

# LSU AgCenter St. Charles Parish Profile

Report to Stakeholders December 2023



## 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

### 4-H Youth Development

The St. Charles Parish 4-H Youth Development Program enables youth to gain important life skills through participation in age-appropriate experiential learning programs conducted in school, community, and other 4-H club enrichment opportunities. In 2022, the St. Charles Parish 4-H program focused on teaching youth about STEM education and leadership development through hands-on lessons and workshops. Over 400 youth gained knowledge, experience, and mastered skills in science, technology engineering, math, and leadership development. 4-H members and their families participated in annual STEM, civic engagement, and healthy living parish-wide programs, increasing their knowledge and skills and contributing their hands to larger service to help over 100+ families in the community.

### Agriculture and Natural Resources

St. Charles Parish Agricultural outputs include sugarcane, soybeans, commercial vegetables, home gardens, beef cattle, aquaculture, and fisheries. These agricultural enterprises contributed \$12,503,059 to the parish's economy in the past year. By providing horticultural advice and leading agricultural programming in our communities, the River Region Master Gardener Volunteer Association contributed \$13,753.65 to the improvement of best management practices. Efforts through the St. Charles Parish Horticulture Advisory Committee have emphasized the importance and practicality of environmental sustainability, home gardening, and access to horticulture information.

### Family and Consumer Sciences

St. Charles Parish ranks 6 out of 64 parishes for health outcomes and is in the top 25% of healthiest parishes in Louisiana (2023 County Health Rankings). According to the County Health Rankings, 36% of St. Charles residents are obese, which increases their risk of developing cardiovascular illnesses, type 2 diabetes, and some types of cancer. Flavors of Health provides classes and workshops on a variety of topics that empower individuals and families to make healthy choices to live their most healthful lives. Programs include Healthy Communities, Smart Portions, Dining with Diabetes, Small Changes, Health Habits, Faithful Families: Eating Smarter Moving More, Lunch and Learns, Food Safety, and outreach initiatives. Over 1,000 adults and youth have participated in at least one of the programs to improve one's health and wellbeing.



## EXTENSION OFFICE

### Address:

453 Spruce Street, P.O. Box 557  
Norco, LA 70079

### Phone:

985-785-4473

### Office Hours:

Monday – Friday  
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Websites:** [www.LSUAgCenter.com](http://www.LSUAgCenter.com)  
[www.LSUAgCenter.com/StCharles](http://www.LSUAgCenter.com/StCharles)

## EXTENSION AGENTS

### Dr. Kali Zammit

Parish Chair & 4-H Youth Development  
Extension Agent  
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### Gabriel LoCoco

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### Rinalda Rocquin

Family & Consumer Sciences  
Extension Agent  
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## EXTENSION STAFF

### Cheryl Mahler

Administrative Coordinator  
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## PROGRAMS

- 4-H Youth Development
- Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR)
- Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS)

## WHOM WE REACH:

### 5,500 youth

1,024 4-H members, school enrichment participants, and 16 school 4-H Clubs

### 4,820 Adults

1,000 4-H Youth Development  
2,400 Agriculture and Natural Resources  
1,420 Family and Consumer Sciences

## HOW WE REACH THEM:

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

## EXPANDING OUR EFFORTS:

150+ volunteers from 4-H, Master Gardeners, and family and community

## PARISH FACTS:

LSU AgCenter Extension Agents provide research-based information on plant, fisheries and wildlife, and animal enterprises to St. Charles Parish clientele. The most recent total dollar amounts from these commodities are:

Plant Enterprises: \$ 6,749,190  
Fisheries and Wildlife: \$3,846,545  
Animal Enterprises: \$1,907,324

## DATA FROM U.S. CENSUS:

Population- 52,549	Land Area (Square Miles)- 411
Median Household Income- \$79,191	Persons under 18 years old- 24.2%
Persons 65 years and older-14.4%	Persons below poverty line- 10.2%

## LOCAL ISSUES AND PLANS FOR THIS YEAR:

### ***Increase productivity and profitability of Louisiana agriculture.***

- Conduct community demonstrations on best management practices
- Conduct River Region Master Gardener Training programs
- 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 and involve youth in Louisiana wetlands solutions and restoration
- Conduct pesticide applicators and worker protection standards certifications
- Promote Best Management Practices (BMP) and Integrated Pest Management (IMP) programs
- Conduct training that promotes conservation stewardship

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

- Provide opportunities for youth to participate in service-learning projects
- Recruit youth and adult volunteers and conduct volunteer trainings
- Provide youth with tools for developing life skills in club meetings and programs
- Provide youth with opportunities to develop a sense of belonging, independence, generosity, and mastery.
- Provide 4-H youth development educational programming to increase knowledge in the areas of civic engagement, healthy living, and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM)

### ***Strengthen families and communities.***

- Conduct nutrition programs to create healthy communities by improving overall nutrition and increasing physical activity levels in youth and adults, producing long-lasting behavior changes
- Teach stand-alone nutrition lessons and healthy recipe demonstrations to various audiences in St. Charles Parish
- Establish a Healthy Communities Coalition in St. Charles Parish



## HOW IS EXTENSION FUNDED?

- Federal funding from the USDA/ NIFA.
- State general funds from the Louisiana Legislature.
- Local support from parish government, including police juries and school boards.
- Self-generated funds.



## WHAT ROLE DO YOU PLAY?

Our stakeholders at the parish level are the local supporters and beneficiaries of the LSU AgCenter cooperative extension programs. Their support keeps these critical programs in their communities.



## EACH PARISH OFFERS PROGRAMMING IN:

- 4-H and Youth Development.
- Agriculture and Natural Resources.
- Family and Consumer Sciences.



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

[www.LSUAgCenter.com](http://www.LSUAgCenter.com)