

# St. Landry Parish Profile



Report to Stakeholders

January 2012

## 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 & Consumer Sciences

In 2011, St. Landry Parish was ranked 55th out of the 64 Louisiana parishes for health behaviors. In St. Landry Parish; 34% of adults are obese, 28% smoke, 14% are diabetic, 35% are physically inactive, and childhood obesity has been increasing at an alarming rate, contributing to a childhood obesity epidemic. Louisiana reports that almost half (47.5%) of all residents between 2 and 19 years of age are overweight or obese. These rankings and data show the importance of educating families about the importance of eating healthy and affordable foods; taking advantage of opportunities for physical activity; and identifying life style changes to reduce health risks, as ways to improve health and well-being. The LSU AgCenter will continue to provide information and programs to improve the life skills of our parish's residents.

### 4-H Youth Development

The average American discards 4.34 pounds of garbage everyday. Recycling turns materials that would otherwise become waste into valuable resources. St. Landry Parish 4-H Junior Leaders are concerned about the environment and the amount of excess waste entering the landfills. Through their "Geaux Green" service learning project effort; they established a recycling program and recycled 2,398 pounds of waste products, educated other 4-H youth & adults about the importance of recycling, assisted with the parish Household Hazardous Waste Day collection (where 148 vehicles went through), collected pop tabs and donated them to Ronald McDonald House in New Orleans and cell phones for Cell Phones for Soldiers program. 60% of 4-H Junior Leaders stated that as a result of participating in this service learning project, they have a better understanding of problems facing their community and are willing to do their share to make the community better.



### Agriculture & Natural Resources

Agriculture in St. Landry Parish continues to be a major driving force for the local economy. In 2011 there were just over 94,000 acres of soybeans planted and harvested in St. Landry Parish, making St. Landry the largest soybean producing parish statewide. Rice production is the second most significant crop grown in St. Landry Parish with nearly 23,000 acres in production for 2011. The livestock industry also has a great presence in St. Landry with constant growth in the area of equine production and equine related business and recreation, associated with the horse racing industry, all generating revenue. The agriculture industry in St. Landry Parish is worth in excess of \$140 million to the local economy.



## St. Landry Parish Extension Office

**Address:** 1065 Hwy 749 Suite A, Opelousas, LA 70570

**Phone:** 337-948-0561

**Fax:** 337-948-0564

**Email:**

StLandry@agcenter.lsu.edu

**Web site:**

LSUAgCenter.com/StLandry

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

**Lisa Benoit**

Parish Chair

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## Programs

### 4-H and Youth Development

### Agriculture & Natural Resources (ANR)

Aquaculture  
Animal Production  
Beef Cattle  
Commercial Horticulture  
Environment/Watersheds  
Horticulture/Lawns and Gardens  
Rice  
Sugarcane

### Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS)

Parents Preparing for Success  
Nutrition and Health

**Who we have reached:**

2,285 - Youth (includes 1,100 4-H members & 34 4-H clubs)  
 6,400 - Adults  
 4,500 Ag & Natural Resources  
 1,900 Family & Consumer Sciences

**How we reach them:**

4-H clubs	Class series
School enrichment	Demonstrations
Field days	Workshops
Newsletters	Web sites
Publications	Social media

**Expanding our efforts:**

200 Volunteers -  
 4-H, Master Horsemen

**Parish Facts**

LSU AgCenter County Agents provide research-based information on plant, aquaculture, wildlife and animal enterprises to St. Landry Parish clientele. The 2011 total dollar amount from these commodities was:  
 —Plant enterprises - \$102,159,001.  
 —Aquaculture and wildlife - \$16,762,770.  
 —Animal enterprises - \$21,287,335.

**Data from the Louisiana Ag Summary**  
**Web site: [LSUAgCenter.com/agsummary](http://LSUAgCenter.com/agsummary)**

Population - 83,384  
 Land area (square miles) - 923.88  
 Persons under 18 years old - 27.2%  
 Persons 65 years old and over - 13.7%  
 Median household income - \$32,877  
 Persons below poverty - 25.3%

**Local Issues & Plans for 2012:**

**1. Increase productivity and profitability of Louisiana Agriculture.**

- Keep producers educated on new issues facing the industry via newsletters, web page, seminars, and farm visits.
- Conduct Beef Field Days.
- Conduct research and demonstration plots for area crops.

**2. Promote the wise use of natural resources and protection of the environment.**

- Collaborate with local organizations; Soil and Water Conservation, Farm Service Agency, Farm Bureau, and others.

**3. Youth are actively engaged in learning and gain mastery.**

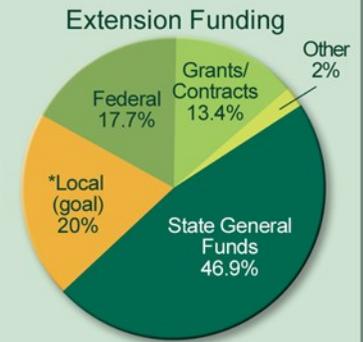
- Conduct Science, Engineering and Technology focused programming & workshops for 4-H youth.
- Conduct Smart Bodies Program (healthy living and exercise) into St. Landry Parish Schools.

**4. Build leaders and good citizens through 4-H youth development.**

- Junior Leaders will work with National Guard and other military branches on the "Operation Military Kids" service learning project.
- 4-H Club members will become aware of, and how to take a stand against, bullying through a series of educational lessons presented at club meetings.

**5. Strengthen families and communities**

- St. Landry residents will be given the information they need to shop wisely, live and eat well on a budget, and increase their awareness of how life style changes, good nutrition and exercise can reduce the risk of obesity and improve health and well-being for youth and adults.
- Low income parents will receive training on practical parenting skills and money management.



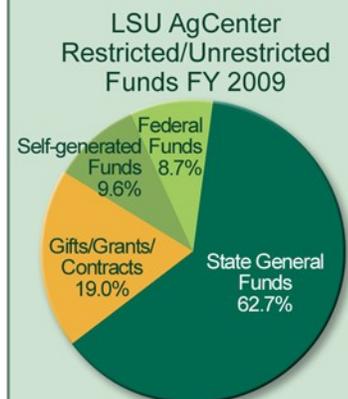
\*Local Funding  
 Parish Government  
 Parish School Board  
 Parish Sheriff Department

**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.



For the latest research-based information on just about anything, visit our Web site: [LSUAgCenter.com](http://LSUAgCenter.com)