

# Plaquemines Parish Profile



Report to Stakeholders

February 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

### 4-H Youth Development

Coastal restoration is still a very important issue in Plaquemines Parish. Through the community service learning project: Project Rebuild Plaquemines, over 250 youth have participated in tree planting projects to help rebuild our coast and forest wetlands. 2,500 youth and volunteers participated in the Youth Wetland Week project. Participants received instruction on wetlands and participated in hands on



activities that helped to increase awareness about the importance out wetlands are to our parish and state. Conoco Phillips Refinery donated \$7,000.00 for a greenhouse at a school in lower Plaquemines. The Crescent River Boat Pilot Association and the Bar Pilots have partnered with 4-H in their efforts to rebuild our fragile coast. The Venice Port authority donated \$7,500.00 to Plaquemines Parish 4-H that will assist them in educational programs and providing youth the opportunity to participate in educational camps. AT&T donated \$1,000.00 to the 4-H Program. This was used to present a Science Day Camp for youth.



### Agriculture & Natural Resources

Plaquemines Parish is traditionally being the heart of Louisiana's citrus industry. Annually the combined value of the commercial fruit and nursery industry is over \$6 million dollars. Recently, two new invasive species; the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) and the Diaprepes Weevil were identified for the first time in Louisiana. Both insects have the potential to ruin the industry and do untold economic loss. A comprehensive effort was made with USDA, La. Dept. of Ag and Forestry, State LCES Entomologists and other national experts to identify problems, develop Best Management Practices (BMP) and establish parish protocol. As a result 3 parishwide pesticide sprays were organized and resulting in 500 acres of commercial groves were protected. Hobby citrus growers were identified and encouraged to participate in a parish funded pesticide treatment program. LCES involvement has been credited with responsibility of keeping damages to a limited problem.



Sea Grant Marine Advisory Agent provided leadership to the MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) on seafood issues. When completed, the Louisiana Crab Industry, and all of its products, will be the only Gulf of Mexico product so certified. By the year 2012, major retailers, such as Wal-Mart, will only carry MSC certified products, thus giving Louisiana clear market advantage for its crab products.

### FNP—Family Nutrition Program

Obesity continues to be a serious health issue in Plaquemines Parish. Through educational services provided by the Food and Nutrition Program of the LSU AgCenter, clientele receive instruction on making healthy food choices, planning healthy meals and snacks, budgeting groceries and other healthy living issues that will make the consumer able to make more educated choices. School children in pre-K – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade participate in the Organ Wise educational program. They learn about the digestive system and how to keep their bodies healthy and strong.

## Plaquemines Parish Extension Office

**Address:** 479 F. Edward Hebert Blvd.

Belle Chasse, LA 70037

**Phone:** 504-433-3664

**Fax:** 504-392-2448

**Email:**

plaquemines@agcenter.lsu.edu

**Web site:**

LSUAgCenter.com/plaquemines

**Office Hours:**

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

**Alan Vaughn**

County Agent

avaughn@agcenter.lsu.edu

**Twyla Herrington**

Assistant County Agent

(Fisheries) Sea Grant

therrington@agcenter.lsu.edu

**Jan Morgan**

4-H Agent/Parish Chairman

jmmorgan@agcenter.lsu.edu

**Janet Franicevich**

FNP Nutrition Educator

jfranicevich@agcenter.lsu.edu

**Jenny C. Simpson**

Administrative Coordinator III

4-H Program Assistant

jsimpson@agcenter.lsu.edu

## Programs

► **4-H and Youth Development**

► **Agriculture & Natural Resources (ANR)**

Fisheries/Coastal Issues

Animal Production

Beef Cattle

Horticulture/Lawns and

Gardens

Pest Management

Commercial Citrus, Nursery &

Vegetables

► **Family Nutrition Program**

Healthy Food Choices

Planning Healthy Meals

Budgeting Groceries

Organ Wise

**Who we reach.**

9,822 - Youth (includes 4-H members, junior leaders, project club member, enrichment and FNP clientele)  
 5,725 - Adults  
     5,500 Ag & Natural Resources  
     225 4-H & FNP

**How we reach them:**

4-H clubs	Class series
School Enrichment	Demonstrations
Workshops	News Articles
Newsletters	Web sites
Publications	Social media
TV	Radio

**Expanding our efforts:**

250 Volunteers -  
 4-H, Demonstration Gardeners,  
 Family & Community

**Parish Facts**

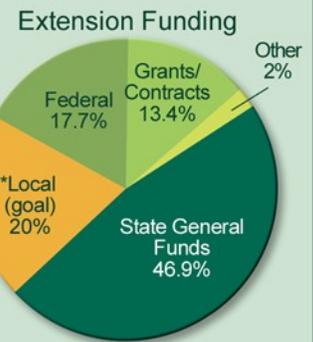
LSU AgCenter County Agents provide research-based information on plant, aquaculture, wildlife and animal enterprises to Plaquemines Parish clientele. The 2008 total dollar amount from these commodities were:

- Plant enterprises - \$12,586,040
- Aquaculture and wildlife - \$69,604,214
- Animal enterprises - \$2,429,682

**Data from the Louisiana Ag Summary**

**Web site: [LSUAgCenter.com/agsummary](http://LSUAgCenter.com/agsummary)**

Population - 23,042  
 Land area (square miles) - 844.56  
 Persons under 18 years old - 27.5%  
 Persons 65 years old and over - 11.2%  
 Median household income - \$54,730  
 Persons below poverty - 11.6%



*\*\*Local Funding  
 Parish Consolidated Government  
 Parish School Board*

**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.

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

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

- Conduct educational lectures for hobby citrus growers/horticulture/fishermen
- Conduct BMP lecture for commercial farmers
- Write news column, web page content, and seminars on agriculture practices
- Conduct farm and home educational visits



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

- Before and after hurricane disaster preparedness
- Organize and promote tree seedling plantings to parishioners with 7500 distributed last year
- Conducted coastal roots program with local schools
- Promote and distribute educational packets for 2000 youth for wetland week.
- Bait Fishery
- Alternative Shellfish Resources
- Fishery Gear Enhancement
- Ethnic Fishery Assistance
- Disaster Rebuilding Strategies

**3. Build strong leaders and good decision makers through 4-H youth development.**

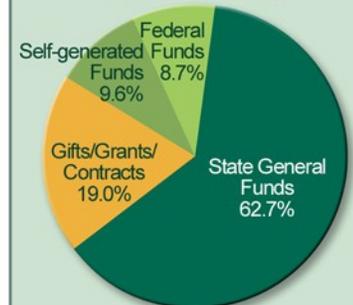
- Continue the rebuilding community service learning project throughout the parish.
- Increase awareness of the importance of making healthy food choices by providing opportunities for 4-H youth to participate in nutrition programs and projects.
- Develop and implement science activities for youth throughout the parish.



**4. Strengthen families and communities**

- FNP clients will receive training on feeding their families nutritionally on a budget
- Teach classes using the Organ-Wise Curriculum
- Train clients on making healthy food choices for their families

LSU AgCenter  
 Restricted/Unrestricted  
 Funds FY 2009



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