminated to several out of state producers and university personnel, and serves as a bridge for information transfer across state lines.

**Utilization of the internet to disseminate educational information:** Examples include all extension publications, newsletters and crop updates that are sent via email. Email distribution list inclusive of sweet potato parish agents, producers, industry representatives and others allow for rapid transfer of information when time responsiveness is critical. In addition to email distribution lists, web based availability of educational information is available on the [www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com) web site under several portals including the Sweet Potato Research Station web page. Furthermore, several videos relating to the sweet potato industry are available for viewing on YouTube. One in particular is a video chronicling sweet potato production that provides step by step footage on all production stages of the crop. Web based resources are utilized by Louisiana clientele, producers and industry throughout the United States and industry personnel and producers in other countries.

## **PROGRAM DELIVERY EFFECTIVENESS DEMONSTRATED BY EVALUATION, CHANGE AND ADOPTION**

A winter 2008 survey of Louisiana sweet potato producers indicated that 60% of respondents consider the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service as their primary source of information regarding their sweet potato crop needs. Surveys are an invaluable tool to assess the effectiveness of program delivery and adoption with clientele groups.

A comprehensive survey was designed and disseminated to over **600** sweet potato producers across the United States, including over **100** producers in Louisiana during the winter of 2009. Results from this survey were compiled and were used to gain insight into the most pressing production and pest management constraints facing the industry. Subsequently, results from this survey were used to develop a multi-state, multidisciplinary research and extension outreach USDA: Specialty Crop Research Initiative proposal. This proposal encompasses research initiatives and priorities that were directly communicated to extension and research faculty by the industry. ***The project was funded from 09/01/2009 – 08/31/2012 and is a comprehensive research and extension project that is focusing on improving production efficiency, crop quality and food safety.*** A preliminary baseline survey was conducted upon initiation of project activities during the winter of 2010 and a follow-up survey will be conducted

upon conclusion of project activities to measure evaluation, change and adoption in Louisiana and across other sweet potato production regions.

## ***DEVELOPMENT AND PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH BASED MATERIALS***

See Publications and Presentations Sections

### ***EXTENSION PUBLICATIONS (Print and Electronic):***

#### **Production Guides/Books**

**Smith, Tara P.**, and others. 2008, 2009, 2010. Vegetable Crop Handbook for the Southeastern US (Sweet Potato Section). Edited by G. J Holmes and J M Kemble. Published by the North Carolina Vegetable Growers Association.

Edmunds, B. A., M. Boyette, C. A. Clark, D. Ferrin, **T. P. Smith**, and G. Holmes. 2008. Postharvest Handling of Sweetpotatoes. Raleigh, NC.

#### **University Publications**

**Smith, Tara P. 2010.** Louisiana Summary of Agriculture and Natural Resources: 2009 Narratives: Sweet Potato, p. 25-26.

**Smith, Tara P.**, A.Q. Villordon. 2009. Nitrogen management in Louisiana sweet potatoes. Louisiana State University Agricultural Center. Pub. No. 3138

**Smith, Tara P.** 2009. Sweet Potato Quick Facts. Louisiana State University Agricultural Center. Pub. No. 3131.

**Smith, Tara P.** and M. Sistrunk. 2009. Sweet Potatoes. pp. 29-31. In "2009 Outlook for Louisiana's Agriculture". Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Publication No. 3048, April 2009, 50 pp.

**Smith, Tara P. 2009.** Louisiana Summary of Agriculture and Natural Resources: 2008 Narratives: Sweet Potato, p. 24.

**Smith, Tara P.**, D. Ferrin and C. Clark. 2009. GAP, GMP, EUREPGAP and GLOBALGAP and Sweetpotato producers. Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Pub. No. 3103.

Ferrin, D., **T. Smith** and C. Clark, 2008. Scurf of Sweet Potato. Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Pub. No. 3096.

**Smith, Tara P.**, C. Overstreet, C. Clark, D. Ferrin and E. Burris. 2008. Nematode Management in Louisiana Sweet Potato. Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Pub. No. 3075.

Ferrin, D., C. Clark and **T. Smith**, 2008. Sclerotial Blight and Circular Spot of Sweet Potato. Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Pub. No. 3071.

**Smith, Tara P.** and M. Sistrunk. 2008. Sweet Potatoes "2008 Outlook for Louisiana's Agriculture". Louisiana State University AgCenter, Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Staff Paper SP 2008-03, March 2008, 55 pp.

**Smith, Tara P.** 2008. Louisiana Summary of Agriculture and Natural Resources: 2007 Narratives: Sweet Potato, p. 21

**Smith, Tara P.**, A. M. Hammond, R. N. Story and E. Burris. 2008. Insect Pest Management in Louisiana Sweet Potatoes. Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Pub. No. 2620.

**Smith, Tara P.** 2007, D. K. Miller. Weed Management in Sweet Potato. Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Pub. No. 3070.

**Smith, Tara P.**, A. M. Hammond, R. Story and E. Burris. 2007. Bug Biz, Pest Management and Insect Identification Series. "Managing cucumber beetles (rootworms), in Louisiana sweet potato production" Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Pub. No. 2960.  
[http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/crops\\_livestock/crops/vegetables/Managing+Cucumber+Beetles+Rootworms.htm](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/crops_livestock/crops/vegetables/Managing+Cucumber+Beetles+Rootworms.htm)

**Smith, Tara P.** and M. Sistrunk. 2007. Sweet Potatoes "2007 Outlook for Louisiana's Agriculture". Louisiana State University AgCenter, Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Staff Paper SP 2007-03, March 2007, p. 34 of 45 pp.

**Smith, Tara P.** 2007. Louisiana Summary of Agriculture and Natural Resources: 2006 Narratives: Sweet Potato, p. 21.

**Smith, Tara P.**, and A. M. Hammond. Louisiana recommendations for control of sweet potato insects. Louisiana State University Agricultural Center.  
[http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/our\\_offices/research\\_stations/Sweetpotato/Features/pests/insects/2005+Pest+Management+Recommendations.htm](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/our_offices/research_stations/Sweetpotato/Features/pests/insects/2005+Pest+Management+Recommendations.htm)

Koske, Thomas and **Tara P. Smith.** 2007. Curing and storing sweet potatoes. Louisiana State University Agricultural Center. [http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/crops\\_livestock/crops/sweet\\_potatoes/LSU+Ag+Center+Horticulturist+Discusses+Curing+and+Storing+Sweet+Potatoes.htm](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/crops_livestock/crops/sweet_potatoes/LSU+Ag+Center+Horticulturist+Discusses+Curing+and+Storing+Sweet+Potatoes.htm)

**Smith, Tara P.**, A. M. Hammond, R. Story and E. Burris. 2006. Bug Biz, Pest Management and Insect Identification Series. "Lepidopteran insect pests in Louisiana sweet potato production." Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Pub. No. 2954.  
[http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/publications/Publications+Catalog/Crops+and+Livestock/Insect+and+Disease+Control/bug\\_biz\\_series/Bug+Biz++Lepidopteron+Insect+Pests+in+Lepidopteron+Insect+Pests+in.htm](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/publications/Publications+Catalog/Crops+and+Livestock/Insect+and+Disease+Control/bug_biz_series/Bug+Biz++Lepidopteron+Insect+Pests+in+Lepidopteron+Insect+Pests+in.htm)

