

W.A. Callegari Environmental Center Profile



Report to Stakeholders

October 2010

About the LSU AgCenter

The LSU AgCenter is dedicated to providing innovative research, information and education to improve people's lives. Working in a unique statewide network of parish extension offices, research stations and academic departments, the LSU AgCenter helps Louisiana citizens make the best use of natural resources, protect the environment, enhance agricultural enterprises and develop human and community resources.



Academic/Research/Extension Highlights

Composting

The natural decomposition of organic matter in soils may take years to generate beneficial, stable soil organic matter — humus. In contrast, composting is a controlled process that uses microorganisms found in nature to transform large quantities of organic materials into a humus-like substance called compost. Quality compost may be produced in a few months and provides numerous environmentally beneficial applications.

The Callegari Center laboratory uses a series of large reactors and simulation models to predict large-scale results. The center handles materials that would otherwise have gone to landfill or incineration.

Water Quality

The Callegari Center serves as the home for the Louisiana Master Farmer Program, which helps agricultural producers voluntarily address the environmental concerns related to production agriculture, as well as enhance their production and resource-management skills that will be critical for the continued viability of Louisiana agriculture. This program helps producers become more knowledgeable about environmental stewardship, resource-based production and



resource management through a voluntary producer certification process.

Integral to the Master Farmer Program is the Callegari Center's analytical services for water quality. In addition to serving agricultural interests, the laboratories provide research capabilities for AgCenter scientists, private industry and local governments. The laboratories can perform more than 40 analytical procedures from simple to sophisticated to determine the chemicals in water and solid and semi-solid materials.

In addition to analytical capabilities, the Callegari Center provides support to individuals concerning a wide range of environmental issues based on sound analytical results.

W.A. Callegari Environmental Center

Address: 268 Knapp Hall,
LSU campus

Phone: 225-578-6998

Fax: 225-578-7765

Laboratory & Training Site

Address: 1300 Dean Lee
Baton Rouge, LA 70820

Phone: 225-765-5155

Fax: 225-765-5158

Website:

[LSUAgCenter.com/
departments/WACallegari](http://LSUAgCenter.com/departments/WACallegari)

Office Hours:

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Monday-Friday

Bill Carney, Ph.D.

Department Head/Associate
Professor

bcarney@agcenter.lsu.edu

Research Focus

Department research addresses water quality issues in agriculture and urban settings and toxicology, and applied research in pest management and urban entomology along with agriculture, municipal solid waste and biofuel.

Extension Focus

The Callegari Center is responsible for education programs, service and outreach activities in water quality, solid waste, pesticide operator certification and biodiesel for farmers, homeowners and pest control operators.

Significance of Programs

The W.A. Callegari Environmental Center is the LSU AgCenter's research and training facility for composting organic waste and for water and air quality. Located on an eight-acre site on the Central Research Station south of Baton Rouge, the Callegari Center serves researchers, agricultural producers, private companies, governmental agencies and the general public in the areas of composting, water quality, air quality and bioenergy.

As a part of the LSU AgCenter, our focus is public service. The knowledgeable faculty and staff at the W. A. Callegari Environmental Center can provide support to individuals concerning a wide range of environmental issues.

Air Quality

In response to public concern about sugarcane burning, the Callegari Center worked with the American Sugar Cane League and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry to develop smoke management guidelines for sugarcane harvesting. The guidelines are intended to manage smoke and ash from sugarcane prescribed burning operations to lessen their effects on public health and welfare.

Burning sugarcane in the field gives producers lower production costs, efficient harvesting and less material to transport to mills. The AgCenter developed the training curriculum, and hundreds of Louisiana sugarcane farmers have been acknowledged as certified prescribed-burn managers.



Future Plans

Bioenergy

The Callegari Center has taken an active part in the AgCenter's research into bioenergy – the development of alternative fuels such as ethanol and biodiesel. In addition to laboratory evaluations, AgCenter researchers are planting test plots of different crops that could be used as feedstock for biofuels. Along with traditional food crops such as corn, soybeans, sugarcane, sorghum and sunflowers, scientists are evaluating non-food crops such as rape seed, Chinese tallow and palm oil.

Plans at the Callegari Center envision constructing a biodiesel plant, including a seed press, and establishing laboratories to characterize the fuel products and measure quality control.

LSU AgCenter Departments and Schools

Maximizing the potential for the state's agricultural industries and improving the quality of life for all Louisiana citizens are the major initiatives of the LSU AgCenter.

To achieve its mission of serving the people of Louisiana and providing them with the latest research-based information on a vast variety of topics, the LSU AgCenter operates 11 academic departments/schools in Baton Rouge in conjunction with the LSU College of Agriculture. In addition, four other specialized departments also contribute to the mission. These 15 units are an integral part of the LSU AgCenter's research and outreach activities.

Faculty members in the LSU AgCenter's on-campus units are involved in a variety of efforts, including research, classroom teaching and extension education. They cover topics ranging from agricultural economics to human ecology and from entomology to experimental statistics.

The LSU AgCenter has the most successful record of commercialization of intellectual property in the LSU System. Since 2000, nine new companies have been started based on licensed technology from LSU AgCenter. The income is distributed among the LSU System, the inventors and more research.



For the latest research-based information on just about anything, visit our website:
LSUAgCenter.com