

ABOUT THE LSU AGCENTER

The LSU AgCenter provides innovative research, information and education to improve people's lives. Working in a 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.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Nutrition & Community Health (NCH)

Nutrition and Community Health agents and educators are improving the overall health of residents by helping to reduce chronic diseases related to poor nutrition and sedentary lifestyles and improving the health outcomes in which Louisiana has traditionally ranked so low. Through NCH programs such as SNAP-Ed and General Nutrition, participants learn how to prepare nutritious, affordable meals, while improving their overall health. Classes include food taste-tastings, parenting & childcare education, Smart Portions, and Dining with Diabetes.

4-H Youth Development

Rapides Parish 4-H is a co-curricular program providing educational events year-round for students in grades 4-12. Youth participate in school-based & homeschool clubs, practice parliamentary procedures, and serve their community. Project clubs such as Livestock, Shooting Sports, Gardening, Culinary and Leadership offer opportunities to develop skills and confidence. Over 2500 youth are reached each year. With a focus on Ag Awareness and STEM, youth learn the importance of where their food comes from and venture into the world of science and technology gaining insight into career pathways.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Rapides Parish is a major agricultural parish that produces corn, cotton, soybeans, sugarcane, rice and wheat; all being grown on approximately 75,000 acres. Several field days are held throughout the year at the Dean Lee Research station with presentations from specialists and researchers who provide the most current research-based information available. Rapides Parish has over 340 cattle producers with an estimated 15,000 head of cattle. The Master Gardner program meets monthly and helps to disseminate science-based information to residents.



EXTENSION OFFICE

300 Grady Britt Drive Alexandria, LA
71302

Phone: 318-767-3968

Office Hours:

8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Website:

www.LSUAgCenter.com/Rapides

Social Media:

**Rapides Parish Extension
Service**

www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61557374649670

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PROGRAMS

4-H and Youth Development

- Livestock
- Junior Leaders
- Shooting Sports
- Gardening
- Culinary Club
- FFA

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Plant Enterprises
- Horticulture/Lawn and Garden.
- Forestry
- Animal Enterprises
- Aquaculture & Wildlife

Nutrition and Community Health (NCH)

- Flavors of Health: Lunch & Learn
- Kid Chef & Teen Chef
- Dining with Diabetes, Small Portions
- Nutrition Workshops: SNAP ED: My Plate, Let's Eat for the Health of It, Play Street, Healthy Communities Programming

WHOM WE REACH:

2,500 youth (includes over 800, 4-H members in 36 schools and non-4-H youth reached through enrichment events)

6,800 adults (3,000 through agriculture and natural resources and 3,800 through family consumer sciences)

HOW WE REACH THEM:

4-H Clubs, project clubs, school enrichment, workshops, community partnerships, field days, publications, newsletters, class series, website, social media.

EXPANDING OUR EFFORTS:

250 volunteers from 4-H, Master Gardeners, Master Goat, family, and community.

PARISH FACTS:

LSU AgCenter county agents provide research-based information on plants, aquaculture, wildlife, and animal enterprises to Rapides Parish residents. The total dollar amount from these commodities were: crop production \$76,655,666; horticulture enterprises, \$59,516,586; forestry \$33,825,227; animal enterprises 26,616,140; aquaculture and wildlife, \$6,562,181.

Land area — 1,320 square miles; Population — 126,260; Population under 18 years old — 24.9%; Population 65 years old and over — 17.6%; Median household income — \$55,946; Persons below poverty — 19.9%

LOCAL ISSUES AND PLANS FOR THIS YEAR:

Increase productivity and profitability of Louisiana agriculture.

- Conduct cotton, corn, soybean, and beef cattle field days.
- Conduct series on Master Gardner, Master Cattleman, and Master Goat.
- Write news columns, webpage content and seminars on agriculture practices.
- Conduct farm and home educational visits.

Build leaders and good citizens through 4-H Youth Development.

- Junior Leaders work to assist in conducting educational activities and workshops for younger youth and have implanted a Service Project to assist in various community organizations.
- Utilize the Livestock Club with the assistance of volunteers to better prepare youth with projects and build leadership skills.
- Shooting Sports trained Adult Volunteers and Parent Volunteers to reach over 112 youth participants educating them in safety and marksmanship.

Strengthen families and communities.

- Conduct nutrition programs that create healthy communities by improving overall nutrition and increasing physical activity levels, in youth and adults, which will produce long-lasting behavior changes.
- Provide nutrition education and food demonstrations at farmers markets and community food sites.
- Provide hands-on food safety and cooking skills workshops for youth and adult audiences.



HOW IS EXTENSION FUNDED?

- Federal funding from the USDA/ NIFA.
- State general funds from the Louisiana Legislature.
- Local support from parish government, including police juries and school boards.
- Self-generated funds.



WHAT ROLE DO YOU PLAY?

Our stakeholders at the parish level are the local supporters and beneficiaries of the LSU AgCenter cooperative extension programs. Their support keeps these critical programs in their communities.



EACH PARISH OFFERS PROGRAMMING IN:

- 4-H and Youth Development.
- Agriculture and Natural Resources.
- Nutrition and Community Health.



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