

2020

LOUISIANA

4-H [ANNUAL] REPORT



4 YOUR INFORMATION

HOW YOUTHS PARTICIPATE

188,302

school enrichment

45,882

school/community clubs

8,215

camping experiences

DEMOGRAPHICS

GENDER

48% male



female 52%

GRADE

23% K-3rd 47% 4th-6th 18% 7th-8th 12% 9th-12th

ETHNICITY & RACE

63% Caucasian 3% Hispanic 31% Black 3% Other

PROGRAM



75,590
STEM



19,238
Citizenship / Leadership



13,400
Healthy Living

VOLUNTEERS

6,588 — Adults

2,163 — Youth

8,751 — TOTAL



Data from the annual USDA/NIFA ES-237 Report and the Positive Youth Development Study



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in each region.
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SHOOTING SPORTS MAKE HISTORY.



Grace Oliver, of Jackson Parish, represents Louisiana in sighted recurve archery at the 2019 4-H Shooting Sports National Championship.



Carter Royston, of Lafayette Parish, competes in shotgun.



In 2019, for the first time, Team Louisiana took home the highest award at the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championship, the championship sweepstakes.

More than 100 youth, parents, coaches and volunteers from 21 Louisiana parishes traveled to Grand Island, Nebraska, to compete with over 600 other 4-H'ers from 36 states.

Clockwise, from top left: From left, Noah Edmonds, Coralie Deloach, Anna Claire Nadler, and Erin Wilkinson; Team Louisiana first place overall in smallbore rifle. Louisiana shooting sports ambassadors Katheryn Buffington and Alexis Bearden. Jessica Domangue, Calvin Domange, Dustin Martin, Yumi Domangue and Samuel Parker; Team Louisiana first place overall in air rifle. Justin Schexnaydre, Kal Wilson, Carter Royston, Thomas Singleton; Team Louisiana third place overall in shotgun.

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Team Louisiana also placed first in the air pistol, air rifle, archery recurve and smallbore rifle disciplines. Also, three Louisiana 4-H members placed first in their individual events: A.J. Ward, of Lincoln Parish, in archery recurve; Kal Wilson, of Terrebonne Parish, in shotgun; and Erin Wilkinson, of LaSalle Parish, in smallbore rifle.

LSU AgCenter 4-H Shooting Sports coach David Boldt said the team trains for months to prepare for the fierce contest.

"It's a mental grind because the event is four days long," he said. "It takes a lot of discipline and determination to compete and be successful at this level. Our competitors put in a lot of effort before they got to Nebraska. Everything clicked this year."

Team Louisiana has been competing at the national level for 20 years. Shooting sports includes nine disciplines — compound archery, recurve archery, air rifle, air pistol, .22-caliber rifle, .22-caliber pistol, shotgun, muzzle-loading guns and hunting skills.

These 4-H shooting sports competitors advanced to nationals after placing well at the regional and state levels.



Reed Bearden, of Bossier Parish, competes in compound archery.



Above: Justin Schexnaydre, of Ascension Parish, competes in shotgun. **Left:** Team Louisiana, 2019 National 4-H Shooting Sports champions.

Chicken Salad for the Soul: A 4-H Mentor for Life

Great mentors play an important role in helping new 4-H agents get positive starts in their jobs. The Louisiana 4-H Youth Development Mentor Program is designed to provide a professional, educational and personal support system for new 4-H professionals.

In January 2016, Karen Shirley, Winn Parish 4-H agent, was called upon to serve as a mentor to Kayla McGuire, newly hired Jackson Parish 4-H agent.

Some of their earliest mentoring sessions involved meeting for “chicken salad Thursdays” at a restaurant in Winn Parish. As their relationship evolved, so did those meetings. When Karen and Kayla are planning events or need to vent, they still make it a point to schedule “chicken salad Thursday.” Last spring, Kayla’s family dealt with a sudden tragedy when two major tornadoes hit their area. Kayla felt like her life was falling apart and the 4-H program was spinning out of control. Then, Kayla said, “Karen showed up at my office with a container of chicken salad and crackers.”

Little did Karen and Kayla know that from that first meeting, their relationship would provide support beyond the job and would go on to last a lifetime. Kayla is sharing her wealth of mentorship knowledge as she begins to mentor one of the newest 4-H faculty members in Webster Parish, Laynie Arceneaux.

Kayla and Karen talked recently about their relationship.

What benefits did you get from mentoring?

Karen: The benefits are too numerous to mention. In extension, we always say, “We are family.” I know her entire family, and she knows mine. I learned to appreciate a different perspective, a younger perspective. Even though both of our parishes are rural, they are different. We do things together, but our youth and volunteers are not all the same.

Kayla: The biggest thing I received from my mentoring relationship is having constant support from someone who is willing to invest in me. As a mentor, Karen has provided truth and trust. I am especially grateful because a lack of these valuable relationship traits can cause mentor/protege relationships to fail. She has a gentle way of pointing me back in the right direction when I slip off course.

How has your mentoring relationship affected your work?

Karen: Not only have I been impacted from this mentoring relationship, but the entire Northwest Region has benefited from the relationship of having Kayla as a coworker; she brought a wealth of knowledge and contacts with her. She is always willing

to share her knowledge and expertise with others. Recently, I sent her a text about her newsletter she had posted on Facebook, “That was a really great newsletter!” The next thing I knew, she had sent me a copy in case we wanted to use it. Her audiovisual skills are second to none. Since our parishes connect, Winn and Jackson, we are continually planning joint events for our Junior Leaders or for other age groups.

Kayla: I believe that the mentoring relationship that Karen and I have has strengthened both of our 4-H programs. There are so many activities that we work on together from camps, grants and now our Junior Leaders.

What else is important about your mentoring relationship?

Karen: Even though the formal mentoring process is over, Kayla knows I am still her encourager, her biggest supporter. We all need someone in our lives to build us up, to tell us we are doing a good job.

Kayla: Looking back, I’ve realized that Karen was doing what a good mentor does. She throws you a life preserver when you are sinking and pulls you in the boat, and sometimes she rows for you when you cannot.

Kayla McGuire and her mentor, Karen Shirley, learn how to inspire youth during the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents Conference.



LOUISIANA C

Louisiana 4-H strives to meet the needs of all youth, and for the youngest 4-H'ers, Cloverbuds is a developmentally appropriate program that serves children in kindergarten through third grade, creating experiences that meet the individual needs of younger children.

Participation in 4-H as a Cloverbud is not intended to be a "mini-4-H" experience, but rather a special membership category focused on team building, cooperation and noncompetitive activity.

At the suggestion of her parish superintendent, Evangeline Parish 4-H agent Kim Deville enrolled every third grade student in Cloverbuds, where she provided a series of six wetlands lessons for youth to learn about the scientific method and

to help them understand the value of Louisiana's coast.

"I like that Cloverbuds is education-based and allows youth to learn about science and 4-H at the same time," Deville said.

Deville has observed that youth in the 4-H Cloverbuds

program are more likely to join traditional 4-H clubs in her parish as they get older.

Sabine Parish 4-H agent Nan Arthur has also experienced success with the Cloverbuds curriculum. A longtime parish volunteer and a former 4-H volunteer parent started a Cloverbud program with the support of the parish extension agents. The Sabine 4-H Cloverbud Club meets monthly, averaging 70 youth and their parents.

Each meeting features an interactive



educational lesson. One of the Cloverbuds' favorite club meetings is in February, when a Mardi Gras krewe member from a local organization teaches a lesson on the history of Mardi Gras, and the participants design a Mardi Gras mask and enjoy king cake. In Sabine Parish, Cloverbud members typically join 4-H clubs when they reach fourth grade because of their prior experiences with the Cloverbuds program.