## **Newsletters**

**Smith, Tara P.** 2010. Louisiana Sweet Potato News. Vol. 5, No. 1-2.  
[http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/publications/newsletters/sweet\\_potato\\_news/Sweet+Potato+News.htm](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/publications/newsletters/sweet_potato_news/Sweet+Potato+News.htm)

**Smith, Tara P.** 2009. Louisiana Sweet Potato News. Vol. 4, No. 1-3.  
[http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/publications/newsletters/sweet\\_potato\\_news/Sweet+Potato+News.htm](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/publications/newsletters/sweet_potato_news/Sweet+Potato+News.htm)

**Smith, Tara P. 2010.** Louisiana Sweet Potato Update. The United States Sweet Potato Council, National Newsletter, Summer 2010 edition. <http://sweetpotatousa.org/>

**Smith, Tara P. 2010.** Louisiana Sweet Potato Update. The United States Sweet Potato Council, National Newsletter, Winter 2009 edition. <http://sweetpotatousa.org/>

**Smith, Tara P. 2009.** Louisiana Sweet Potato Update. The United States Sweet Potato Council, National Newsletter, Summer 2009 edition. <http://sweetpotatousa.org/>

**Smith, Tara P. 2008.** Louisiana Sweet Potato News. Vol. 3, No. 1-3.  
[http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/publications/newsletters/sweet\\_potato\\_news/Sweet+Potato+News.htm](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/publications/newsletters/sweet_potato_news/Sweet+Potato+News.htm)

**Smith, Tara P. 2009.** Louisiana Sweet Potato Update. The United States Sweet Potato Council, National Newsletter, Winter 2008 edition. <http://sweetpotatousa.org/>

**Smith, Tara P. 2008.** Louisiana Sweet Potato Update. The United States Sweet Potato Council, National Newsletter, Summer 2008 edition. <http://sweetpotatousa.org/>

**Smith, Tara P. 2007.** Louisiana Sweet Potato News. Vol. 2, No. 1-4.  
[http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/publications/newsletters/sweet\\_potato\\_news/Sweet+Potato+News.htm](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/publications/newsletters/sweet_potato_news/Sweet+Potato+News.htm)

**Smith, Tara P. 2008.** Louisiana Sweet Potato Update. The United States Sweet Potato Council, National Newsletter, Winter 2007 edition. <http://sweetpotatousa.org/>

**Smith, Tara P. 2007.** Louisiana sweet potato update. The United States Sweet Potato Council, National Newsletter, Summer 2007 edition. <http://sweetpotatousa.org/>

**Smith, Tara P. 2007.** Louisiana Sweet Potato Update. The United States Sweet Potato Council, National Newsletter, Winter 2006 edition. <http://sweetpotatousa.org/>

**Smith, Tara P. 2007.** Louisiana sweet potato update. The United States Sweet Potato Council, National Newsletter, Summer 2006 edition. <http://sweetpotatousa.org/>

**Smith, Tara P. 2006.** Louisiana Sweet Potato News. Vol. 1, No. 1-2.  
[http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/publications/newsletters/sweet\\_potato\\_news/Sweet+Potato+News.htm](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/publications/newsletters/sweet_potato_news/Sweet+Potato+News.htm)

## **MASS MEDIA**

LSU AgCenter News Release. 2010. Sweet potato acreage remains stable. Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, media release, June 21, 2010.  
[http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/news/radio\\_tv/](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/news/radio_tv/) *Aired on several regional television networks in LA. Contributor*

LSU AgCenter News Release. 2010. Grower trying new sweet potato variety. Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, media release, June 21, 2010.  
[http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/news/radio\\_tv/](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/news/radio_tv/) *Aired on several radio programs in LA. Contributor*

LSU AgCenter News Release. 2010. Successful sweet potato crop crucial to growers. Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, media release, June 21, 2010. [http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/news/radio\\_tv/](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/news/radio_tv/) *Aired on several radio programs in LA.* **Contributor**

LSU AgCenter News Release. 2010. Sweet potato facility to open this fall. Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, media release, March 8, 2010. [http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/news/radio\\_tv/](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/news/radio_tv/) *Aired on several regional television networks in LA.* **Contributor**

LSU AgCenter News Release. 2010. Sweet potato facility set to open this fall. Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, media release, March 8, 2010. [http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/news/radio\\_tv/](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/news/radio_tv/) *Radio broadcast.* **Contributor**

LSU AgCenter News Release. 2010. Facility to benefit northeast Louisiana community. Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, media release, March 8, 2010. [http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/news/radio\\_tv/](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/news/radio_tv/) *Radio broadcast.* **Contributor**

Louisiana Farm Bureau. 2009. This week in Louisiana Agriculture: Sweet Potatoes. October 30, 2009. **Contributor.**

Delta Farm Press. 2009. Louisiana sweet potato harvest hampered by wet conditions. October 23, 2009. **Contributor.**

**Smith, Tara P. 2009.** Louisiana Farm and Ranch. 2009 sweet potato harvest underway...Evangeline variety impressive. October 2009. Vol. 5, No. 10.

The News-Star. 2009. Rain wreaks havoc on crops. October 8, 2009. **Contributor**

Franklin Sun. 2009. Rain hinders harvests. October 6, 2009. **Contributor**

LSU AgCenter News Release. 2009. LA sweet potato harvest slowed by rain. October 6, 2009. **Contributor.**

Growing Magazine. 2009. Recovering from the storm: Louisiana sweet potatoes battle back. pp. B1- B3. August 2009 issue. **Contributor.**

The News-Star. 2009. Research Center Vital in Landing Processor. August, 23, 2009. **Contributor.**

The News-Star. 2009. Sweet potato farms expected to increase. August 16, 2009. **Contributor.**

**Smith, Tara P. 2009.** LSU AgCenter Sweet Potato Research Station turns 60. August 12, 2009. Franklin Sun Newspaper.

Bastrop Daily Enterprise. 2009. Sweet Potato plant good for region. August 11, 2009. **Contributor.**

Monroe News-Star. 2009. Farmers get new cash crop. August 6, 2009. **Contributor**

**Smith, Tara P. 2009.** Parish large contributor to state's sweet potato industry. July 8, 2009. Franklin Sun Newspaper

**Smith, Tara P. 2009.** Louisiana Farm and Ranch. Varieties and markets offer promise as 2009 sweet potato crop gets off to good start. July 2009. Vol 5. No. 7

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### **WEB PAGE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

All LSU AgCenter extension publications, information sheets and mass media releases concerning sweet potato are accessible via the Sweet Potato Research Station Web Page, [www.lsuagcenter.com/sweetpotato](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/sweetpotato). I serve as the content management reviewer for all sweet potato postings on this and other locations on the LSU AgCenter web site. With the assistance of LSU AgCenter Communications personnel, the site is regularly updated with the most recent research based information concerning the crop.

In addition, “*The Sweet Truth about Louisiana Sweet Potato Production*”, and educational video produced by AgCenter communications is available on the Sweet Potato Research Station web page and is accessible via [www.Youtube.com](http://www.Youtube.com). As of June 15, 2010, the video had been viewed by over 5,922 people just over a year after its initial posting. Additional videos chronicling the 2008 LSU AgCenter Sweet Potato Research Field Day (819 views) and the impact of the 2008 hurricanes on the sweet potato crop (368 views) are also posted on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com).

