

# Jefferson Davis Parish Profile



Report to Stakeholders

August 2013

## 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, Nutrition and Health

The LSU AgCenter focuses on strengthening families and citizens through nutrition and health educational programs. By providing the latest LSU AgCenter research findings, it creates healthier eating habits, combats childhood obesity and provides effective lifestyle instruction to prevent and/or manage physiological diseases such as diabetes. The Family Nutrition Program teaches nutrition and health programs to Head Start children and parents, Council on Aging members, OFS and OCS clients. The LSU AgCenter maintains a partnership in education with the LVFC (Louisiana Volunteers for Family and Community). Cooperative efforts focus on Health, Family Life, Environment, Literacy, and International Understanding.

### 4-H Youth Development

"LEARN BY DOING" is the premise of the Jeff Davis Parish 4-H Program. In Jeff Davis Parish, 4-H is a vital part of the educational process with active clubs in all parish public and parochial schools, reaching 919 youth in the fourth through 12th grades. The parish is concentrating on initiatives that include Workforce Preparation, Character Education, Leadership and Community Service-Learning based on the Mission Mandates: Science, Engineering and Technology.

Clover Buds is a program in our parish reaching 80 youth this year in grades Kindergarten through third. The program introduces youth to 4-H and the hands-on learning process. Teen Leadership is a major program for the parish. The parish teen leader club has 105 members; the club focus is service-learning and making a civic impact. This year, they reached over 1,000 youth in their effort to teach the importance of distracted driving. Sixty-two teens attended 4-H University; 48 were Blue Ribbon winners and seven were state winners. One Jeff Davis youth is working in a leadership position on the state level. The purpose of the Jeff Davis 4-H Outdoor Skills Club, our fastest-growing program, is to teach youth firearm and archery equipment safety, sportsmanship and marksmanship. Over 130 youth and 25 Level I Certified Instructors with many parent volunteers participate in the program. This year, we had two youth represent our parish and state at the National Shooting Sport Contest in Shotgun.

Parish 4-H Statistics: 21 organized clubs with 35 organizational leaders and 919 4-H members; 150 youth participated in Youth Wetlands Week; 160 youth attended 4-H summer camp; 150 youth participated in the livestock program; 328 volunteers are active in our program. Youth participating in service-learning project reported a new 4-H contest this year will be Fall Fest Day. The parish is implementing educational workshops throughout the school year to engage more youth on specific topic areas such as bicycle safety, driving safety, clothing, science and many more. The parish is also working to improve our youth leadership program by adding new awards to the best officer teams in each club grade level. 225 youth in grades 9-12 completed a 4-H Leadership Evaluation. The youths indicated that their leadership experiences through the 4-H program are equal to their leadership experience in non-4-H programs; 84% indicated that their work as a 4-H teen leader makes a difference. Jeff Davis Parish 4-H is a vital part of the educational process for all the youth we serve in all parish and private schools.

### Agriculture & Natural Resources

Agricultural production is the largest economic generator in Jeff Davis Parish. Profitability in agriculture has become more difficult to achieve due to increased cost of production, greater pest pressure and increased regulatory requirements. In order to help producers achieve fiscally and environmentally efficient production, the LSU AgCenter presents the latest research-based recommendations through electronic newsletters, news articles, result demonstrations, farm research plots, field days, educational clinics, mass media and farm visits. Emphasis is in the major commodities of rice, soybean, sugarcane, grain, commercial turf and cattle production. Consumer horticulture (gardens, ornamentals and turf) is another major educational area.

## Jefferson Davis Parish Extension Office

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**Who we reach:**

911 4-H'ers enrolled in 24 clubs  
 289 4-H youth and adult volunteers  
 324 Agricultural producers  
 4,000 Home gardeners  
 400 Nutrition (FNP) clients  
 40 LVFC volunteers

**How we reach them:**

4-H Clubs	Class series
School enrichment	Project clubs
Demonstrations	Field days
Workshops	Newsletters
Websites	Publications
On-farm research	Commodity schools

**Expanding our efforts:**

1,180 youth took part in Smart Bodies  
 430 youth took part in Youth Wetlands Week  
 90 youth attended summer camp.  
 500 ag. producers participated in ed. programs  
 154 private pesticide applicators certified

**Parish Facts**

LSU AgCenter agents provide research-based information to Jefferson Davis Parish clientele. The top agricultural commodities in the parish are: **Rice** – 80,000 acres, **soybeans** – 31,000 acres, **crawfish** – 21,000 acres, **sugarcane** – 31,100 acres, **hay** – 39,000 acres, **turf** – 850 acres and **beef cattle** – 15,200 head.

The total value of agricultural commodities exceeds **\$143,000,000**.

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

Population – 31,042  
 Land area (square miles) – 652.5  
 Persons under 18 years old – 26.2%  
 Persons 65 years old and over – 14.8%

**Local Issues & Plans for this year.**

**Family and Consumer Science**

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

- provide guidelines to assist clientele in proper nutrition and healthy eating habits
- provide diverse classes in nutrition and healthy eating habits
- make available EFNEP programming for low-income clientele
- make clients aware of educational programs available through the LSU AgCenter

**4-H Youth Development**

**2. Building leaders and citizens through 4-H youth development**

- develop and implement volunteer leadership specifically in the areas of livestock and outdoor skills
- expand the 4-H Clover Buds program throughout the parish to reach more youth
- continue to increase the service-learning project work with an environmental focus with our Team Leadership Program
- expand programming in the 4-H mission mandate of Science, Engineering and Technology, specifically in the areas of photography and robotics
- continue the success of our Teen Leadership program, livestock program, project clubs, 4-H Club program and school enrichment efforts

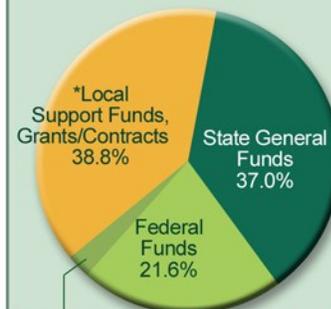
**Ag and Natural Resources**

**3. Increase profitability in agriculture**

- conduct result demonstrations in rice, soybean, beef, small grain and commercial turf production
- conduct commodity schools and field days for rice and soybeans
- use mass media, personal contacts, farm visits and electronic media to inform producers
- use multiple methods to inform home gardeners on effective and environmentally sound practices for consumer horticulture production.



**Extension Funding FY 2013**



\*2013 Local support goal - 20% of salaries and benefits

\*Local Funding Ad Valorem property tax administered through the Jeff Davis Parish Police Jury

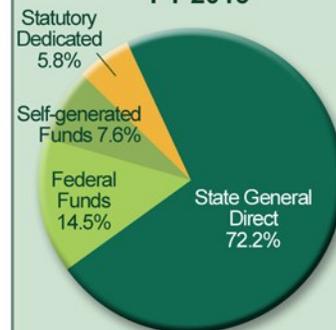
**How we are funded.**

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 and health to enhance the quality of life for Louisiana citizens.

**LSU AgCenter State Appropriated Funds FY 2013**



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

**LSUAgCenter.com**