In 2018, 4-H agents in seven parishes collaborated to teach agriculture awareness lessons to approximately 650 Cloverbud youth.

During the 2019-2020 school year, Louisiana 4-H is expanding its 4-H Cloverbuds reach by conducting social emotional development lessons in 20 parishes across the state. Each parish agent has been asked to find a school or after-school audience and to teach the children the importance of celebrating individuality, practicing manners, using decision-making skills, dealing with disappointment, understanding disability and being sensitive to diversity.

The overall objective is to foster acceptance of all people while acknowledging our differences. This program is estimated to reach 1,000 Cloverbuds in its pilot year.

FOCUS YOUNG

Allen Parish 4-H agent Brooke Lafargue conducts a lesson on manners with third graders.

4 YOUR INFO

According to the National 4-H Council, the overall purpose of the 4-H Cloverbuds program is to foster the development of life skills that are essential for the cognitive, social, emotional and physical maturation of children. Cloverbuds provides greater participation opportunities, fosters volunteerism and introduces 4-H to families at an earlier age.

LOVERBUDS

USES ON THE
NGEST 4-H'ERS.



GEAUXING INTO BUSINESS



East Baton Rouge 4-H'er Sarah Israel holds one of the roosters she shows at livestock shows. Sarah recently completed the first Young Entrepreneurs Academy Baton Rouge program, where she received \$800 in seed money to start her first business. Photo by Johnny Morgan/LSU AgCenter.



One of the state's newest businesses is not owned by a major corporation. It's owned by a 10th grade student from East Baton Rouge Parish.

Triple S Show Supplies owner Sarah Israel, a 4-H member, was in the inaugural class of the Young Entrepreneurs Academy program in Baton Rouge at Louisiana State University, a yearlong educational program that prepares young people to own businesses.

"My goal is to sell my bags online as well as in local Tractor Supply and co-op stores," Israel said. "My ultimate goal is to have a booth at the LSU AgCenter district and state livestock shows."

During the course, the students took field trips to various businesses to learn about

prototypes, business models and marketing. The YEA program concluded with a pitch night, where Israel received \$800 in seed money to support her efforts to get her business up and running.

As a new 4-H livestock exhibitor, Israel quickly discovered that it was challenging to hold her poultry and rabbit projects while juggling her grooming equipment and medical supplies. Israel designed a solution to the problem — a show bag that holds the items needed to be successful in competitively showing poultry and rabbits.

Israel and other 4-H members from across Louisiana had the opportunity to sharpen their business skills and compete in the

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Above: Sarah Hammonds performs a hive inspection. **Left:** Hammonds discusses honeybees with visitors at the Benton Farmers Market in Bossier Parish.

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Tiger Tank Entrepreneurship Challenge at 4-H University in June 2019. Louisiana 4-H hunted for innovative students to pitch businesses. Contestants were tasked with creating a product or service-based business or idea, writing a business plan and pitching the idea to the "Tigers," a panel of successful entrepreneurs.

"4-H members have a tremendous opportunity to turn their 4-H project work into real businesses. It's a mindset shift," said Christina Hebert, Louisiana 4-H college and career readiness specialist. "Developing an entrepreneurial mindset will empower students to be resourceful and solution-driven as they prepare to enter the workforce."

Bossier Parish 4-H alumna Sarah Hammonds received the top honor at the Tiger Tank challenge, a \$1,000 cash award to support the expansion of her business. Hammonds is a first-generation beekeeper who has spent the past seven years working with honeybees and providing educational services to students and community organizations in her community through her business, Hammonds' Heavenly Honey.



"Youth can gain so much more from creating a business than just earning money to buy the latest video game. They gain a sense of wonder and accomplishment through getting to see what they have built and helped grow and flourish," Hammonds said. "I fully encourage youth to experiment with entrepreneurship. It is a very exciting and fun experience."

Hammonds plans to expand her existing beekeeping operation, so she can grow sales of all-natural wildflower liquid and creamed honey. Hammonds' Heavenly Honey is currently a cottage business, based out of a home with beehives maintained on the property. Product distribution currently occurs through local farmers markets and at community events in Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas. Over the long term, Hammonds plans to expand

her product line to include lip balms, candles, pollen and cut comb honey.

The Tiger Tank Entrepreneurship Challenge offers 4-H members an opportunity to apply their strengths, talents and abilities to design innovative business ventures. In the process of designing their businesses, students will sharpen their time management skills, financial management skills, communication skills, problem-solving abilities, critical thinking skills, perseverance and confidence.

"Whether you are starting completely new or are expanding your business, it is a very big step forward and can be daunting," Hammonds said. "It takes a lot of determination and perseverance to take the next step, and this is what Tiger Tank was for me."

#blessed

A Box Full of Blessings

Garrett Sanders, a senior at Hammond High Magnet School, spends much of his time on 4-H service and leadership projects. As part of a long-term service project with 4-H, Sanders has partnered with city officials to create "Blessing Boxes" that encourage community members to put items in the box that they wish to donate — or to take items if they are in need.

He is helping his community one blessing at a time.

"So, if you walk by and you need some vienna sausage to eat you can take it," Sanders said. "But if you are a little more privileged than some and you walk by and see other people need something, you can drop something in there."

4 YOUR INFO

4-H members are four times more likely to give back to their communities.

The boxes were created to hold personal hygiene items as well as nonperishable food to help individuals in need. Printed on the front of each box is an admonition: "Take what you need, leave what you can."

With the help of his parents, two Blessing Boxes have been built. One is located outside the courthouse in Hammond and one at the city recreation center.

"It just makes a great impact on the community. Some people can't

afford to eat. They don't know where their next meal is coming from," Sanders said. "This just kind of reassures them that they do have something to eat tonight."

Sanders frequently checks the boxes to make sure that they are stocked. His mom helps him with shopping and re-stocking. The cost is around \$50 to fill a box.

Sanders welcomes donations for building the boxes. Each box costs \$150 to build. He is always looking for businesses, organizations or individuals who are interested in sponsoring a box. Currently, he has a cooperative endeavor with the city of Hammond, but his vision is to see the boxes around the state. While Sanders checks the boxes to make sure they are filled, the community is encouraged to help as well.



Livestock exhibitors geaux for the green



Many livestock exhibitors dream of getting the opportunity to show on the iconic green shavings that cover the floor of Freedom Hall in Louisville, Kentucky. The LSU AgCenter can turn those dreams into reality.

Every year since 1974, Louisiana 4-H members have exhibited livestock at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Kentucky. Over those 45 years, hundreds of Louisiana youth have been given the unique opportunity of attending the largest purebred livestock show in North America through the LSU AgCenter's beef and sheep educational award trip.

Livestock exhibitors earn a spot on the beef and sheep educational award trip during the State Fair of Louisiana in Shreveport each fall. The educational trip is offered to 4-H members ages 12 to 18. Louisiana 4-H members who exhibit breeding beef heifers, market steers, breeding ewes and market lambs are all eligible to apply for the trip. As many as 24 breeding beef heifers and market steers, 15 market lambs and five breeding ewes are selected to represent Louisiana at the exposition.

"The purpose of the trip isn't winning or losing," said Jason Holmes, LSU AgCenter regional livestock specialist and trip coordinator. "It's about the experience of participating in a prestigious livestock show with fellow exhibitors from Louisiana. It's also about building a network of acquaintances that will benefit them for a lifetime."

One highlight of the trip each year is the number of Brahman and Brahman-influenced cattle that are shown by Louisiana 4-H exhibitors. Brahman cattle are known for

their heat tolerance and parasite resistance, which make them well-suited for the climate in the South. While this breed is popular in Louisiana and surrounding states, many attendees of the exposition are unfamiliar with them. Our 4-H'ers always take this opportunity to educate fellow exhibitors on the importance of the Brahman breed and its role in the South.