### **COOPERATION / COLLABORATION WITH OTHER FACULTY**

The sweet potato educational and outreach program is a multifaceted collaborative effort that involves several LSU AgCenter faculty, and additional faculty working in sweet potato production regions throughout the United States. I work very closely with county agents in sweet potato producing parishes and research/extension faculty working in sweet potato from several departments and units within the AgCenter system, including: The Sweet Potato Research Station, Entomology, Plant Pathology, School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences, Agricultural Economics, and the Northeast Research Station. In addition, I work very closely with several faculty and personnel in AgCenter Communications to ensure that program delivery of print and web based information is timely, attractive and efficient for use by clientele. The following summarizes collaborative programs and activities with other faculty:

**Sweet Potato Research Verification Program:** The verification program is a collaborative effort involving myself, sweet potato county agents, the Department of Agricultural Economics, Dr. Kurt Guidry. In addition, the program relies on research based information that is generated by sweet potato faculty members in a variety of disciplines in the departments listed above.



**Sweet Potato Foundation Seed Program:** I collaborate with research scientist and county agents to accomplish the mission of the LSU AgCenter foundation seed program, which is to provide sweet potato producers with virus-tested foundation seed. I work very closely with the sweet potato breeder and plant pathologist to integrate new varieties and new technology into the program. In addition, I work closely with county agents throughout the state in the dissemination and marketing aspects of the sweet potato foundation seed program.

**Sweet Potato Educational Activities:** I collaborate with sweet potato county agents, FCS agents, 4-H agents and research faculty to design and implement a sweet potato education display that has been used at numerous Agricultural Fairs and other demonstrations across the state, including: Ag Expo (West Monroe), Ag Adventures (Delhi), AgMagic (Baton Rouge), The Louisiana State Fair (Shreveport) and La Fete (Baton Rouge).

**Development and Revision of Sweet Potato Enterprise Budgets:** The sweet potato budgets similar to other enterprise budgets are developed and revised on an annual basis. I assist Dr. Roger Hinson with the sweet potato enterprise budget each year.

**Sweet Potato Entomology Research:** I collaborate with other LSU AgCenter entomologists working with sweet potato to conduct insect research and demonstrate and develop recommendations for insect management on-farm.

**Sweet Potato Weed Science Research:** I collaborate with the LSU AgCenter weed scientist working with sweet potato to conduct weed management research and demonstrate and develop recommendations for weed management on-farm.

**Development of Extension Media:** I develop research based extension publications and mass media delivery items. I am assisted in the design and dissemination of the materials by LSU AgCenter Communications faculty and personnel.

## **EXTERNAL FUNDING, MATERIAL SUPPORT AND GRANTS**

### **Funded**

**USDA-CSREES, (SCRI) Specialty Crops Research Initiative Grant** (Project Director: **LSU-Smith, T.**, co-PIs: Villordon, A., Clark, C., Labonte, D., Picha, D., Miller, D., Davis, J., Ferrin, D., Davis, D., Sheffield, R.; University of California- Stoddard, C. S.; North Carolina State University-Abney, M., Chester-Davis, L., Ducharme, D., Gunter, C., Jennings, K., Monks, D., Pesic-van Esbroeck, Z., Schultheis, J. , Thornton, A.; Mississippi State University- Arancibia, R., Baird, R., Burdine, W., Henn, A., Reddy, K., Reed, J., Shankle, M.). **9/1/09 to 8/31/12 (\$2,841,987). LSU AgCenter portion: \$1.3 million. Personal Program Support: \$295,042**  
Title: *"Participatory modeling and decision support for improving sweet potato production efficiency, quality, and food safety".*

**USDA/LDAF Specialty Crop Grant** (LSU AgCenter Donnie Miller and Tara Smith. 11/1/2010 – 11/1/2013. (\$65,000) Title: "Identification of Weed Management Strategies to Maximize Profits for the Processing Sector of the Louisiana Sweet Potato Industry."

**USDA/LDAF Specialty Crop Block Grant** (LSU AgCenter David Picha, Chris Clark and Tara Smith. 9/20/2009 – 9/19/2011. (\$77,550) Title: “Nutritional Characterization to Enhance the Marketing of Sweet Potatoes.”

**USDA-ARS-CSREES** (co Pls: C. Clark, A. Hammond, R. Story, D. Ferrin) 2005-2008. Title: “Development of grower decision making tools to reduce risk and enhance sustainability of southern sweet potato pest management.” Funds received total \$2.5 million. Funds received LSU AgCenter \$422,881, Funds received applicable \$102,778.

**ConAgra Lamb Weston Product Development Grant** (Tara Smith, Don Labonte, David Picha). 2007-2011: Funding \$150,000.

#### **Submitted but not funded**

**USDA-CSREES, (SCRI) Specialty Crops Research Initiative Grant** (co-Pls: LSU-D. Labonte, C. Clark, T. Smith, A. Villordon, D. Picha, A. Hammond, D. Ferrin, K. Guidry, D. K. Miller, J. Davis, E. Burris, and R. Story; Mississippi State University-R. Arancibia, W. Burdine, D. Cook, M. Shankle, F. Matta, J. Silva, R. Little, and S. Sabanadzovic; North Carolina State University-G. Yencho, K. Pecota, J. Schultheis, G. Holmes, K. Jennings, J. Allen, G. Harris, and V. Trung; University of California- S. Stoddard; other- J. Haley and D. M. Jackson). 9/1/08 to 8/31/11 (\$2,912,313 proposed). Title: “*A systems approach to improving the efficiency of sweet potato production, quality, and marketing*”.

**USDA-ARS** (co-Pls: LSU AgCenter Abner Hammond, Tara Smith, Eugene Burris) Title: “*Evaluation and demonstration of insect pest management strategies in sweet potato.*” Total amount requested, \$20,320.

#### **Unrestricted Sweet potato Insect and Production Management Grants:**

- Sweet Potato Insect Pest Management Research 2010: Dupont \$3,000
- Sweet Potato Disease Research 2010: Gowan, \$2,000
- Sweet Potato Production Research 2010: Specialty Fertilizer Products, \$2,000
- Insect Research 2009: Bayer, \$7000
- Valent Corporation Soil Insect Research 2009: \$2000
- Great Salt Lake Minerals Fertilizer Research 2009: \$3000
- Soybean Cyst Nematode Research 2009: Monsanto, \$2000
- Nematode Research 2009: Dow AgroSciences, \$2000
- Insect Research 2008-2009: UPI, \$3000
- Insect Research 2008: Bayer, \$8000
- Nematode Research 2008: Hendrix and Dail, \$1600
- Nematode Research 2008: Plato Industries, \$1750
- Nematode Research 2008: Dow AgroSciences, \$1000
- Insect Research 2008: UPI, \$3000
- Insect Research 2007: UPI, \$3000
- Insect Research 2007: UPI, \$1500
- Insect Research 2007: Bayer Crop Science, \$2500
- Fertilization Research 2006-2008: Great Salt Lake Minerals, \$4000

## RESEARCH RELATED PUBLICATIONS

### Refereed Journal Articles / Book Chapters

Clark, Christopher A., **Tara P. Smith** and Donald M. Ferrin. 2010. Performance of Sweetpotato Foundation Seed after Incorporation into Commercial Operations in Louisiana. *Submitted to HortTechnology, April 2010, revised version submitted, 9/7/2010.*

Villordon, A.Q., D.L. Labonte, C. A. Clark, **T.P. Smith** and D. Ferrin. 2010. Combining linear regression and machine learning approaches for indentifying consensus variables related to optimum sweetpotato planting date in Louisiana. *HortScience* 45:684-686.

