



# AGRICULTURE

is the backbone of the Louisiana economy, contributing \$11.8 billion to the state on average over the past five years\*, according to the LSU AgCenter Agricultural Summary. Farms, ranches, fisheries and forests across the state contribute billions of dollars each year to the economy. Our producers raise race horses, farm crawfish, cut timber and farm a variety of crops for the dinner plate and to feed livestock.

**CATTLE**  
\$651,668,100

**HORSES**  
\$455,501,600

**FEED GRAIN CROPS**  
\$368,100,200

**POULTRY**  
\$1,757,386,500

**SOYBEANS**  
\$793,107,700

**SUGARCANE**  
\$873,062,600

**FORESTRY**  
\$3,670,395,700

**AQUACULTURE**  
\$558,968,700

**RICE**  
\$484,842,000

**MARINE FISHERIES**  
\$631,901,000

\*These numbers are five-year averages of the total economic value of these crops from 2013 to 2017, according to the LSU AgCenter Agricultural Summary.

# Supporting Agriculture From FIELD TO TABLE

The LSU AgCenter supports the multibillion-dollar agriculture industry in Louisiana in all its facets, from the farm to the table. AgCenter scientists conduct research at 16 research stations across the state and in 14 academic departments on the Baton Rouge campus and then make sure this information is disseminated to farmers and ranchers through our network of 64 parish extension offices, staffed with extension agent experts. We also make the latest information available through publications, Louisiana Agriculture magazine, our website and through the media, both mass media and social media.



## Research

AgCenter scientists not only focus on growing crops — they also work to stop pests that affect plants and animals. Entomologist Mike Stout is one of several experts focused on protecting crops from the insect pests that threaten their growth. Here he examines a mesh sleeve containing stink bug eggs in an experiment to determine how much damage stink bug nymphs cause to rice kernels. These experiments occur at many of our research stations, including the H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station near Crowley. Photo by Bruce Schultz



## Teaching

Every year AgCenter specialists fan out across the state to talk directly to agricultural producers and present new copies of variety guides produced by the AgCenter. These guides feature all the data that researchers have gathered from testing available crop varieties. They help growers make educated decisions about the next year's crops. AgCenter rice breeder Adam Famoso, near the screen, talks to rice farmers about his work creating new rice varieties designed to help growers produce better yields. Photo by Bruce Schultz



## On-site Learning

The AgCenter hosts annual field days at many of the research stations so farmers and ranchers can get an up-close look at the latest research findings. They learn about the latest developments in their crops and ask questions of scientists on how to improve their harvests. These field days have become an integral part of Louisiana agriculture. The field day participants are driven out into the fields, such as this group at Sugar Research Station near St. Gabriel, to view the research plots. Photo by Olivia McClure



## Nutrition Education

Our experts are not only concerned with the growing of food, they also conduct research on and teach about nutrition, food safety and obesity prevention. Classes are held at extension offices in all 64 parishes for all ages. Classes may focus on the benefits of locally grown farm-fresh foods or how to healthfully feed a family on a budget. Eva Davis, an AgCenter nutrition agent in East Baton Rouge Parish, conducts a class for youth involved with the Expanded Food and Nutrition Educational Program at Bernard Terrace Elementary School in Baton Rouge. Photo by Olivia McClure