Each year, two Louisiana 4-H members are offered the opportunity to participate in an internship program through the North American International Livestock Exposition along with 4-H members from Kentucky and Indiana. This opportunity is awarded to winners of the beef premier exhibitor contest held during the LSU AgCenter State Livestock Show each February. Interns work with show management and gain a wealth of knowledge related to putting on an event of this caliber. In exchange, Louisiana 4-H offers an opportunity for two Kentucky 4-H members to come and assist with the LSU AgCenter Livestock Show each year.

"Being a NAILE intern was truly an unforgettable experience. Getting to work behind the scenes of this large-scale show was extremely eye opening for someone from Louisiana who doesn't get to see shows at this level very often," said Madison Plaisance, LSU College of Agriculture freshman and former Louisiana 4-H executive board member, who attended the trip for four years as an exhibitor and one year as an intern. "My favorite part was seeing how every breed ran their own show and getting to be a part of it. From weighing, checking in and ear tagging cattle, to being in the ring for the selection of the overall grand champion steer, I loved every second of it!"



Top: Guy Hayes, of Allen Parish, exhibits his market steer at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky. **Middle:** Mary Claire Istre, of Calcasieu Parish, and Callie DeLee, of West Feliciana Parish, work on fitting Callie's Maintainer heifer. **Bottom:** Ethan "Jose" Deshotel, of Evangeline Parish, exhibits his market lamb at the exposition.

Sabine Parish agent wins Educator of the Year Award

At the 55th Governor's State Conservation Awards ceremony in April 2019, Chris Pearce, Sabine Parish 4-H agent, was awarded the Conservation Educator of the Year.



Pearce

The award recognizes individuals, organizations and businesses that have made a significant and outstanding contribution toward the protection and wise use of Louisiana's natural resources.

Recently, Pearce discussed his conservation work.

What does conservation work mean to you?

Conservation is important to me on many levels. As a child,

I was taught by my father to always appreciate and take care of our environment and natural resources. Throughout my childhood, whether we were fishing in Little River, duck hunting on Catahoula Lake or running rabbits in central Louisiana, there was always an opportunity for a lesson. He was forever the teacher.

How has the AgCenter or 4-H helped you in your conservation work?

The AgCenter has provided an opportunity for me to increase my knowledge and education in many areas of conservation. I can then, in turn, teach the youth and adults that I come in contact with through 4-H. Hopefully, I can inspire these people to see the importance of conservation and to be proper stewards of our environment.

What are some of the conservation experiences you've had as a 4-H agent?

As part of my job with the LSU AgCenter, I bring conservation-minded youth to Mini Marsh Maneuvers at Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and Marsh Madness at Palmetto Island State Park, where youth from north Louisiana are exposed to a completely different environment than most have ever seen. Approximately 10 to 20 of my 4H'ers attend each of these events annually.

I also helped plan, organize and teach sessions at Camp Roughin' It and Survivor Camp. These camps are held at Jimmy Davis State Park in Jackson Parish and are designed to educate our children on outdoor topics, include fishing, survival skills, first aid, wild edibles, canoeing and outdoor cooking.

Louisiana Teens Lead the Way



By teaching teens to become leaders, 4-H strives to develop life skills such as decision making, relationships, learning, management, understanding self, group processes and communication.

Through the Northeast 4-H Regional Leadership Board, 41 youths from 12 northeastern parishes built the skills and confidence needed to become leaders and served their communities in projects that helped children facing life-threatening illnesses and those living in foster care.

Teens in the Northwest Region planned a Leadership Summit at a local university that introduced 4-H'ers to an array of possible careers and college choices, and 4-H'ers from across the state gather each year for the We Lead Conference, where they grow as ambassadors for the state 4-H program.

A GIFT FROM THE NEW ORLEANS

One camp scholarship set for a child in

When Colin McGee of Lafayette Parish first found out that he had been diagnosed with cancer, his thoughts immediately went to the things that he would miss the most during his time in treatment.

4-H camp was on the top of his list.

As the 2018 4-H Summer Camp season approached, McGee's friends raised money and assembled a gift basket from the 4-H camp store for Colin. Colin treasured those gifts, hoping he could attend 4-H camp the next summer.

After months of challenging, but successful treatments, Colin finally attended camp in 2019 with the help of a generous gift from the New Orleans Saints and Pelicans professional sports teams that provides one child from each of Louisiana's 64 parishes with a scholarship to 4-H camp.

"Through the support of the New Orleans Saints and Pelicans, Louisiana 4-H agents are able to not only extend the opportunity of summer camp to a young person but also instill an opportunity to gain valuable life skills that are learned through 4-H camping experiences," said Toby Lepley, LSU AgCenter associate vice president for 4-H and Youth Development.

The scholarship program began in 2019 with a \$57,600 donation from the New Orleans Saints and Pelicans organization and will continue for three more years.

"We are committed to developing our youth and know that these scholarships will help students achieve their educational, leadership and extracurricular goals," said New Orleans Saints and Pelicans President Dennis Lauscha.

Sabine Parish 4-H awarded the Saints/Pelicans Camp Grant Walker Scholarship to Marilyn May from Many Junior High School during a morning

fifth and sixth grade meeting before testing. Marilyn also received a beach bag full of items for camp. Marilyn loves 4-H and summer camp, but her mother, a single mom of two girls, had confided in their 4-H agent, Nan Arthur, that it was going to be difficult to send both girls to camp. So, after the announcement of the camp scholarship program, Arthur found the solution.

Clayton Greer from Natchitoches Parish lost his father in the fall of 2018 in a hunting accident during a father and son hunt. Clayton's family and local 4-H staff and volunteers began thinking of ways they could help Clayton live out positive childhood experiences. 4-H Summer Camp was one answer.

"He participated in the wetlands educational track, and he loved it," said Natchitoches Parish 4-H agent Pam Pearce. The educational tracks and making new friends were his two favorite things, she said.

Gayle Benson provides leadership for the New Orleans Saints and New Orleans Pelicans as owner, succeeding her husband, Tom Benson, who died in 2018. Gayle Benson is a New Orleans native and an accomplished business professional and philanthropist with strong ties to the community.

The Gayle and Tom Benson Charitable Foundation was established in 2007 and primarily serves the community through donations, grants and investments based on specific criteria and requirements directed by the foundation board led by Gayle Benson. The foundation, along with the Saints and Pelicans, launched the awards for summer camp.

Nine weeklong camp sessions are offered at the 4-H Grant Walker Education Center between May and July of each year. In 2019, more than 3,800 children in fourth through sixth grades went to 4-H Summer Camp. Campers participate every morning in one of seven tracks: food and fitness; science, engineering and technology; hunter safety certification; wetlands and wildlife; arts; renewable energy; and outdoor

4 YOUR INFO

For more information about giving to the 4-H Building Fund, contact Louisiana 4-H Executive Director, Patrick Tuck at ptuck@agcenter.lsu.edu or visit www.lsufoundation.org/give. Under Designations, type "4-H Building Fund" and follow the directions.

ANS PELICANS AND SAINTS

each parish

adventures. In the afternoon, campers have recreational time for various sports — archery, swimming, canoeing and kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding and line dancing, as well as team-building activities and performing arts. In the evenings, youth create skits, participate in talent shows and enjoy special guest speakers.

4-H campers learn to appreciate the outdoors, live together as a group, gain independence, get along with others, and appreciate people with different interests and backgrounds.

Located in Grant Parish near Pollock, Louisiana, the Grant Walker Educational Center was the first permanent 4-H camp in the South. It has been a part of the Louisiana 4-H life-skills building experience since the 1920s.