**Smith, Tara P.**, A.M. Hammond, R.N. Story and E. Burris. 2010. Comparison of Banded Cucumber Beetle (Coleoptera:Chrysomelidae) and Cumulative Soil Insect Damage in Three Sweetpotato Varieties Evaluated Under Selected Insecticide Regimes in Louisiana. *MidSouth Entomologist*. Vol. 3, No. 1:pp.1-6.

**Smith, Tara P.**, S. Stoddard, M. Shankle and J. Schultheis. 2009. Sweetpotato in the United States, p. 287-323. *In* G. Loebenstein, G. Thottappilly [eds], pp. 522, *The Sweet Potato*. Springer Netherlands.

**Smith, Tara. P.**, and A. M. Hammond. 2006. Comparative susceptibility of sweetpotato weevil (Coleoptera: Brentidae) to selected insecticides. *J. Econ. Entomol.* 99: 2024-2029.

### Louisiana Agriculture Articles

**Smith, Tara P.** 2010. Extending agriculture to Louisiana Youth. *To be included in Fall 2010 issue.*

**Smith, Tara P.**, D. R. Labonte. 2009. The Sky's the Limit: Change in the Sweet Potato Industry. *Louisiana Agriculture*. 52 (2):6-7.

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**Smith, Tara P.** 2009. Sweet Potatoes Get Grades. *Louisiana Agriculture*. 52(2):13.

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**Smith, Tara P.** 2009. Harvesting Sweet Potatoes. *Louisiana Agriculture*. 52(2):33.

Labonte, D.R., C.A. Clark, A. Villordon and **T. Smith**. 2009. A Really Sweet Sweet Potato – That's Evangeline. *Louisiana Agriculture*. 52(2):11.

Clark, C. A., **T. Smith** and D. Ferrin. 2009. Virus-tested Foundation Seed Works. Louisiana Agriculture. 52 (2):12-13.

Clark, C. A., D. Ferrin, D. Labonte, D. Picha, **T. Smith** and A. Villordon. 2009. Managing Rhizopus Soft Rot on Sweet Potatoes. Louisiana Agriculture. 52(2):14-15.

Burris, E., D. Burns, **T. Smith**, C. Overstreet and M. Wolcott. 2009. GIS/GPS Techniques Help Evaluate Soil Insect and Nematode Pest Control Strategies in Sweet Potatoes. Louisiana Agriculture. 52(2):28-29.

Hammond, A.M., R. Story, **T. Smith** and J. Murray. 2009. Season-long Management of the Banded Cucumber Beetle in Louisiana Sweet Potatoes. Louisiana Agriculture. 52(2):30-31.

Miller, D. K., **T. Smith**. 2009. Managing Weeds in Louisiana Sweet Potatoes. 52(2):34.

**Smith, Tara. P.**, A. M. Hammond. 2008. Managing Sweetpotato Weevils in South Louisiana. Louisiana Agriculture. 51 (1):20-21.

**Smith, Tara. P.**, A. M. Hammond, C. A. Abel, M. J. Stout, and B. R. Leonard. 2007. Sugarcane Beetle: A Potential Threat to Louisiana Crops. Louisiana Agriculture. 50: 27-28.

**Smith, Tara. P.**, S. T. Kelly, A. M. Hammond, and D. Miller. 2006. The effect of various herbicide regimes on yield and weed density in sweet potato. Louisiana Agriculture. 48:

**Smith, Tara P.**, B. Rogers Leonard, A. M. Hammond and R. Gable. 2006. Managing sugarcane beetles in field corn with seed treatments. Louisiana Agriculture. 49: 27-28.

### **Proceedings and Abstracts**

**Smith, Tara P.**, A. M. Hammond, R.N. Story and W. McLemore. 2010. Evaluation of Selected Insecticides for Management of Sugarcane Beetle in Sweetpotato. Annual Meeting of the Sweet Potato Collaborators Group, Orlando, FL. February 6-7, 2010 Submitted to *HortScience*.

Thompson, William B., Allan C. Thornton, **Tara P. Smith**, and Jonathan R. Schultheis. Yield Response of 'Evangeline' and 'Covington' Sweetpotato to Various Potash Carriers and Rates. Annual Meeting of the Sweet Potato Collaborators Group, Orlando, FL. February 6-7, 2010 Submitted to *HortScience*.

Miller, D. K. **T.P. Smith** and M.M. Mathews. Weed management and crop tolerance with V-10142 in sweet potato. Proceedings Southern Weeds Science Association, Vol. 63. LSU AgCenter, St. Joseph, LA.

**Smith, T.P.**, C. Clark and D. Ferrin. 2009. Sweet Potato Foundation Seed Survey: Yield Performance of Multiple Generations of Sweet Potato Foundation Seed in 2007 and 2008. National Sweet Potato Collaborators Group, Annual meeting, Atlanta, GA, January 31- Feb 1 2009. *HortScience* 44: p. 555-581.

**Smith, T.P.**, E. Burris. 2009. Evaluation of Crop Rotations and Nematicides for Management of Reniform Nematode in Sweet Potato. National Sweet Potato Collaborators Group, Annual meeting, Atlanta, GA, January 31- Feb 1 2009. *HortScience* 44: p. 555-581.

**Smith, T. P.**, K. Guidry, M. Sistrunk and E. Burris. 2008. Louisiana Sweet Potato Research Verification Program: Preliminary Results and Observations from 2007. Louisiana Agricultural Sciences Association Annual Meeting Proceedings, 2008.

**Smith, Tara P.** 2008. Assessing the effects of preplant insecticides on insect damage and yield in Beauregard, Evangeline and Covington sweetpotatoes. Annual Meeting of the Sweet Potato Collaborators Group, Asheville, NC. January 19-20, 2008. Hort Science 43(3): p. 619-620.

**Smith, Tara P.**, D. Miller, M. Mathews, J. Franklin, and W. McLemore. 2008. Weed management in Evangeline and Beauregard Sweet Potato. National Sweetpotato Collaborators Group Progress Report, 2008. Annual Meeting of the Sweet Potato Collaborators Group, Asheville, NC. January 19-20, 2008. Hort Science 43(3): p. 619.

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Miller, D. K., **T. Smith**, and M. S. Mathews. 2008. Evaluation of weed management in Evangeline and Beauregard sweet potato. Proc. South. Weed Sci. Soc. 61:145.

**Smith, Tara P.** and A. M. Hammond. 2007. Sweetpotato weevil in Louisiana: Distribution and Management. National Sweetpotato collaborators Group Progress Report, 2007. Annual Meeting of the Sweet Potato Collaborators Group, Mobile, AL. February 3-4, 2007.

