

LSU AgCenter Webster Parish Profile

Report to Stakeholders November 2023



ABOUT THE LSU AGCENTER

The LSU AgCenter is dedicated to providing 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

Family and Consumer Sciences

Our FCS programs provide youth and adult nutrition education and community outreach to Webster Parish. The two main nutrition programs offered include the SNAP-Ed program and the Flavors of Health program. The SNAP-Ed program provides nutrition lessons and information to SNAP recipients free of charge. The Flavors of Health program focuses on general nutrition and health programs with a community focus that provides classes and workshops on a variety of topics that empower individuals and families to make healthy food and fitness choices.

4-H Youth Development

4-H Youth Webster Parish through experimental learning opportunities and role modeling of peers. The 2022-2023 club focus centered on STEM for fourth through six grades as it relates to agriculture, the environment, and career exploration and leadership for eighth through twelfth grades. Project clubs meet the needs of youth wishing to expand their work in specific areas, including shooting sports, livestock, and Jr. Leaders. 4-H youth are engaged in livestock programming, including beef, lamb, swine, goats, poultry, dairy, rabbits, and horses.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

The Webster Parish Extension office provides citizens with a variety of services in Agriculture and Natural Resources. These include soil sampling through the LSU AgCenter Soil Laboratory, forage and hay sampling, and water sampling through the LSU AgCenter Chemistry Department. Staff of the Webster Parish Extension Office work closely with local commodity groups such as the Webster Parish Cattlemen's Association, and governmental organizations such as USDA, NRCS, USDA Farm Service Agency, and the Webster Parish Farm Bureau Federation to increase knowledge and assist area stakeholders through a wide variety of educational opportunities.

EXTENSION OFFICE

1202 Homer Road

Minden, LA 71055

Phone: 318-371-1371

Fax: 318-371-9005

Email:

webster@agcenter.lsu.edu

Office Hours:

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

Website: www.LSUAgCenter.com

www.LSUAgCenter.com/Webster

Parish Chair:

Shakera Williams, MPH

sswilliams@agcenter.lsu.edu

Additional Contact:

Nyphette Harris

Administrative Coordinator

nharris@agcenter.lsu.edu

PROGRAMS

4-H and Youth Development.

Laynie Arceneaux-Smith (4-H Agent)

LArceneaux@agcenter.lsu.edu

Agriculture and Natural Resources

John Monzingo (County Agent)

JMonzingo@agcenter.lsu.edu

- Animal Production
- Beef Cattle
- Environment/Watersheds



- Horticulture/Lawn and Garden
- Pest Management
- Master Gardener Classes
- Lunch Learns Educational Series

Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS)

LaDonna Chreene (SNAP Educator 2)

lchreene@agcenter.lsu.edu

Shakera Williams, MPH (Nutrition Extension Agent- General & SNAP-Ed)

sswilliams@agcenter.lsu.edu

Nutrition Programs

- SNAP-Ed
- Flavors of Health

WHOM WE REACH:

333 4-H members at (15 school 4-H Clubs) approximately 3,000 individuals through Family and Consumer Sciences & Ag and Natural Resources programs.

HOW WE REACH THEM:

4-H Clubs, school enrichment, field days, publications, newsletters, class series, website, social media, and workshops.

EXPANDING OUR EFFORTS:

150 volunteers from 4-H, Master Gardeners, Master Horseman, family, and consumer sciences.

PARISH FACTS:

LSU AgCenter county agents provide research-based information on plant, aquaculture, wildlife, and animal enterprises to Webster Parish residents. The total dollar amount from these commodities were: Agriculture numbers as of 2020: Total Plant enterprises: \$29,907,444, Fisheries and Wildlife: \$3,511,897, Animal enterprises (livestock): \$39,187,397, Total of ALL agriculture enterprises: \$72,606,738.

Webster Parish is 393,000 acres.

Land area — 593.03 square miles; Population — 35,643; Population under 18 years old — 22.5%; Population 65 years old and over — 20.7%; Median household income — \$31,197; Persons in poverty — 24.0%.

LOCAL ISSUES AND PLANS FOR THIS YEAR:

Increase productivity and profitability of Louisiana agriculture.

- Insect identification and control; Weed identification and control.
- Varieties of ornamental, vegetables, turf grasses, and fruit and nut production that thrive in Louisiana.
- Types of irrigation
- Proper way to prune trees and plants.
- Organic gardening
- Understanding soil samples and fertilization

Promote the wide use of natural resources and protection of the environment.

- Conduct home visits
- Write news articles and utilize different social media to educate individuals.
- Share upcoming educational events from different regions of Louisiana.
- Offer Lunch Learns Educational Series

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

- Develop and implement service-learning projects throughout the parish.
- Opportunities for all youth and adult volunteers are provided throughout the year, including summer and specialty camps, contests, scholarships, and community service. As determined by the parish 4-H Advisory, 4-H Club lessons reflected on the needs of the youth of Webster Parish.

Strengthen families and communities.

- Businesses will receive support and special programming from the AgCenter nutrition agent and educator.
- SNAP-Ed audiences have access to educational lessons and materials on the following topics: nutrition and wellness, diet and health, food purchasing, food dollar management, food safety, and gardening.
- Flavors of Health clientele will also receive information and nutrition classes on cooking skills, grocery shopping strategies, small goal setting, healthy habit development, exercise and physical activity guidance, weight management, and diet-disease links.



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.
Family and Consumer Sciences.



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

www.LSUAgCenter.com