With over 8,000 people using the property year around, it is in constant need of updates and repairs. Engineers are assessing the scope of needs at this Louisiana historical property, and the Louisiana 4-H Foundation is embarking upon a multiyear fundraising campaign to support these necessary upgrades. We are hopeful that we can continue to improve the facilities and fundamentally enhance the life-changing experiences for our children in the years to come.

Marylin May, Sabine Parish recipient of a scholarship to 4-H camp from the New Orleans Pelicans and Saints professional sports teams, stands with her 4-H agent, Nan Arthur.



Incubating Education for Students and Teachers Alike

Louisiana 4-H is excited to hatch new experiences for students and teachers.

A new 4-H course is helping bring agriculture back to the classroom by teaching the science of embryology and supplying incubators to teachers so students can learn through watching a chick grow.

The new Louisiana 4-H embryology supplemental curriculum for third and eighth grades provides teachers the support and materials needed to provide a high-quality science, technology, engineering and mathematics education.

“The 4-H embryology unit supports my needs as a teacher meeting educational requirements, teaching in a new high-level student-led pedagogy and provides my students with rare agriculture experiences,” said West Feliciana Middle School teacher Emily Hagan-Hurst, who hosted the first embryology teacher training for 4-H.

K-12 teachers meet many barriers when integrating agriculture into existing lesson plans that meet national education standards for specific subject areas. Teachers often do not have enough time, or they lack the proper

curricula, supplies, materials and base knowledge.

The Louisiana 4-H embryology supplemental curriculum addresses the direct need for incorporation of agriculture in the classroom to build agricultural literacy while breaking the barriers of time, curricula and base knowledge by providing complete NGSS standards-based lessons with background information for teachers. New professional development training opportunities enhance program delivery.

Teaching agricultural literacy does not require significant curriculum modification, but it does entail innovative uses of common classroom resources and examples.

The 2019-20 school year was the kick-off for our new 4-H embryology supplemental curriculum in 26 classrooms across Louisiana. Pilot teachers attended a two-day teacher training at LSU where they received professional development training in inquiry-based, student-led teaching methods. Teachers attending training also received completed lesson plans and curriculum supply kits as well as tabletop incubators so they can watch a chick grow in the classroom.



Crystal Ahrens, left, Louisiana 4-H Animal Science specialist, and Emily Hagan-Hurst show off baby chicks and alligators during the embryological unit comparing the two animals.



Students from Emily Hagan-Hurst's West Feliciana Middle School eighth grade science class place eggs into the incubator.



Exploring the Power of Water

TRAVELING EXHIBIT AT GRANT WALKER 4-H EDUCATIONAL CENTER
FOCUSES ON WATER AND ITS IMPORTANCE



The Water/Ways traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street has toured the South with stops in Louisiana and Mississippi. The exhibition looks closely at water and how it powers the environment's engine, affects climate, and helps shape and sculpt the landscape. A traveling museum from the Smithsonian Institution found a home at the Grant Walker 4-H Educational Center in Pollock in November and December 2018. The exhibit featured:

- Five free-standing interactive displays and text panels.
- Numerous support publications, banners, promotional posters and postcards.
- Two free-standing touchscreen interactive computer kiosks featuring video and audio content.
- One touchable model of a watershed.

For one evening, three 4-H culinary teams prepared some of the state's seafood dishes as part of a Water/Ways special event. Several 4-H youth from Avoyelles, Rapides and Winn parishes showcased their culinary skills. Ron Johnson, founder, and Drew Keeth, CEO of Honey Brake Lodge, rounded out the final event by hosting a group discussion and video presentation about the largest contiguous wetland reclamation project in the United States.

For more information on "Water/Ways," visit museumonmainstreet.org. For more information on programming experiences, contact Grant Walker Educational Center at 318-765-7209.

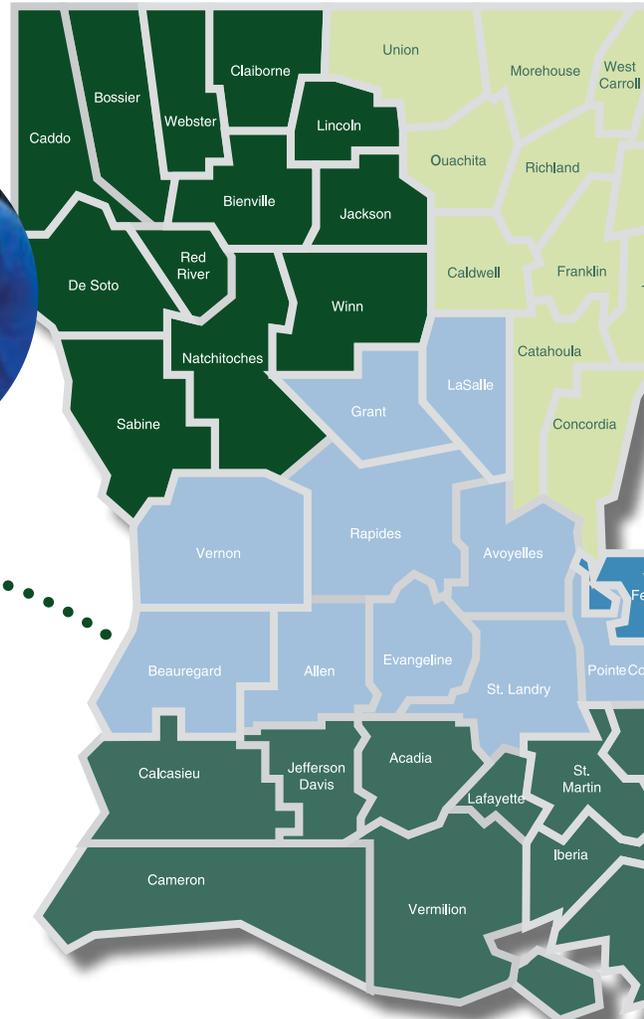


A GUMBO OF AGRICULTURE

The agriculture industry contributes billions of dollars to the economy and provides essential products for everyday life. Yet many people are not aware of the importance and appreciation of agriculture among youth and adults, LSU AgCenter works to promote agricultural appreciation.

NORTHWEST REGION

AgMagic at the State Fair of Louisiana in Shreveport provides 50,000 visitors each year with hands-on agriculture experiences through a variety of interactive displays tailored to meet the needs of students in grades three through six.



CENTRAL REGION

Third graders in central Louisiana had the chance to attend the inaugural AgMagic Cenla event at the Dean Lee Research and Extension Center in Alexandria. Participants engaged in hands-on learning experiences that focused on horticulture, forestry, livestock, 4-H and healthy living.

URAL OPPORTUNITIES

...y, employs over 1.3 billion people throughout the world and provides the importance of agriculture in their daily lives. To increase awareness, extension and research faculty provide various opportunities and appreciation across the state.



NORTHEAST REGION

For three decades the North Louisiana Agri-Business Council has hosted an annual Ag Expo, a family friendly event that attracts more than 9,000 visitors from the region annually. A 4-H Kids' Zone provides hands-on activities related to agriculture, nutrition and fitness, and Ag Alley promotes learning experiences for first and fourth graders.

At Ag Adventures in Delhi, more than 800 second and third graders were introduced to agricultural concepts that expanded their understanding of the contributions of agriculture to both their well-being and the economy of the region. The alleys featured horticulture, cotton, farm animals and kitchen food safety.



SOUTHEAST AND SOUTHWEST REGIONS

Agricultural Career Awareness events at the LSU AgCenter Rice Research Station in Crowley and the LSU AgCenter Sugar Research Station in St. Gabriel helped high school students explore diverse agricultural career opportunities, such as engineering, environmental and coastal education, extension and renewable natural resources.

Kindergarten through fourth grade students are the primary audience for agricultural awareness events held in the Southeast region and at AgMagic on the LSU campus. Lesson plans and coloring books are provided to school groups to extend the learning experience.