Miller, D., **T. Smith**, M. Mathews, J. Franklin, and W. McLemore. 2007. Tolerance of Sweet Potato to Post Directed Applications of Herbicides. National Sweetpotato collaborators Group Progress Report, 2007. Annual Meeting of the Sweet Potato Collaborators Group, Mobile, AL. February 3-4, 2007.

#### **Non-refereed:**

**Smith, Tara P.**, A. Hammond, R. Story. **2010**. Evaluation of foliar insecticides for control of soil insects in sweet potato, 2009. Arthropod Management Tests Vol. 35, (In <http://www.entsoc.org/Protected/AMT/AMT34/Text/amt34.asp?Report=E??>)

**Smith, Tara P.**, A. Hammond, R. Story. **2010**. Evaluation of foliar insecticides for control of Lepidopteran species in sweet potato, 2009. Arthropod Management Tests Vol. 35, (In <http://www.entsoc.org/Protected/AMT/AMT34/Text/amt34.asp?Report=E??>)

Story, R.N., A.M. Hammond, M.J. Murray and **T. Smith**. **2010**. Evaluation of layby and foliar insecticides in 3 grower fields for control of rootworms and white grubs in sweet potatoes, 2009. Arthropod Management Tests 35: submitted

Story, R.N., A.M. Hammond, M.J. Murray and **T. Smith**. **2010**. Residual activity of foliar-applied insecticides to control banded cucumber beetle and sweetpotato weevil, 2009. Arthropod Management Tests 35: submitted.

**Smith, Tara. P.,** E. Burris, A. Hammond, R. Story. **2009.** Evaluation of foliar insecticides for control of Lepidopteran species in sweet potato, 2008. Arthropod Management Tests Vol. 34, (In <http://www.entsoc.org/Protected/AMT/AMT34/Text/amt34.asp?Report=E??>)

**Smith, Tara. P.,** A. Hammond, R. Story, E. Burris. **2009.** Evaluation of preplant and layby insecticides for control of soil insects in sweet potato, 2008. Arthropod Management Tests Vol. 34,(In <http://www.entsoc.org/Protected/AMT/AMT34/Text/amt34.asp?Report=E??>)

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Temple, J. H., **Tara P. Smith,** K. M. Emfinger, B. R. Leonard. **2008.** Evaluation of selected insecticides for control of red banded, southern green and brown stink bug, 2007. Arthropod Management Tests Vol. 33, (In <http://www.entsoc.org/Protected/AMT/AMT32/Text/amt32.asp?Report=E??>)

Story, R. N., A. M. Hammond, M. Murray and **T. P. Smith.** **2008.** Evaluation of preplant and foliar insecticides in five grower fields for control of banded cucumber beetles and white grubs in sweet potato, 2007. Arthropod Management Tests Vol. 33,(In <http://www.entsoc.org/Protected/AMT/AMT32/Text/amt32.asp?Report=E??>)

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**Smith, Tara. P.,** J. H. Temple, and A. M. Hammond. **2007.** Evaluation of foliar insecticides for control of lepidopteran species in sweet potato, 2006. Arthropod Management Tests Vol. 32, (In <http://www.entsoc.org/Protected/AMT/AMT32/Text/amt32.asp?Report=E??>)

**Smith, Tara. P.,** J. H. Temple, P. Price and R. Leonard. **2007.** Evaluation of selected insecticides for control of red banded stinkbugs and threecornered alfalfa hoppers, 2006. Arthropod Management Tests Vol. 32,(In [http://www.entsoc.org/ Protected/ AMT/AMT32/ Text/amt32.asp? Report=F??](http://www.entsoc.org/Protected/AMT/AMT32/Text/amt32.asp?Report=F??))

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**Smith, Tara. P.,** A. M. Hammond. **2006.** Evaluation of foliar insecticides for control of cucumber beetle in sweet potato, 2005. Arthropod Management Tests Vol. 31, <http://www.entsoc.org/Protected/AMT/AMT31/resultsgood.asp>

**Smith, Tara. P.,** A. M. Hammond. **2006.** Evaluation of foliar insecticides for control of Lepidopteran species in sweet potato, 2005. Arthropod Management Tests Vol. 31, <http://www.entsoc.org/Protected/AMT/AMT31/index.asp>

**Smith, Tara. P.,** A. M. Hammond. **2006.** Evaluation of granular soil insecticides for control of cucumber beetle in sweet potato, 2004. Arthropod Management Tests Vol. 31, <http://www.entsoc.org/Protected/AMT/AMT31/resultsgood.asp>

**Smith, Tara. P.,** B. R. Leonard, and R. H. Gable. **2005.** Evaluation of neonicitinoid insecticides as seed treatments on corn for control of sugarcane beetle adults, 2004. Arthropod Management Tests Vol. 30, (In [http://www.entsoc.org/Protected/AMT/AMT30/Text/amt30.asp? Report=F??](http://www.entsoc.org/Protected/AMT/AMT30/Text/amt30.asp?Report=F??)).

## ***PRESENTATIONS AT PROFESSIONAL AND CLIENTELE TARGETED CONFERENCES***

### **Invited:**

**Smith, T.P. 2010.** LSU AgCenter Sweet Potato Research and Extension Programming Overview. Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors Meeting. Baton Rouge, LA, March 5, 2010

**Smith, T. P. 2010.** Sweet potato production and pest management. Alabama State Sweet Potato Association Meeting. Orange Beach, AL, February 27, 2010.

**Smith, T.P. 2009.** Louisiana Sweet Potato Update. Franklin Parish Lions Club Meeting. Winnsboro, LA. October 5, 2009.

**Smith, T.P. 2009.** Sweet Potato Industry Update. Northeast Region Advisory Leadership Council Meeting. Winnsboro, LA. September 3, 2009.

**Smith, T.P. 2009.** LSU AgCenter Sweet Potato Research Station. Franklin Parish Rotary Meeting. Winnsboro, LA. May 22, 2009.

**Smith, T. P. 2009.** Evangeline sweetpotato and Louisiana crop situation. Mississippi Sweet Potato Council Meeting. Vardaman, MS. January 9, 2009.

**Smith, T. P. 2008.** Nematode management and Telone use in sweet potato. Telone Industry Meeting. Tensas Parish Extension Office, December 10, 2008.

**Smith, T.P. 2008.** Update on LSU AgCenter Sweet Potato Research Station and Sweet Potato Industry Update. Northeast Region Advisory Leadership Council Meeting. Winnsboro, LA. September 4, 2008.

**Smith, T.P. 2007.** Overview of the Louisiana Sweet Potato Industry. 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting Louisiana County Agricultural Agents Association. Thomas Lingo Community Center, Oak Grove, LA. June 3-4, 2007.

**Submitted:**

**Smith, T.P. 2010.** Nematode management in sweet potato. LSU AgCenter Sweet Potato Field Day, August 24, 2010.

**Smith, T.P. 2010.** Insect pest management research update. LSU AgCenter Sweet Potato Field Day, August 24, 2010.

**Smith, T.P. 2010.** Overview of Sweet Potato Research Station Research and Outreach Programming. LSU AgCenter Summer Training Program for High School Students and Teachers. July, 16, 2010.

