

Concordia Parish Profile



Report to Stakeholders

April 2011

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.



Program Highlights

Family and Consumer Sciences

Individuals and families today deal with multiple issues in raising children, eating right and spending smart in order to live well. Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) programming focuses on these three issues in providing educational programs for the residents of Concordia Parish. LSU AgCenter community nutrition programs are designed to help clientele learn how to make better choices in regards to eating healthy and being active. The Concordia Parish Little Bookshelf Program promotes reading to children under the age of one. Each participant in this literacy program receives 13 books for her young child during the year. Financial literacy programs are taught to help clients make better decisions in managing their money more wisely.



4-H Youth Development

Youth today want hands-on experiences to learn what they are being taught. A new opportunity that 4-H has offered this year is the school gardening project. Youth learn agriculture through planting, caring for, harvesting and tasting the grown product. Monthly educational programs were presented at 4-H club meetings focusing on "Healthy Lifestyles" to help youth make healthy snack and drink choices. Also, tips are provided each month in the parish newsletter on healthy eating. Experiencing belonging in 4-H has provided the youth with opportunities to give back through parish community service projects. Research shows that youth who give back to their communities feel a stronger sense of belonging.



Agriculture and Natural Resources

The Field of Excellence award was given to Ferriday High School for following recommended pest control practices, weed, grass fertilization, watering and insect control. The award was developed by Dr. Ron Strahan, LSU AgCenter associate professor of turf sciences, and presented at halftime of a rival football game between Ferriday and Jonesville. This award was well received by Superintendent Loretta Blankenstein; Michelle Bethea, principal; and James Davis, assistant principal, as well as supporters of the school.



Concordia Parish Extension Office

Address: 405 Carter St.
Vidalia, LA 71373

Phone: 318-336-5315

Fax: 318-336-5832

Website:

LSUAgCenter.com/Concordia

Office Hours:

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Joe P. Bairnsfather

Parish Chair

jbairnsfather@agcenter.lsu.edu

Crystal Barlow

Administrative Coordinator

cbarlow@agcenter.lsu.edu

Programs

4-H and Youth Development

Healthy Living
Science and Technology
Leadership and Citizenship
Service Learning

Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR)

Ornamentals and Horticulture
Lawns and Gardens
Pest Management
Row Crop Production
Beef Cattle
Pasture and Forage

Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS)

Nutrition and Health
Family Resource Management
FNP-Family Nutrition Program
Child Care Provider

Who we reach.

- 3,537 -Youth (includes 608 4-H members and 16 school 4-H clubs)
- 2,472 - Adults
- 1,250 Ag and Natural Resources
- 1,222 Family Consumer Sciences

How we reach them:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 4-H clubs | Class series |
| School enrichment | Demonstrations |
| Field days | Workshops |
| Newsletters | Websites |
| Publications | Social media |
| Summer programs | Health fairs |

Expanding our efforts:

- 152 Volunteers -
- 4-H and Family and Community

Parish Facts

LSU AgCenter county agents provide research-based information on plant, aquaculture, wildlife and animal enterprises to Concordia Parish clientele. The 2010 total dollar amount from these commodities was:

- Plant enterprises - \$67,313,795
- Aquaculture and wildlife—\$1,686,008
- Animal enterprises - \$8,177,909

Data from the Louisiana Ag Summary

Website: LSUAgCenter.com/agsummary

- Population - 18,989
- Land area (square miles) - 695.1
- Persons under 18 years old - 25.8%
- Persons 65 years old and over - 15.4%
- Median household income - \$28,595
- Persons below poverty - 25.2%

Local Issues and Plans for this year

Ag and Natural Resources

1. Tackling saltwater intrusion

- Affects more than 7,000 acres of crops in Concordia Parish.
- Salt tolerant variety trial developed on Angelina Farms.
- Saltwater resistant varieties averaged 30 to 45.82 bushels per acre versus non-resistant varieties that averaged seven bushels per acre.

Family and Consumer Sciences

2. Enhancing life quality through family, health, nutrition and community development

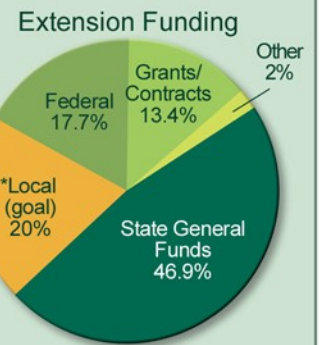
- Diabetes education for parents, families and school staff.
- Programs for elderly addressing medication compliance, food safety and nutrition.
- Programs for parents to increase accountability.
- Programs for youth addressing nutrition, physical exercise and positive behaviors.



4-H Youth Development

3. Opportunities for youth to become more health conscience

- Educational focus for the year is "Healthy Lifestyles"—portions, salt, sugar, calories, etc.
- 4-H Days involve youth in hands-on exercise/physical fitness activities.
- School garden projects provide youth with exercise and consumption of grown products.
- Youth are provided healthy snack and drink item alternatives to determine differences in taste of products.



*Local Funding
Parish Police Jury
Parish School Board
Dedicated millage tax to the Concordia Parish Office

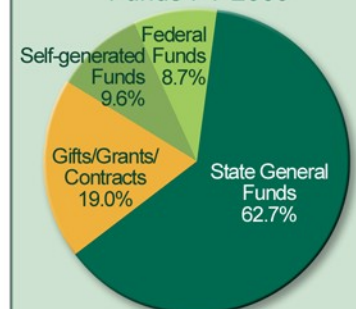
How we are funded.

You are the local supporters and beneficiaries in the LSU AgCenter's Extension programs. Just 20 percent support keeps these programs in your community.

Your parish extension office offers programs in:

- Sustaining Louisiana's agriculture, forestry and fisheries.
- Building leaders and good citizens through 4-H youth development.
- Family, nutrition, health and community development to enhance the quality of life for Louisiana citizens.

LSU AgCenter Restricted/Unrestricted Funds FY 2009



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