School-based outreach grant teaches life's lessons

4 YOUR INFO

4-H members are five times more likely to graduate college.

Students at Green Oaks Performing Arts Academy in Shreveport are getting some real-world experience to help prepare for their future health and well-being through LSU AgCenter-sponsored educational programs.

The school-based outreach focuses on strengthening leadership and communication skills and is part of a \$600,000 Children, Youth and Families at Risk (CYFAR) grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded to the AgCenter in 2014.

Students learn about nutrition, physical fitness, science, leadership, workforce preparation, career exploration and financial management through participation in hands-on learning opportunities.

Green Oaks Principal Steven Grant said the programs expose students to new concepts, and they open a window for students to see their potential.

"The project has opened doors for the AgCenter to reach new audiences through collaborations and partnerships," said Caddo Parish 4-H agent Katherine Pace.

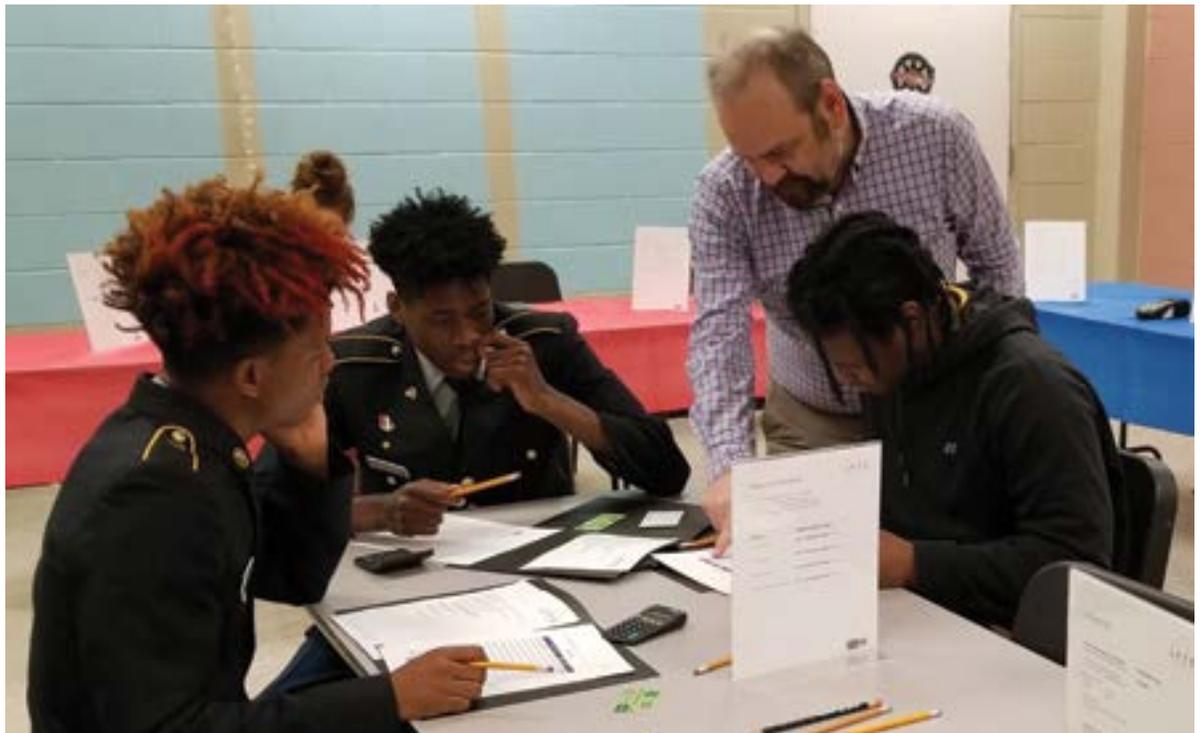
Students in middle school physical education classes at Green Oaks received fitness trackers

as a part of the physical fitness program, and they logged their steps and calories burned each day. They also learned about their heart rates and how to check their own pulse. At the conclusion of the program series, the students logged 1,446,804 steps and 103,682 calories burned, and 68% of them reported that they now pay more attention to how active they are each day.

"Incorporating a fitness component this year fits into our curriculum and teaches how to live a healthy lifestyle and stay active while building some self-esteem these students need," physical education teacher Jessica Elie said.

Seniors at Green Oaks participated in the Living Your Financial Experience (LYFE) curriculum. The series of lessons taught youth about potential careers that would match their personality types, how to read a paycheck, and the various taxes and deductions that impact their "bottom line" each pay period. In addition, students practiced banking skills, budgeting strategies, paying bills and writing goals that are SMART — specific, measurable, attainable, and realistic or relevant.

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At the conclusion of the lessons, local business members were recruited to assist with a real-life simulation where students had to determine needs versus wants, make informed purchasing decisions, develop a budget, and balance an account based on a career and salary that was provided to them.

"I realized quickly that I couldn't buy the car I wanted and have a big house, or I was going to run out of money!" said student Taylor Ford.

The CYFAR project also sponsored a community-based teen leadership summit that aimed to strengthen students' goal setting, communication and leadership skills for Green Oaks students while also supporting a regional

4-H Leadership Summit that hosted over 300 teens from 12 northwest Louisiana parishes. For the past two years, high school students from Green Oaks attended this youth leadership summit held at area universities. Surveys found that most of the attending students became more aware of career options.

"As a result of participating in the 4-H Leadership Summit the first year, 99% of students indicated they agreed that they realized they can impact others," said Karen Martin, LSU AgCenter Northwest Region 4-H coordinator.

As a part of the summer program, youth visited university campuses and learned about the degree programs and opportunities to further their

education beyond high school.

"We planned a series of field trips during the summer to integrate our spring classroom activities with hands-on application in the real world of work and college," said LSU AgCenter CYFAR program assistant Jessica Sherrill.

The CYFAR program has provided several professional development opportunities for the Green Oaks faculty and other community members, providing a knowledge base for them to implement the programs throughout the school year so that these programs can continue once the grant no longer exists. One new course, a science in the garden curriculum, was developed as a part of the CYFAR grant and will be taught in the future.

INTRODUCING THE

WETLAND AMBASSADORS TEAM

Louisiana's wetlands provide important environmental, economic and cultural value to the state and nation. However, Louisiana is losing approximately a football field worth of wetlands every 80 minutes. To increase awareness about the state's wetlands and the threats they face, the 4-H Wetland Ambassadors Team was developed. The group is made up of students from across the state who aim to become environmentally literate citizens who can act as ambassadors for the wetlands.

In their communities they will give presentations, lead activities and put on exhibits at various events throughout the year. The team will also have opportunities to explore different career options by interacting with wetland-related professionals, such as agents and biologists with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.



Photo by Catherine Fox

The inaugural team includes nine 4-H members, from left: Michael Wisby, Bridget Seghers, Joseph Hayes, Cole Martin, Raine Lirette, Nathan Thompson, Garrett Gauthier, Malachi Morris and Gabrielle Frieu.



BEEFING UP MEAT SCIENCE

Meat science is an \$11.4 billion industry in Louisiana that brings thousands of jobs to the state. And the Louisiana Beef Industry Council is working with 4-H to introduce more young people to the variety of careers in the meat science world.



Winning poster from the state LBIC Beef Poster Contest Division II by Luke Lirette of Iberville Parish. The poster theme is TEAM Beef.

In 2019, the Louisiana Beef Industry Council was Louisiana 4-H's largest donor for animal science programs. The council successfully merged their mission with the national 4-H vision of creating "a world in which youth and adults learn, grow, and work together as catalysts for positive change."