**Smith, T.P. 2010.** Overview of Sweet Potato Research Station Foundation Seed Program. LSU Plant Pathology Practicum Class Station Visit. July 12, 2010.

**Smith, T. P. 2010.** Louisiana Sweet Potato Industry Update. Annual Louisiana Farm Bureau Convention, New Orleans, LA, June 26, 2010.

**Smith, T. P. 2010.** Evaluation of soil insecticides for control of sugarcane beetle in sweet potato. Southeastern Branch Meeting of the Entomological Society of America. Atlanta, GA. March 10, 2010.

**Smith, T.P. 2010.** Evaluation of selected insecticides for management of the sugarcane beetle in sweetpotato. National Sweet Potato Collaborators Group, Annual meeting, Orlando, FL February 6, 2010.

**Smith, T.P. 2010.** Sweet Potato SCRI grant: Project overview and management. Specialty Crop Research kickoff meeting, February 5, 2010, Orlando, FL.

**Smith, T.P. 2010.** Sweet Potato SCRI grant: Project overview and management. LSU AgCenter Specialty Crop Research kickoff meeting, January 28, 2010, Baton Rouge, LA.

**Smith, T.P. 2010.** Louisiana Sweet Potato Outlook. National Sweet Potato Council Annual Meeting, Biloxi, MS, January 25, 2010.

**Smith, T.P. 2010.** Louisiana Sweet Potato Production, Updates and directions for 2010. Louisiana Sweet Potato Association Annual Meeting, January 13, 2010, Ville Platte, LA.



**Smith, T.P. 2009.** LSU AgCenter Sweet Potato Research and Extension Programming. Borlaug Fellows Program Presentation. Chase, LA. September 16, 2009.

**Smith, T.P. 2009.** GAP/GMP and Sweet Potato Producers. Sweet Potato Pre-harvest Workshop. Winnsboro, LA. August 11, 2009.

**Smith, T. P. 2009.** The Effect of Preplant and Layby Insecticides on Insect Damage and Yield in Sweetpotato. Southeastern Branch Meeting of the Entomological Society of America. Montgomery, AL. March 10, 2009.

**Smith, T.P. 2009.** Louisiana Sweet Potato Production, Updates and directions for 2008. South Louisiana Production and Advisory Meeting, Mansura, LA, March 4, 2009

**Smith, T.P. 2009.** Sweet Potato Foundation Seed Survey: Yield Performance of Multiple Generations of Sweet Potato Foundation Seed in 2007 and 2008. National Sweet Potato Collaborators Group, Annual meeting, Atlanta, GA, January 31- Feb 1 2009.

**Smith, T.P. 2009.** Evaluation of Crop Rotations and Nematicides for Management of Reniform Nematode in Sweet Potato. National Sweet Potato Collaborators Group, Annual meeting, Atlanta, GA, January 31- Feb 1 2009.

**Smith, T.P. 2009.** Louisiana Sweet Potato Outlook. National Sweet Potato Council Annual Meeting, Baton Rouge, LA, January 26, 2009.

**Smith, T.P. 2008.** Louisiana Sweet Potato Industry Update an On-farm Research Results. Louisiana Sweet Potato Association Annual Meeting. Oak Grove, LA. January 6, 2009.

**Smith, T.P. 2008.** Louisiana Sweet Potato Research Verification and Insect Research Update. LSU AgCenter Sweet Potato Field Day, August 14, 2008.

**Smith, T.P. 2008.** Fresh Market vs. Processing and Trends for the Future, Cultural Practices and Varieties. LSU AgCenter Sweet Potato Field Day, August 14, 2008.

**Smith, T. P. 2008.** Louisiana Sweet Potato Industry Update. Annual Louisiana Farm Bureau Convention, New Orleans, LA, June 28, 2008.

**Smith, T.P. 2008.** Louisiana Sweet Potato Research Verification Program: Preliminary Results and Observations from 2007. Louisiana Agricultural Sciences Association Annual Meeting, Baton Rouge, LA, March 26, 2008.

**Smith, T.P. 2008.** Louisiana Sweet Potato Production, Updates and directions for 2008. Avoyelles Parish Sweet Potato Association Annual Production Meeting, Mansura, LA, March 11, 2008.

**Smith, T. P. 2008.** Monitoring and Management of Cucumber Beetles (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) in Louisiana Sweet Potatoes. Southeastern Branch Meeting of the Entomological Society of America. Jacksonville, FL. March 4, 2008.

**Smith, T.P. 2008.** Sweet Potato Production in Louisiana. ConAgra-LambWeston Industry Meeting. Kenniwick, WA. February 25, 2008.

**Smith, T.P. 2008.** Louisiana Sweet Potato Outlook. National Sweet Potato Council Annual Meeting, Asheville, NC, January 22, 2008.

**Smith, T.P. 2008.** Assessing the effects of preplant insecticides on insect damage and yield in Beauregard, Evangeline and Covington Sweetpotatoes. National Sweet Potato Collaborators Group, Annual meeting, Asheville, NC, January 19-20, 2008.

**Smith, T. P. 2008.** Weed management in Evangeline and Beauregard Sweet Potato. National Sweet Potato Collaborators Group, Annual meeting, Asheville, NC, January 19-20, 2008.

**Smith, T.P. 2008.** Louisiana Sweet Potato Industry Update an On-farm Research Results. Louisiana Sweet Potato Association Annual Meeting. Mansura, LA. January 12, 2008.

**Smith, T.P. 2007.** Overview of the 2007 Louisiana Sweet Potato Crop. West Carroll Advisory and Recertification Meeting. Oak Grove, LA. December 14, 2007.

**Smith, T.P. 2007.** Louisiana Sweet Potato Production, Updates and directions for 2007. Avoyelles Parish Sweet Potato Association Annual Meeting, Belledeau, LA, February 6, 2007.

**Smith, T.P. 2007.** Louisiana Sweet Potato Production, Updates and directions for 2007. West Carroll Sweet Potato Association Annual Meeting, Oak Grove, LA, February 9, 2007.

**Smith, T.P. 2007.** Sweetpotato weevil in Louisiana: Distribution and Management. National Sweet Potato Collaborators Group, Annual meeting, Mobile, AL, February 3-4, 2007.

**Smith, T.P. 2007.** Louisiana Sweet Potato Update. National Sweet Potato Council Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, January 21-23, 2007.

**Smith, T.P. 2007.** Updates and direction for sweet potato production: 2007. Louisiana Sweet Potato Association Annual Meeting, January 16-17, 2007.

**Smith, T. P. 2006.** Sweetpotato insects: Update 2006. Louisiana Sweetpotato Association, Oak Grove, LA. January 10-11, 2006.

**Smith, T. P. 2005.** Aggregation behavior of the sugarcane beetle: a novel pest of sweetpotato. Entomological Association of America, National Meeting, Fort Lauderdale, FL. December 15-18, 2005.

**Smith, T. P. 2005.** Management of the sweetpotato weevil in Louisiana. Annual Meeting of the Florida Entomological Society, Fort Lauderdale, FL. July 24-27, 2005.

**Smith, T. P. 2005.** Evaluation of soil insect density and damage at three planting dates. Southeastern Branch Meeting of the Entomological Association of America Meeting, Tunica, MS. March 6-9, 2005.

