

LSU AgCenter Calcasieu Parish Profile

Report to Stakeholders October 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

Family and Consumer Sciences

Over 850 families and school youth participate in the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) which helps participants to make healthier food choices, manage food dollars and increase physical activities, which leads to decrease risk for chronic diseases and decrease level of obesity. LSU/SU Ag Center conducts nutrition education programs that provide research-based information to help adults, youth, and families live healthier lifestyles through informed food choices and physical activity.

4-H Youth Development

Over 1200 youth gained knowledge & skills in SET Educational programs through six monthly 4-H club meetings. Over 5,600 middle school youth participated in "Health Rocks" school enrichment program across Calcasieu parish. Seventy-eight youth gained leadership & citizenships skills by participating in a service-learning project focused on agricultural careers and food security in our community. Over 150 youth participated in Gun Safety and marksmanship training with the 4-H shooting sports program.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Over 4,500 garden and landscape participants attended the annual Southwest Louisiana Garden Festival with 1156 attending 11 horticulture lectures during the two day event. Seventy-five local farmers attended production and management meetings for rice and soybeans. Conducted Calcasieu-Cameron Cattlemen educational meeting for 88 area cattle producers to gain new knowledge in nutrition and health management areas from industry professionals.



Figure 1- 4-Hers participating in 4-H University on LSU Campus



Figure 2- Farmers and consultants on rice station tour



Figure 3- Garden enthusiasts attending local Garden Expo at Burton Complex

CALCASIEU PARISH EXTENSION OFFICE

7101 Gulf Highway
Lake Charles, LA 70607

Phone: 337-721-4080

Fax: 337-721-4131

Email:

calcasieu@agcenter.lsu.edu

Office Hours:

8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Website: LSUAgCenter.com

LSUAgCenter.com/Calcasieu

Social Media:

[Calcasieu Parish EFNEP | Lake Charles LA | Facebook](#)

[Calcasieu Parish 4-H | Lake Charles LA | Facebook](#)

Parish Chair: James Meaux

jmeaux@agcenter.lsu.edu

Additional Contact: Heather White

Administrative Coordinator

hwhite@agcenter.lsu.edu

PROGRAMS

4-H and Youth Development

- Citizenship/Leadership
- Science, Engineering & Technology
- Healthy Living

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Fisheries/Coastal Issues
- Animal Production- Beef Cattle
- Crop Production- Rice, Crawfish
- Environment/Watersheds
- Horticulture/Lawn and Garden
- Pest Management
- Urban Forestry

Family and Consumer Science (FCS)

- EFNEP- Expanded Foods & Nutrition Program
- SNAP-Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Nutrition and Health

WHOM WE REACH:

26,714 - Youth (includes 1,206 4-H members & 59 school 4-H clubs & School Enrichment)

15,240 - Adults (8,687 Ag & Natural Resources & 6,553 Family Consumer Sciences)

HOW WE REACH THEM:

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

EXPANDING OUR EFFORTS:

372 volunteers from 4-H (231), Master Gardeners & ANR (96), Family and Consumer Science (45).

PARISH FACTS:

LSU AgCenter County Agents provide research-based information on plant, aquaculture, wildlife and animal enterprises to Calcasieu Parish clientele. The 2021 total dollar amount from these commodities were:

Plant enterprises: \$30,935,629

Aquaculture and wildlife: \$4,765,053

Animal enterprises: \$52,827,597

Population – 205,282

Median household income - \$57,709

Persons 65 years old and over -16.0%

Persons under 18 years old – 24.8%

Land area (square miles) - 1,063.66

Persons below poverty – 18.2%

Obesity rate - 39%

LOCAL ISSUES AND PLANS FOR THIS YEAR:

Increase productivity and profitability of Louisiana agriculture.

- Conduct commodity producer meetings and field days.
- Use mail, email distributions, web page, newsletters and news media to disseminate timely information.
- Conduct farm and home educational visits along with On-farm demonstrations.
- Conduct on-farm demonstrations.
- Work closely with commodity and farm organizations.

Promote the wide use of natural resources and protection of the environment.

- Conduct Master Farmer and Cattleman programs to increase producer's sustainability in agriculture.
- Continue to assist pond owners with good management techniques to increase water quality.

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

- Develop and implement service-learning projects throughout the parish.
- Continue to develop leadership opportunities for youth
- Junior Leaders will focus monthly on service related
- Organizations to learn about and volunteer service.
- Re-establish parish Achievement Day with educational workshops as the focus

Strengthen families and communities

- Market Family Nutrition and Health programs in the primary focus areas – Nutrition, Diet and Health.
- Conduct monthly nutrition education programs for families and youth.
- Collaborate with local agencies to promote healthy communities with focusing on health behaviors.



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