The council's beef poster contest encourages participants to learn more about the beef industry by developing creative marketing and communication skills. In 2019 the contest reached more than 1,800 4-H'ers across the state. This year, 4-H'ers in grades four through 12 created posters for "Team Beef" and focused on using beef as fuel for fitness and good nutrition. With support of the LBIC, a digital division was created to bring a more modern take to the contest while building science, technology, engineering, arts and math skills through research and design.

"I am so happy to continue the tradition of creating posters to support the consumption of beef," said Iberville Parish 4-H'er Luke Lirette, the 2019 Division II LBIC Beef Poster Contest winner. "This achievement was such a joy because I love art, animals and, of course, agriculture, so combining them makes me so proud, especially when my hard work pays off and is appreciated,"

In 2018, Louisiana 4-H designed an animal science session for the Louisiana Outdoor Science and Technology Camp. In 2019, 4-H partnered with the LBIC to advance meat science educational programming, and the LBIC generously sponsored a new meat science camp track in 2019.

With the LBIC Louisiana Outdoor Science and Technology Camp sponsorship, Louisiana 4-H was able to purchase four commercial-grade, tabletop meat grinders along with seasonings and all necessary personal protective equipment for participants to create beef sausage products from start to finish. During the two-day camp, participants learned how genetics, nutrition, environment and animal welfare affect beef quality. During the hands-on portion of the camp, 4-H'ers developed two beef sausage products from start to finish and created more than 100 pounds of sausage, feeding the entire camp for two meals.

"Partnering with LBIC to open up the world of beef and meat science to our 4-H'ers has been an amazing experience," said Crystal Ahrens, Louisiana 4-H animal science specialist. "Most of our youth would not have these types of hands-on opportunities to learn full circle about animal science and how their food is

made. The meat science industry is a great career option that is now open to our 4-H'ers as a legitimate option for those interested in animal or food science."

Meat science programming with sixth, seventh and eighth grade campers also helps support the Louisiana 4-H Meat ID contest at 4-H University. LBIC provides funding to allow the winners of the state contest to compete at the National 4-H Meat Evaluation and Identification Judging Contest in Manhattan, Kansas.

Katlin Lucas, 4-H agent in West Feliciana Parish, had eight 4-H'ers take part in the meat science experience at Louisiana Outdoor Science and Technology Camp.

"They could not stop talking about it when we got home," she said. "They were surprised to learn exactly how the making and cooking of the breakfast sausages went, and they were so proud when they were able to taste their own creations. In learning that way, they also were able to retain a lot of the facts that the track taught."

Below: An LBIC board member admires a beef poster entry. LOST Camp LBIC Meat Track participants make beef sausage from scratch to be served at a camp meal.



4-H SUPPORTS MILITARY READINESS

For each branch of service in the U.S. military, readiness is a top priority. For more than 20 years, 4-H has partnered with military youth and families to provide positive programming to support military readiness.

Family readiness is a critical issue for the Department of Defense, as a military family's ability to maintain a stable homefront is imperative for troops to keep their eyes on the mission. Both 4-H and the Department of Defense are committed to supporting our military kids and families. Each year Louisiana 4-H, Louisiana National Guard and active duty members across the state come together to help our military-connected kids enjoy life.

Military youth can experience lots of changes, such as moving to new states or countries or their parents leaving home for long periods because of deployment. While there are many challenges, there are also opportunities to experience many new things.

"The best advice I can offer is to find your people," said Ryan W., a 4-H'er who is part of a military family. "Find other youth and adults who can understand your experiences and relate to what you have gone through because their guidance could get you through the toughest of times."

4-H focuses on positive youth development and provides a caring adult, predictable programming and a safe and

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nurturing environment for military-connected youth to excel. 4-H Summer Camp, 4-H science camp, 4-H Louisiana Outdoor Science and Technology Camp, and year-round club programs are supported by LSU AgCenter 4-H agents and volunteers across the state. During the annual 4-H Science Engineering Technology Camp, military kids ages 5 to 15 are given the opportunity to learn about various science phenomena,

including circuits, DNA, and storm protection and constellations. 4-H youth development professionals work with military Child and Youth Services on Barksdale Air Force Base, Fort Polk and Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans. The Louisiana 4-H program provides experiential learning while facilitating co-curricular lessons, projects, workshops, contests, field experiences and educational trips. These 4-H opportunities

serve as a portal to help students develop transferable skills, such as leadership, communication skills, critical thinking skills, problem-solving abilities, time management and self-reliance, that will help them succeed in their future. While the Louisiana 4-H Military Partnerships Program serves parishes with military installations, LSU AgCenter 4-H Youth Development has offices in all 64 parishes to help serve our geographically dispersed military kids.



Ready ... S.E.T. ... Experiment

Designing roller coasters in the school gym. Extracting DNA in the hallway. Developing alternative fuel sources on the playground.

Louisiana 4-H'ers are exploring careers in different areas of science, engineering and technology at their monthly club meetings.

"The students were so excited every week to explore different careers, said Kimberly Deville, Evangeline Parish 4-H agent and lesson team leader. "They loved jumping right in to see what kind of science they would see next. From grossing out because their gummies are made from bones to engineering that roller coaster just right, they had a blast!"

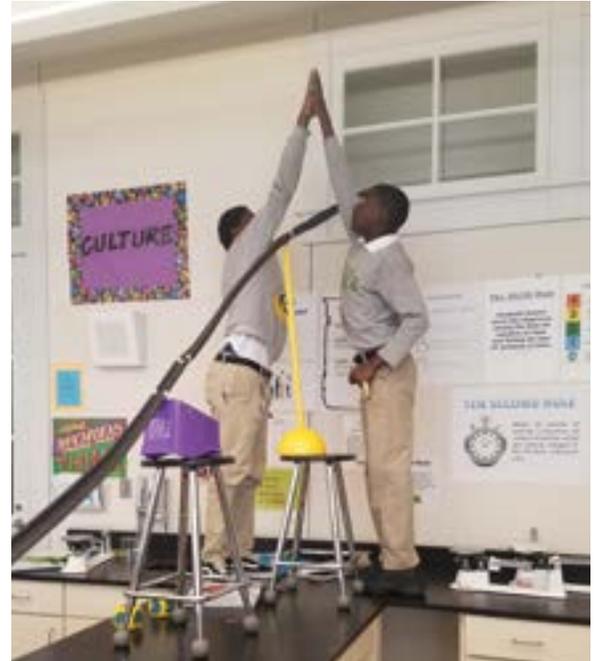
The educational series is a hybrid of the 5E model widely used among science educators and the experiential learning model, which is widely used by 4-H youth development professionals.

"Some of the 4-H'ers were pretty excited to learn about career potentials. In the fourth and fifth grades they are still discovering what they like in life, and I am sure many of them haven't decided what they want to be in life, but many of them were excited to see how many opportunities are available in the sciences," said Derek Landrum, Orleans Parish 4-H agent and lesson team leader.

St. Martin Parish 4-H used the lessons for launching topics for its

Science, Engineering and Technology Project Club, which offers students in the fourth through sixth grades who are interested in SET an additional experience while in 4-H. During 2018-19, students met monthly and participated in the Ready, SET, Explore curriculum led by teens. To adapt the curriculum to fit into the project club setting, additional career exploration was conducted at each monthly meeting, giving the youth a deeper look at possibilities for their futures.

For example, the group's favorite lesson was on how gummy bears are made and explored food, nutrition and animal sciences. To take this lesson a step further, St. Martin Parish 4-H members



made butter in a jar and then acted like food scientists developing a new product by making different flavors of butter to their taste.

"The students loved the hands-on activities as well as making the connection between science and everyday objects like roller coasters, citrus fruits and gummy bears," said Hannah Devall, St. Martin Parish 4-H agent. "Our students were able to investigate the theories behind everyday science and then explore possible career opportunities."