**Smith, T. P. 2005.** Assessing sweetpotato root damage at three planting dates in Louisiana. Louisiana Plant Protection Association Meeting, Baton Rouge, LA. March 3, 2005.

**Smith, T. P. 2005.** Sweetpotato insect research update. Louisiana Sweetpotato Association, Hessmer, LA. January 17, 2005.

**Smith, T. P. 2004.** Managing sugarcane beetle (*Euetheola humilis*) on field corn seedlings in Louisiana. Annual meeting of the Mississippi Entomological Association, Starkville, MS. November 4-5, 2004.

**Smith, T. P. 2004.** Evaluation of cultural control practices to evaluate sweetpotato soil insect density and damage in Louisiana. Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station Field Day, Sweetpotato Research Station, Chase, LA. August 12, 2004.

**Smith, T. P. 2004.** The sugarcane beetle (*Euetheola humilis*) Burmeister, a new pest of sweetpotato. Louisiana Plant Protection Association Annual Meeting, Baton Rouge, LA. March 16, 2004.

**Smith, T. P. 2004.** Biology and Control of a new pest of sweetpotato, the sugarcane beetle, *Euetheola humilis* (Coleoptera:Scarabaeidae). Southeastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America, Charleston, SC. February 18, 2004.

**Smith, T.P. 2003.** Biology and management of a new pest of sweetpotato, the sugarcane beetle, *Euetheola humilis* (Coleoptera:Scarabaeidae). National Sweetpotato collaborators meeting, Baton Rouge, LA. January 24, 2003.

**Smith, T. P. 2003.** Assessing the impact of the sugarcane beetle, *Euetheola humilis* (Burmeister) on sweetpotato production in Louisiana. Louisiana sweetpotato Association, Opelousas, LA. January 14, 2003.

#### **Extension Agent Trainings:**

**Smith, T.P. 2008.** LSU AgCenter Sweet Potato Research Station Field Day. August 14, 2008.

**Smith, T. P. 2008.** Louisiana Sweet Potato Extension Update. Northeast Region Faculty Meeting. March 20, 2008.

**Smith, T. P. 2007.** Louisiana Sweet Potato Production, 2007. Northeast Region Faculty Meeting. June 20, 2007.

**Smith, T. P. 2007.** Sweet potatoes 2007, Changes and Direction. Northeast Region Faculty Meeting. February 20, 2007.

#### **Display Presentations:**

**Smith, T.P., K.M. Guidry, M. Sistrunk. 2008.** Sweet Potato Verification Program Initiated for Sweet Potato Production in 2007. Louisiana County Agricultural Agents Meeting. Baton Rouge, LA. June 2-4, 2008.

Story, R.N., A. Hammond, **T. Smith** and J. Murray. 2008. Management of Soil Insect Pests of Sweet Potato in Louisiana. Entomological Society of America, Southeastern Branch Meeting. Jacksonville, FL. March 4, 2008.

**Smith, T. P., and A. M. Hammond. 2004.** Host plant preferences of the sugarcane beetle (*Euetheola humilis*) (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae). International Plants Resistance to Insects workshop, Baton Rouge, LA. March 21-24, 2004.

**Smith, T. P.**, and A. M. Hammond. 2004. A new pest of sweetpotato in Louisiana, biology and host plant preferences of the sugarcane beetle (*Euetheola humilis*) (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae). Annual Meeting of the Florida Entomological Society, Fort Lauderdale, FL. July 25-28, 2004.

**Smith, T. P.**, and A. M. Hammond. 2004. Susceptibility of the sweetpotato weevil, (Coleoptera: Apionidae) to selected insecticides and efficacy of a new pheromone matrix for sweetpotato weevil attraction in the laboratory and field. National meeting of the Entomological Society of America, Salt Lake City, UT. November 14-17, 2004.

**Smith, T. P.**, and A. M. Hammond. 2006. Chemical ecology of the sugarcane beetle, *Euetheola humilis*, Burmeister (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae). 5th National Integrated Pest Management Symposium, St. Louis, MO. April 4-6, 2006.

#### ***PARTICIPATION IN AND LEADERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS/COMMITTEES***

##### **Professional Development / Technical Meetings Attended:**

Winnsboro Chamber of Commerce Meeting, September 9, 2010.

ConAgra Lamb Weston VIP Hard Hat Tour, August 23, 2010.

LSU AgCenter Northeast Region Faculty Meeting, August 16, 2010

LSU AgCenter Northeast Research Station Field Day, July 20, 2010.

Louisiana Sweet Potato Association and Commission Summer Board Meeting, June 29, 2010

LSU AgCenter Northeast Region Faculty Meeting, June 17, 2010.

LSU AgCenter Internal Leadership Conference, May 18-20, 2010 Baton Rouge, LA.

LSU AgCenter Internal Leadership Conference, April 6-8, 2010, Baton Rouge, LA.

LSU AgCenter South Louisiana Sweet Potato Advisory and Production Meeting, March 25, 2010, Mansura, LA.

Farm Bureau Advisory Meeting / Crop Insurance Meeting with USDA Risk Management Agency, March 24, 2010, Chase, LA.

USDA: SCRI Food Safety Crisis Communication Workshop, March 17-18, 2010, Winnsboro, LA.

LSU AgCenter Franklin Parish Advisory Council Meeting, March 16, 2010, Winnsboro, LA.

ConAgra Lamb Weston Hard Hat VIP Tour, March 11, 2010, Delhi, LA.

LSU AgCenter Horticultural Council Meeting, Baton Rouge, LA, March 5, 2010.

LSU AgCenter Northeast Louisiana Advisory Leadership Council Meeting, March 4, 2010, Winnsboro, LA.

LSU AgCenter Internal Leadership Conference, March 2-4, 2010, Baton Rouge, LA.

LSU AgCenter Chancellor's Update Meeting, March 1, 2010, Monroe, LA.

LSU AgCenter Northeast Region 4-H Cookery Contest, March 1, 2010, Rayville, LA.

Farmer of the Year Awards Banquet, February 26, 2010, White Oak Plantation, Baton Rouge, LA.

Northeast Region Safety Committee Meeting, February 17, 2010, LSU AgCenter Scott Center, Winnsboro, LA.

Louisiana Agricultural Consultants Association Annual Meeting, February 12, 2010, Alexandria, LA.

National Sweet Potato Council Meeting 2010, Biloxi, MS, January 24-26, 2010.

LSU AgCenter Agricultural Outlook Conference 2010, January 21, 2010, Alexandria, LA.

North Louisiana Agri-business Luncheon, January 15, 2010, Monroe, LA.

Southern Field Crops Alliance Meeting, January 14, 2010, Tunica, MS. ***Served as a moderator for Sweet Potato Breakout Session.***

LSU AgCenter Sweet Potato ACE Meeting, December 17, 2009, Baton Rouge, LA.

LSU AgCenter Public Value Leadership Training, December 11, 2009, Baton Rouge, LA.

LSU AgCenter Sweet Potato Advisory Meeting, December 2, 2009, Winnsboro, LA.

LSU AgCenter Internal Leadership Meeting, November 3-5, 2010, Baton Rouge, LA.

Louisiana Agricultural Consultants Association Fall Retreat, October 2, 2010, Marksville, LA.

