Program Highlights

Agriculture & Natural Resources

Hay production in St. Charles Parish involves 38 beef cattle producers who raise and bale an average of 12,260 tons annually. The LSU AgCenter plays an important role in helping beef cattle producers to learn and utilize appropriate research-based practices that contribute to their production needs for high quality hay production. In 2014, the LSU AgCenter conducted a variety of educational training and instruction on recommended hay production practices related to soil fertility for hay pastures, weed control, baling methods, curing time, bale storage, proper sampling techniques and testing. As a result in adopting LSU AgCenter recommendations, 48% of beef cattle producers in St. Charles Parish reported achieving a significant increase in the nutritional value and digestible quality from harvested hay in 2015.

4-H Youth & Family Development

The St. Charles Parish 4-H Youth and Family Development Program enables youth to gain important life skills through participation in age-appropriate experiential learning activities conducted in school, community, and in other 4-H Club enrichment programs. In 2014, the St. Charles Parish 4-H program focused on teaching youth about Character Development through bullying prevention and healthy living education. Over 350 youth gained knowledge and experience of utilizing leadership, citizenship, and basic life skills by participating in interactive educational workshops, demonstrations, and presentations throughout the year. The St. Charles Parish 4-H CHEF (Cooking, Healthy Eating, and Fitness) Club was established in 2013 and continued its success of fostering a sense of belonging among youth through hands-on education on healthy cooking, eating, and physical fitness for youth and their families. By participating in 4-H Healthy Living programming, 71% of youth eat more fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, and encourage their families to eat meals together.

Volunteerism & Leadership

Volunteers are an important and valued resource to the LSU AgCenter. During 2014, a total of 134 volunteers in St. Charles Parish assisted the LSU AgCenter through an involved participation that included 39 volunteers serving on parish beef cattle, horticulture, leadership and 4-H youth development committees; 48 Master Gardener volunteers that provided horticulture educational training, recommendations and information to the public; and 47 volunteers that provided guidance as school 4-H Club and specialty project leaders. Collectively, these volunteers contributed a total of 1,920 service hours in 2014 that enhanced the ability of the LSU AgCenter to deliver quality and effective educational outreach programs that reached over 16,000 citizens in St. Charles Parish.
### Who we reach.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>8,110</td>
<td>Includes potential public, private and parochial schools enrollment, 356 4-H club members &amp; 18 parish 4-H club programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>5,925</td>
<td>3,460 Ag &amp; Natural Resources, 2,465 Family Consumer Sciences</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### How we reach them:

- 4-H clubs
- Class Series
- Field Days
- Demonstrations
- Workshops
- Field Days
- Workshops
- Web Sites
- Newsletters
- Publications
- Social Media
- School Enrichment

### Expanding our efforts:

- 134 Volunteers - 4-H, Master Gardeners, Family & Community

### Local Issues & Plans for this year.

1. **Increase productivity and profitability of Louisiana Agriculture.**
   - Conduct Master Gardener and Master Cattlemen training programs
   - Conduct greenhouse and vegetable variety trial demonstrations
   - Conduct producer meetings and farm and home visits
   - Provide advisement and educational training to horticulture clientele

2. **Promote the wise use of natural resources and protection of the environment.**
   - Educate and involve youth in Louisiana wetlands solutions/restoration
   - Conduct pesticide applicators and worker protection standards certification
   - Promote Best Management Practices (BMP) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs
   - Conduct waste reduction and recycling educational programs
   - Conduct training that promotes conservation stewardship

3. **Build leaders and good citizens through 4-H youth development.**
   - Expand and conduct service learning projects
   - Recruit and conduct adult volunteer trainings
   - Increase and conduct Jr. Leadership community service projects
   - Develop and conduct community and school gardening educational programs

4. **Strengthen families and communities**
   - Conduct school gardening and nutritional programs
   - Conduct healthy food choices training curriculum to youth and adult clientele

### Parish Facts

LSU AgCenter County Agents provide research-based information on plant, aquaculture, wildlife and animal enterprises to St. Charles Parish clientele. The 2014 total dollar amount from these commodities were:

- Plant enterprises - $6,614,482.
- Aquaculture and wildlife - $6,895,144.
- Animal enterprises - $6,367,138.

### Data from the Louisiana Ag Summary

- **Web site:** LSUAgCenter.com/agsummary
- **Population:** 52,745
- **Land area (square miles):** 279.08
- **Persons under 18 years old:** 25.6%
- **Persons 65 years old and over:** 11.1%
- **Median household income:** $58,758
- **Persons below poverty:** 12.7%