When surveyed, 92% of the St. Martin Science, Engineering and Technology Project Club said that the science experiments and activities are fun, and 81% felt that the lessons taught them new things about science. The gummy lesson was the overall favorite of the group.

An additional 2,315 students are projected to complete the lessons throughout the 2019-20 school year.

The lessons are intended to serve as a "launching pad" for a larger conversation about career opportunities. Each lesson also highlights potential educational pathways, including university, trade and technical school opportunities.

"When students are 'wowed' with science experiments, it's easy and fun to guide them into the career exploration process," said Christina Hebert, Louisiana 4-H college and career readiness specialist.

4 YOUR INFO

During the 2018-19 school year, 4,565 4-H members across the state completed the Ready, S.E.T., Experiment lesson series, an interactive six-lesson series that focuses on exploring careers in S.E.T. Each lesson features an interactive lab, investigative phenomena and evaluation questions that correlate to Louisiana student science standards and a career connection reflection.



National Recognition for Lifetime Dedication to 4-H

With over 30 years of service, Ruby Miller has made significant contributions to Louisiana 4-H as a 4-H member, volunteer and professional. For her lifetime dedication to the Louisiana 4-H Youth Development program, Miller, of Cameron Parish, was inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame in Chevy Chase, Maryland, in 2019.

“Being part of a team that builds and delivers quality programs and having powerful and positive effects on young people in a variety of personal, academic and professional ways has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life,” Miller said.

Miller began her 4-H journey as a 4-H Club member in 1966. In 1980, she began to volunteer, sharing her time and knowledge to judge 4-H projects, demonstrations and speeches at parish and area contest days. Miller served as a parish project club leader. She also coached 4-H members for regional and state competitions in livestock, cooking, entomology and horticulture demonstrations, personal

development, public speaking and photography. In 1998, while working with the Cameron Parish 4-H Junior Leaders, Miller secured a \$1,000 literacy grant.

“Being part of the literacy project was the first time I really understood my own power to help bring about positive change in someone else’s life,” said Gregoire Theriot, an alumnus of the literacy project.

In 2006, Miller began her professional career with the AgCenter as the Cameron Parish 4-H agent. She worked to establish a strong presence on state 4-H leadership boards and still serves as an adviser. She built a robust parish 4-H shooting sports program and instilled a spirit of service into a Keep Cameron Beautiful Campaign that included the creation of an annual calendar featuring 4-H'er artwork. During her tenure, Cameron Parish was devastated by Hurricane Rita. Despite her own home being damaged, she led the community’s recovery effort and reestablished community-based programs, such as community gardens to bring citizens together

and empower young people in community service.

“I have been blessed to have a person in my life that strives to make the people around her better,” said Cameron Parish 4-H alumna, Maeleigh Conner. “I thank God for having planted Mrs. Miller in my life at an early age and for giving me a one-of-a-kind mentor that has watered and enriched me in all parts of my life.”

Now retired, Miller continues her dedication to 4-H. She’s a lifetime Louisiana 4-H Volunteer Leader Association member and helped publish the group’s first website. She co-developed an online volunteer mentoring program and 4-H volunteer Facebook course.

Still a Cameron Parish 4-H volunteer, Miller secures healthy living grants and works with teen leaders to produce and deliver lessons for grant programs. Miller continues to judge at numerous state, regional and parish level 4-H events. She coaches teens in consumer contests, photography, cooking demonstrations and career preparation.

THE NEW GENERATION OF 4-H REACHES FIRST-GENERATION MEMBERS

Jill Wiltz, right, of Natchitoches Parish, learned goal-setting skills through 4-H and served as state president in 2016.



4-H GROWS...
PASSION

Louisiana 4-H is proud of its traditions and the involvement of multiple generations in the program. 4-H'ers enjoy some of the same opportunities that their grandparents did.

While valuing this strength, tremendous efforts are also being made to reach first-generation members. Reaching new audiences helps the 4-H program expand its impact. First-generation members may not have history with 4-H, but they quickly recognize the many lessons and benefits of the program.

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JILL WILTZ

As a fourth grader, Jill Wiltz, a first-generation 4-H member from Natchitoches Parish, was excited about the idea of students leading peers and being given a voice.

"I relied heavily on my 4-H agent for guidance," Wiltz said. "My family and I embodied the 'let's just wing it' mantra, and the greatest obstacle we faced was walking on uncharted territory."

Each year, Wiltz built upon her 4-H experiences. In her freshman year, inspired by her involvement in a state leadership board, Jill set a goal to serve as Louisiana 4-H president, a goal she achieved in 2016. Wiltz shared that her inspiration was 4-H agent Gwen Fontenot, who served as a source of encouragement and equipped her with many skills to help her to realize her leadership potential. Wiltz also had the support of her family, even though they were unfamiliar with the program. She eagerly shared her 4-H experiences with her family and involved them in listening to her practice for contests. They were supportive and present for her numerous banquets and presentations.

"The 4-H program was easily the most impactful organization I was involved in as a student," Wiltz said. "No other program empowered me like 4-H. I gained confidence, learned how to fail with grace and improved my interpersonal communication skills."

GRANT DUPATY

Grant Dupaty, a current Assumption Parish 4-H member, initially thought that 4-H was a great way to miss class, but he quickly learned that 4-H would open a whole new world for him. After his first summer camp, he was hooked. From entering a few parish contests to admiring older 4-H members, Dupaty continued to become more involved. As a middle school member, he wanted to be more engaged and decided to run for a club officer position. He also joined the Assumption Parish Junior Leadership Club.

"4-H has taught me how to be a better leader," Dupaty said. "One of the things I value the most is it has taught that making mistakes is OK if you learn from those mistakes and try to do better and not intentionally make the same mistake again."

He is proud of his many accomplishments, from 4-H University to shooting sports, but considers serving as a camp counselor his biggest accomplishment.

"4-H has always taught me to use my head to think of new ways to solve problems, to follow my heart no matter where it takes me, to always use my hands to help the community around me and to help serve others, and, lastly, to live a healthy lifestyle for not only myself but my family and community," he said.

As a first-generation 4-H member, Dupaty eagerly shared his experience with his parents. His father, who taught him to hunt, enjoyed watching Dupaty practice and compete in shooting sports. Both of his parents, who love gardening, were surprised to hear Dupaty share gardening tips after attending an agriculture career day and learning about growing plants. Dupaty is already encouraging his sister, who is 6 years old, to join 4-H when she is 9.

"I tell her if she wants to have some of the best moments, make some of the best memories and create some of the best relationships of her life, join 4-H."



Grant Dupaty, first-generation Assumption Parish 4-H member, says 4-H has taught him many valuable lessons and prepared him for his future.

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JORDAN DANG

Jordan Dang discovered Louisiana 4-H in the ninth grade through a friend. He quickly became involved in the St. Charles Parish 4-H program and was attracted to opportunities such as 4-H University and the Junior Leadership Conference.

"I have a big heart for the 4-H program. It was so impactful in my life in so many ways it is hard to express," Dang said.

4-H helped Dang strengthen his leadership skills and learn to be a team player. His experience in 4-H also instilled character traits such as respect, fairness and responsibility.

"My involvement in 4-H helped me to see potential in myself," Dang said.

Dang's participation in 4-H University exposed him to LSU and helped him develop his photography skills. In 2016, Dang received his bachelor's degree from the LSU College of Art and Design, and he now works as a freelance photographer. While in college, he continued his involvement in 4-H as a Collegiate 4-H member.

You can find Dang actively volunteering for the program as an adult leader. Whether capturing special 4-H moments through his camera lens or serving as a camp volunteer, Dang hopes to give back to the program that afforded him many opportunities. He hopes to inspire members just as his 4-H agent, Kali Zammit, helped him to see his potential. He continues to cherish the many friendships he established through his involvement. Even though he is a first-generation 4-H member, he is hopeful other members of his family will become involved.