National Association of County Agricultural Agents Meeting, September 20-24, 2009, Portland, OR.

Louisiana County Agricultural Agents Association Annual Meeting. June 2-3, 2008. Baton Rouge, LA.

Louisiana Sweet Potato Association and Louisiana Sweet Potato Commission Board Meetings. April 22, 2008. LSU AgCenter Avoyelles Parish Extension Office, Mansura, LA.

Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Agriculture and Natural Resources Faculty Meeting. March 20, 2008. Winnsboro, LA.

Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Northeast Region Annual Safety Meeting. December 13, 2007. Winnsboro, LA.

Statewide Louisiana Sweet Potato Advisory Meeting. Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Scott Research and Extension Center. December 4, 2007. Winnsboro, LA.

Produce Marketing Association Annual Meeting. October 13-15, 2007. Houston, TX.

Northeast Sweet Potato Advisory Meeting. August 7, 2007. Oak Grove, LA.

Louisiana Sweet Potato Commission Board Meeting. June 19, 2007. Baton Rouge, LA.

Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation meeting. June 3-4, 2007. New Orleans LA.

Crop Insurance Meeting with USDA Risk Management Agency. May 13, 2007. Kansas City, MO.

Avoyelles Parish Sweet Potato Association Advisory Meeting. April 23, 2007. Allen Canning Company, Belledeau, LA.

Louisiana Sweet Potato Association and Louisiana Sweet Potato Commission Board Meetings. April 17, 2007. Cottonport Bank Camp, Mansura, LA.

RAMP Grant Meeting. March 27-29, 2007. Raleigh, NC.

Louisiana State University Agricultural Center Sweet Potato ACE meeting. December 19, 2006. Baton Rouge, LA.

Louisiana Statewide Sweet potato advisory meeting, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center Sweet Potato Research Station. December 12, 2006. Chase, LA.

Louisiana Sweet Potato Commission and Louisiana Sweet Potato Association board meeting. June 14, 2006. Baton Rouge, LA.

Louisiana County Agents Association Annual Meeting, Covington, LA. June 5, 2006. Covington, LA.

#### **Membership in Professional Organizations:**

- Entomological Society of America: 2003-2010
- National Sweet Potato Collaborators Group: 2006-2010
- American Society of Horticultural Science: 2008 - 2010
- National Association of County Agricultural Agents: 2006-2010
- Southern Association of Agricultural Scientist: 2006-2009
- Epsilon Sigma Phi: 2006-2010
- Louisiana Agriculture Sciences Association, 2003 - present

- Louisiana Sweet Potato Association: 2006-2010
- Louisiana County Agricultural Agents Association: 2006-2010

#### ***CONTINUED COURSEWORK IN-SERVICE TRAINING, SABBATICALS, PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT***

- LSU AgCenter Internal Leadership Class 2009-2010
- Extension Agriculture and Natural Resource (ANR) Specialists' Summit. January 7, 2008. Baton Rouge, LA.

#### ***PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC POLICY AND COMMUNITY ISSUES***

Louisiana Sweet Potato Association Crop Insurance Committee: This committee was established in 2007 and is tasked with working with Crop Insurance System's, Louisiana Farm Bureau, Louisiana Sweet Potato Association and USDA, Risk Management Agency to develop a crop insurance program for sweet potato in Louisiana.

#### ***AWARDS AND RECOGNITION***

- Achievement award, National Association of County Agricultural Agents, Louisiana Winner, 2009.
- Search for Excellence Award (Sweet potato verification program), Louisiana Winner, National County Agricultural Agents Association. July, 2008.

#### ***MULTI-INSTITUTION, AGENCY, AND STATE COLLABORATION***

**Specialty Crop Research Initiative:** Collaboration with faculty from Mississippi State, North Carolina State and U.C. Davis to develop a proposal for submission to the USDA Specialty Crop Research Initiative in 2009. The proposal was fully funded. Research and extension activities described therein are multistate and multidisciplinary in nature and will take place during 2009-2012.

**National Sweet Potato Collaborators Group:** Research and extension personnel from across the United States meet once yearly to collaborate, share updates on research and extension activities and collaborate during the year on several projects, namely the evaluation of sweet potato breeding lines at several institutions.

**Collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry:** Ongoing open communication and collaboration with the department on all matters relative to the sweet potato industry in Louisiana, including the sweetpotato weevil trapping and mandatory spray programs and the sweet potato foundation seed program.

**Economic Development:** During 2007-2009 I worked closely with individuals from Louisiana Economic Development in developing materials and communicating with company officials from ConAgra Lamb Weston regarding their intent to place a processing facility in northeast Louisiana. The \$150 million sweet potato processing facility is slated to open in the fall of 2010.

#### ***OTHER SCHOLARLY OR CREATIVE ACTIVITIES***

- **Affiliate Member of LSU Graduate Faculty:**  
Department of Entomology, March 2008 - Present.
- **Graduate Committee Member:**  
Ms. Everlyn Wosula, 2008-present. Major Professor, Dr. Chris Clark  
  
Mr. Cody Smith, 2010-present, Major Professor, Dr. Don Labonte
- **Summer Intern Mentor:**  
Ms. Jessie Wiggins, Summer 2008 – Summer 2010. Undergraduate Louisiana Tech University Dept. of Agriculture.

#### ***RECRUITMENT OF STUDENTS AND FACULTY***

- College of Agriculture Recruitment Fair, Northeast Louisiana, May 13, 2005.

#### ***UNIVERSITY SERVICE***

- Sweet Potato Ace Group, Co-chair: 2006-Present
- LSU AgCenter Horticultural Council: 2009-Present
- Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service Public Value Leadership Team, chair ANR activities, 2009-2010.
- Member Search Committee for Research Coordinator Position Sweet Potato Research Station, 2006-2008.
- LSU AgCenter Agricultural Awareness “ Sweet Potato Display” used at events across the state, 2007-present
- 2008 Ag Expo Program Committee
- 2007 Ag Adventures (Delhi) Program Committee
- 2007 Louisiana County Agricultural Agents Association Annual Planning Committee



### ***PROFESSIONAL SERVICE***

- Entomological Society of America  
**Student Awards Committee, Southeastern Branch**, 2008-2011  
**Served as judge of student competitions**, 2008-2010  
**Student Representative** for Louisiana State University Entomology Department  
2003-2006
- National Sweet Potato Collaborators Group  
**Chair Elect 2010-2011**
- National Association of County Agricultural Agents  
**Louisiana Voting Delegate 2009-2010**
- Louisiana Agriculture Sciences Association, **Vice President**: 2008-Present
- Louisiana Sweet Potato Association, **Secretary**: 2007-Present
- Louisiana County Agricultural Agents Association, **Board Member Northeast District –**  
2009-2010

### ***OTHER EXTERNAL COMMITTEES AND COMMUNITY SERVICE***

- 2009 Program Chair and Coordinator National Sweet Potato Council Annual Meeting
- 2007-2010 Planning committees Louisiana Sweet Potato Association Annual Meeting
- J.S. Clark Elementary, Sweet Potato Presentations, Monroe, LA November 2007
- Lee High School, Baton Rouge, LA, Educational Displays. May 2005
- St. James Episcopal Day School, Baton Rouge, LA. Educational Displays, May 2005.