

Morehouse Parish Profile

Report to Stakeholders December 2019



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

LSU AgCenter Healthy Communities Program

Morehouse Parish is one of seven parishes selected to participate in a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention grant aimed at reducing obesity and chronic diseases. Partner institutions working with the LSU AgCenter include the Southern University AgCenter and the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals. The Healthy Communities project will work to improve the nutrition and physical activity environment by implementing policy, system and environmental change strategies using a community-driven approach. Morehouse Healthy Communities Coalition has held 2 coalition meetings this fall. There was a total of 49 community members attended the meetings. During the meetings participants were introduced to the Healthy Communities project, participated in a modified SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, and Threats) and were asked to grade the overall health of the adults and children of Morehouse Parish.

4-H Youth Development

The Morehouse Parish 4-H Youth Development program strives to create a sense of belonging with the youth in Morehouse Parish. The following strategies are utilized to build a sense of belonging among club members, their peers, and adult volunteers. 4-H Members can also choose to be a part of afterschool clubs like Horse Club, Shooting Sports, and Junior Leaders; or, they can show livestock during the District Livestock Show and State Livestock Shows. Youth are also being reached by many different school enrichment activities. Kindergarten through 3rd grade students are learning the importance of character counts through Aesop's Fables and interactions with farm animals. Agricultural enrichment is being taught to Agricultural students at Beekman Charter School and the L.Y.F.E. program is also being used with financial math classes at Beekman Charter School.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Morehouse Parish currently has over 180,000 acres in crop production. Crops, such as corn and cotton, have increased over the last few years with soybean production declining. Demonstration variety plots of corn, cotton, soybean and rice were conducted. A Rice Verification program on Row Rice was conducted to demonstrate the costs and feasibility of growing rice on rows with furrow irrigation. An on-farm demonstration with a special emphasis on finding the best resistant soybean varieties against Southern Root-Knot nematode was conducted in 2019. Producers use this information to determine which management practices with benefit their farming operations.



Morehouse Parish Extension Office

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Programs

4-H and Youth Development

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Animal Production
- Beef Cattle
- Environment/Watersheds
- Horticulture/Lawn and Garden
- Pest Management
- Row Crop Production
- Sweet Potatoes

Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS)

- Parents Preparing for Success
- Family Resource Management
- FNP-Family Nutrition Program
- Nutrition and Health

Agriculture and Natural Resources (continued)

The Morehouse Black Farmers and Landowners Association, LSU AgCenter and SU AgCenter partner with over 20 sponsors and 20 volunteers to host the Annual Field Day. The annual field day is held in July which usually draws 300 participant and presenter from Southern University AgCenter, LSU AgCenter and the agricultural industry.

Whom we reach:

850 youth (includes 150 4-H members and 4 school 4-H Clubs, 600 Clover bud members, 100 students in classroom enrichment programs)

How we reach them:

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

Expanding our efforts:

65 volunteers from 4-H, 48 volunteers from Agriculture and Natural Resources

Parish Facts:

LSU AgCenter county agents provide research-based information on plant, wildlife and animal enterprises to Morehouse residents. The total dollar amount from these commodities were: Animal enterprises, \$4,820,642; aquaculture and wildlife, \$575,250; plant enterprises, \$159,778,747.

Land area — 794.25 square miles; Population — 25,398; Population under 18 years old — 24.2%; Population 65 years old and over — 18.8%; Median household income — \$31,672; Persons below poverty — 28.0%

Local issues and plans for this year

Increase productivity and profitability of Louisiana agriculture.

- Conduct on-farm Corn, Cotton and Soybean variety trials.
- Conduct on-farm irrigation technology demonstrations.
- Write news column, webpage content and seminars on agriculture practices.
- Conduct farm and home educational visits.

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

- Educate producers on current disposal of pesticide containers and waste.
- Educate producers on Best Management Practices and Integrated Pest Management.

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

- Provide opportunities for youth to participate in educational workshops.
- Focus on character education in school enrichment programs
- Develop and implement community service and service-learning projects throughout the parish
- Provide opportunity for youth to participate in the Shooting Sports program, Horse Club, and Junior Leader Club

Strengthen families and communities

- Morehouse Parish Healthy communities coalition is working together to enhance the food system to increase access to healthier foods by developing community gardens, farmer's markets, etc.
- Morehouse Parish Healthy communities coalition is working together to enhance the physical activity environment by working with partners to connect sidewalks, paths, bicycle routes, public transit with homes, early care, and education, schools, worksites, parks, or recreation centers through implementing master plans and land use interventions.

How we are funded

You are the local supporters and beneficiaries in the LSU AgCenter extension programs. Just 20% support keeps these programs in your community.

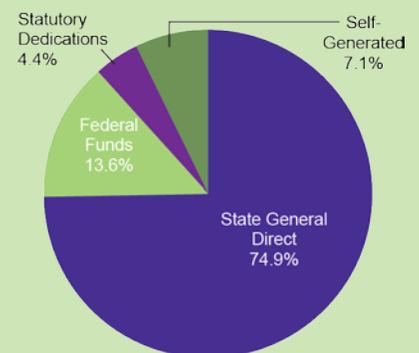
Your parish extension office offers programs in:

Sustaining Louisiana 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's citizens.

LSU AgCenter State Appropriated Funds FY 2019-2020



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

LSUAgCenter.com