

Acadia Parish Profile



Report to Stakeholders

December 2016

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

Agriculture & Natural Resources — Agriculture is a major contributor to the economy in Acadia parish. In 2016 Acadia parish grew approximately 83,000 acres of rice, 28,000 acres of soybeans, 37,000 acres of crawfish and had almost 6,000 head of cattle. Agriculture producers play a key role in guiding the educational programs in the parish by serving on an advisory committee. They give input on production problems & ideas to researchers for future research. They identified maximizing yields as a top priority to keep producers in business during tough economic times. With the increase in production inputs, producers must maximize yields to increase profitability. Extension agents conduct educational programs & field days to give producers information needed to do this. Producers receive information on current varieties, environmental issues & marketing updates. Pesticide safety & environmental concerns are also identified as top priority at committee meetings and is incorporated in production meetings & field days. Agents hold two pesticide re-certifications. 150 producers & home gardeners learn pesticide safety, handling, disposal, & renewed private pesticide applicators cards.

Acadia Parish is diverse in the area of horticulture as fruits, vegetables & nursery crops make up a majority of horticulture landscape. Calls & home visits are made throughout the year concerning a wide area of horticulture related problems. The Acadia Parish LSU AgCenter offers educational seminars to the public, provide access to research-based educational material & provide access to LSU AgCenter specialists to address these areas of concern. In addition, school gardens were implemented by the Acadia Parish LSU AgCenter to incorporate the school's curriculum & allow it to serve as a teaching tool for students. Through the school garden program, students are involved with all phases of the school garden projects & allows for a great, alternative learning experience for students across the parish.

Family, Nutrition & Health— The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) is a community nutrition outreach program funded by the United States Department of Agriculture. The program seeks to educate limited resource audiences on how to eat healthy on a budget to reduce their risk of chronic disease & obesity. The primary audience is limited resources individuals who are: responsible for preparing family meals, have children under the age of 18 living in the home, pregnant, receiving free/reduced lunch, & between the ages of 5-18. EFNEP has four focus areas: diet quality & physical activity, food resource management, food safety, & food security. Paraprofessionals provide a series of food & physical activity lessons to clientele. Client education takes places at community sites including: head start centers, church halls, schools, extension centers, community colleges, & departments of public health.

4-H Youth & Family Development — Acadia Parish has 1,193 youth enrolled in 29 traditional clubs. The youth development program focuses on leadership development for youth /adults, volunteer management, & enriching the lives of these youth through age appropriate competitions, project workshops, community service, activities, livestock programs, overnight camps, outdoors skills training, & identifying the knowledge, skills & competences essential to conducting 4-H youth development. Our program focuses on developing healthy living that encourages a balanced lifestyle. We incorporate hands-on learning activities/projects through schools, camps, & 4-H clubs as educational tools. Our focus areas are nutrition, health/fitness, & food science. After offering 8+ hours of healthy living education, surveys are conducted from participants ages 7-16 years old. The findings were reported in September 2016 in a survey titled "2015-2016 Walmart 4-7". The major findings were 89% or above agree/strongly agree that they learned the foods that they should eat every day, what makes up a balanced diet, why it is important to eat a healthy diet, & how to make healthy food choices. 93% or above agree that being active is fun & physical activity will help them stay fit. These findings show that 8+ hours of fun education can make a difference & facilitate lifestyle changes of living a balanced lifestyle.

Acadia Parish Extension Office

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Programs.....

- **4-H Youth Development**

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- **Agriculture & Natural Resources (ANR)**
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- **Family, Nutrition & Health**

Family & Consumer Sciences
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Who we reach.

2645 - Youth (includes 1,193 4-H members & 29 school 4-H clubs); Youth Wetlands Week-833 youth; Shooting Sports Program-118 participants; Youth Volunteers-57; Adult Volunteers-444.
 15,500 - Adults
 7,500 Ag & Natural Resources
 8,000 Family Consumer Sciences

How we reach them:

4-H clubs	Class series
School Enrichment	Demonstrations
Field days	Workshops
Newspaper Articles	Websites
Publications	Social media
Email Updates	Radio Programs

Parish Facts

LSU AgCenter County Agents provide research-based information on plant, aquaculture, wildlife and animal enterprises to Acadia Parish clientele. The 2016 total dollar amount from these commodities were:
 —Plant enterprises - \$84,100,797
 —Aquaculture and wildlife - \$34,296,834
 —Animal enterprises - \$10,242,812

Data from the Louisiana Ag Summary
Web site: LSUAgCenter.com/agsummary

Population - 62,500
 Land area (square miles) - 655.12
 Persons under 18 years old - 26.7%
 Persons 65 years old and over - 13.8%
 Median household income - \$37,649
 Persons below poverty - 23.7%

Local Issues & Plans for this year.

1. Increase productivity and profitability of Louisiana Agriculture.

- ◆ Rice & Soybean Production Day
- ◆ Rice & Soybean Field Day
- ◆ News column, radio programs for the public.
- ◆ Email updates and newsletters
- ◆ Farm and home educational visits.

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

- ◆ Provide news releases, updates and training dates of the Louisiana Master Farmer program.
- ◆ Provide educational seminars of the benefits of cover crops in agricultural production.
- ◆ Provide educational seminars and trainings in the area of pesticide safety.

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

- ◆ Enhance the existing volunteer development program to include additional resources and incentives.
- ◆ Marketing Extension programs.

4. Strengthen families and communities

- ◆ Social Media Safety/Etiquette
- ◆ Workforce Readiness
- ◆ Time Management

Extension Funding FY 2016



● *2016 Local support goal - 20% of salaries and benefits

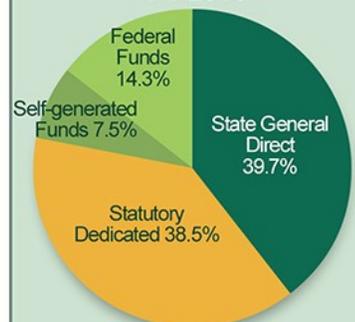
How we are funded.

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 2016



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