



THE LSU AGCENTER

provides services to help farmers, home gardeners and others identify pests, soil pH and nutrient imbalances, and other problems that affect plant health.

THE PLANT DIAGNOSTIC CENTER something of a doctor's office for sick plants



During 2019, the center analyzed 822 physical samples and 217 images of plant problems that were submitted digitally.

THE SOIL TESTING AND PLANT ANALYSIS LAB

tested during 2019:



19,975 soil samples



8,645 plant samples



161 water samples

People can submit samples using mail-in kits available at AgCenter offices, hardware stores and garden centers throughout Louisiana.

SOIL KIT

THE NEMATODE ADVISORY SERVICE

processed during 2019:



1,206 soil samples

This laboratory can confirm the presence and type of nematodes, or roundworms, in soil. This information is critical to implementing the correct control measures and preventing further damage to crops.

International Year OF PLANT HEALTH



Plant Pathology

Many different diseases attack plants, and it can sometimes be difficult to pinpoint which one is the culprit. AgCenter plant doctor Raj Singh oversees the Plant Diagnostic Center, where he helps farmers and home gardeners alike identify pest problems and solutions.



Entomology

Pollinators play a major role in keeping plants healthy. AgCenter entomologist Kristen Healy and forage researchers Wink Alison, Buddy Pitman and Kun-Jun Han are studying ways that farmers and ranchers can help with efforts to improve habitats for bees and other pollinators.



Plant Breeding

One of the best ways to combat pest infestations is through genetic resistance. AgCenter scientists who breed new varieties of rice, sugarcane and sweet potatoes look for traits that make these crops resistant to insect pests and diseases.



Soil Science

Healthy soil helps make healthy plants. AgCenter soil scientists Lisa Fultz and Brenda Tubaña are working on a project funded by the Patrick F. Taylor Foundation that examines how to optimize fertilizer use to reduce runoff and costs while still giving crops the nutrients they need to thrive.



Weed Science

Weeds compete with crops for nutrients, water and space. AgCenter weed scientists help farmers find strategies for controlling these undesirable plants, from using herbicides to implementing cultural practices that discourage weed growth.



Technology

Gadgets and the data they collect are an increasingly important part of modern agriculture. AgCenter experts are studying how to harness the power of technology and "big data" to grow healthier crops.