"I am proud of Jordan and his growth from 4-H'er to 4-H adult leader," said Kali Zammit, 4-H agent in St. Charles Parish. "He continues to serve as a role model for youth each summer with an enthusiastic personality and a camera in his hands ready to capture the moments of other youth beginning their own journey through 4-H."

Jordan Dang, St. Charles Parish 4-H alumnus, helps others see their potential. Serving as a camp volunteer is one way Dang gives back to the program.

4-H Foundation News

ROGER HAMILTON

Roger P. Hamilton Jr. is a 4-H alumnus who has remained active in 4-H as a parent and now serves as the vice chair of the Louisiana 4-H Foundation board. He believes 4-H has power to encourage social skills and interpersonal relationships between youth and their adult mentors.

As a 4-H youth, Hamilton gained leadership and life skills that continue to benefit those he serves in his adult life. Hamilton acquired public speaking experience as a youth that he uses every day as a lawyer and assistant district attorney. He has served in numerous 4-H youth leadership positions, such as club officer roles and camp counselor, and he actively participated in community service projects.

During his professional career, Hamilton has been a prosecutor in district attorney offices in Louisiana's 15th and 16th judicial districts since 2002. He is the city attorney for Jeanerette and previously served as the Lafayette Parish School Board attorney. He has also been an adjunct professor at South Louisiana Community

College and Nicholls State University. His considerable legal background has made Hamilton an invaluable policy adviser to 4-H staff and foundation trustees as we position the Louisiana 4-H Foundation among the fastest growing state foundations in the nation.

Hamilton is a past president for the Nicholls State University Alumni Federation Board. He is a past member of the Iberia 4-H Advisory Committee and has served on the Diocese of Lafayette Diocesan Pastoral Council and the Campaign Against Poverty. He currently serves as a volunteer middle school girls basketball coach at Catholic High School of New Iberia. He has one daughter, Regan Paige Hamilton.

4
YOUR
INFO

Under the guidance of current board Chair Yvonne Normand, the 4-H Foundation is defining its financial goals based upon enhanced relationships. Over the next several months, Roger Hamilton will further Yvonne's work as he travels across the state with Louisiana 4-H Foundation Executive Director Patrick Tuck to learn firsthand about the needs of our program in every region. He will also seek out past foundation board chairs to ask for their help as we embark upon a capital campaign to benefit our contests and awards programs and to significantly improve facilities at our most treasured Louisiana 4-H venue, the Grant Walker Educational Center.



Foundation

WESTIN COBB

Westin Cobb served as Louisiana 4-H state president during 2018-19. He also served as a youth trustee on the Louisiana 4-H Foundation board. Cobb's aspiration to pursue an agribusiness degree at Louisiana State University made him a natural fit for the foundation board. During his tenure on the foundation board, Cobb actively pursued new funding from the Louisiana Beef Industry Council. In collaboration with state 4-H staff, he successfully increased annual donations to Louisiana 4-H. Cobb was a frequent guest speaker at conferences and meetings across the state, including the 2019 Louisiana Ag Industries Association Annual Meeting. Cobb also accepted a check from Louisiana Ag Industries Association for renewed annual support to the Louisiana 4-H program.

Cobb's time in 4-H began long before he was of age to join. His mother was the 4-H leader at her school, and Cobb was frequently involved in club activities. Cobb joined 4-H in third grade and remained a 4-H leader throughout his pre-college years. Cobb grew up in Pine Grove on the family farm with his parents and younger brother. They raise beef cattle and bucking bull stock for stock contractors in the region. All of Cobb's free time during his youth was dedicated to 4-H and FFA. Prior to becoming 4-H state president, he served as president of the Walker High School FFA Chapter, FFA Area IV treasurer and leader assistant of Walker High School 4-H. He was also a Livingston Parish shooting sports program member for seven years and served on the state 4-H Executive Board for several years, including a term as vice president. Cobb competed at the 2018 National Shooting Sports Finals in Nebraska in the archery, rifle and shotgun disciplines. He served as a Livingston Parish 4-H junior leader throughout middle school and high school. The club's focus areas were animals in the community and local animal shelters.

After south Louisiana's great flood of August 2016, the Livingston Parish Junior Leader Club's focus shifted to community development. This disaster also led to the development of a local officer committee that enhanced the club's decision-making ability. Cobb was elected Junior Leader vice president, and his responsibilities included facilitating meetings, keeping the room in order and delegating assignments.

He also said he had "a lot of fun in 4-H." He enjoyed every aspect from shooting sports and showing livestock to improving his leadership skills. He looks forward to investing his time in 4-H for years to come. He continues to serve on the Livingston Parish Advisory Council to help make 4-H better.

Cobb began his agribusiness major studies at LSU in the fall 2019 semester after over a decade in a 4-H career that epitomized youth voices and youth leadership. He was honored at the 4-H University Awards Banquet in the spring of 2019 as recipient of the Lyle Maier "Tinker" Bayle LSU Foundation Scholarship.



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Louisiana Council of Farmer Cooperatives	Sen. Dan Morrish	Rosie Shetler	Garrett Walsh Jr.
Louisiana Forestry Foundation	Melissa Muro	Sicily Island State Bank	Maud Walsh
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	Denise Rains		Anthony and Judith Zaunbrecher
	Matthew Rains		

2019 LOUISIANA 4-H SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Name	Parish	Scholarship
Kody Arton	Iberia	H.C. Sanders Memorial
Thomas Bearden	Bossier	Scotty Moore Memorial
Thomas Bearden	Bossier	Carl and Beulah Baldrige Memorial
Kaylee Bourgeois	St. James	Kermit Coulon Memorial
Nate Bracey	Washington	Holbern "Bot" Burch Memorial
Leah Brumley	DeSoto	Lee Berwick Memorial
Westin Cobb	Livingston	Lyle Maier "Tinker" Bayle
Ethan Coker	Claiborne	Ruth Johnson Memorial
Nydia Cooper	St. James	Joseph and Malvania Lamendola Memorial
Caroline Dupree	Bossier	Troy A. Menard Memorial
Gabrielle Fontenot	Evangeline	McCrary Family
Shelby Francis,	Webster	Kenneth and Mary Beatty Memorial
Ashton Gaspard	Vermilion	Mark H. Bonner Memorial
Garrett Gautreaux	Avoyelles	Lod Cook
Lily Gisclair	Beauregard	Beauregard Cattle Women
Heather Goss	Calcasieu	Gerry Lane Enterprise
Paidon Gravois	St. Charles	A.J. Melancon Memorial
Sarah Hammonds	Bossier	Bruce Flint Memorial
Peter Harris	St. Martin	Joe Walters Family
Avery Hebert	Vermilion	Dr. and Mrs. Edward W. Gassie
Ryleigh Hicks	Vernon	Larry T. Brock Memorial
Jessica Johnston	Lincoln	Joe Barrett Memorial
Breann Keowen	West Baton Rouge	Louis Mouch
Keri Landry	St. Mary	American Legion
Emily Lanie	Lafayette	Faul Family
Clayton LeBlanc	Iberville	Daniel Fontenot Jr.
Nicholas LeBlanc	Vermilion	Cliff Williams Memorial
Adam McFatter	Cameron	Louisiana 4-H Foundation Scholarship
Dekota McGee	Sabine	Hilda D. and Vardaman Williams Jr.
Ally Mills	Avoyelles	C.J. Naquin
Callie Poche	St. James	Sidney and Cecile Wood
Jacey Reed	St. Martin	Charles Fuselier
Sarah Tarver	Pointe Coupee	Jason McClaran Memorial
Sean Weick	Washington	A.P. and Beryl Parham Memorial

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