

Jeremy P. Hebert

100% Extension Appointment

Requested Action:
Promotion from Associate Extension Agent to Extension Agent

Acadia Parish LSU AgCenter
Crowley, LA 70526
337-788-8821
jphebert@agcenter.lsu.edu

Appointment: 100% Extension – 100% Agricultural and Natural Resources Agent
Requested Action: Promotion to the Rank of Extension Agent

Jeremy Hebert
Acadia Parish
Louisiana State University Agricultural Center
Crowley, La 70526

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Education

- Fort Scott Community College Fort Scott, Ks 2000-2002
 - Associates in Applied Science
- McNeese State University Lake Charles, La 2002 – 2005
 - Bachelors in Agricultural Business
- Louisiana State University Baton Rouge, La 2012 – 2017
 - Masters in Human Resource Education

Employment

- LSU AgCenter Crowley, La 2005 – 2006
 - *Extension Associate/LSU Rice Station*
- LSU AgCenter Crowley, La 2006 – 2007
 - *4-H Agent/Acadia Parish*
- Global Industries LLC. Carlyss, La 2007 – 2008
 - *Purchasing Agent/Compliance Coordinator*
- LSU Purchasing Baton Rouge, La 2008 – 2010
 - *Purchasing Agent*
- LSU Financial Aid Baton Rouge, La 2010 – 2011
 - *Financial Aid Advisor*
- LSU AgCenter Crowley, La 2011 – 2016
 - *Assistant Extension Agent/Acadia Parish*
- LSU AgCenter Crowley, La 2016 – 2019
 - *Associate Extension Agent/Acadia Parish*

About Jeremy Hebert

Nestled in the Southwest Region of Louisiana, Acadia Parish is painted by an agriculture landscape that consists of rice fields, soybean fields, pastures with grazing cattle, horticulture nurseries, and beautiful home gardens and landscapes. With over 62,000 people living in Acadia Parish, Crowley serves as a central hub and parish seat of this diverse parish. Acadia Parish is greatly diverse in the area of horticulture as fruits, vegetables and nursery crops make up a vast majority of the horticulture landscape while rice fields, soybean fields and crawfish ponds account for the majority of agricultural and natural resources / aquaculture landscape. According to the 2018 LSU AgCenter Louisiana Summary, Acadia's horticulture, agricultural and natural resources, and aquaculture enterprises contributed almost \$152,000,000 to Louisiana's economy directly.

Jeremy Hebert received his Associates of Applied Science degree from Fort Scott Community College in Fort Scott, KS, in May 2002, while attending Fort Scott Community College on a livestock judging scholarship. In 2005, Jeremy received a Bachelors of Science Degree with a concentration in Agriculture Business from McNeese State University in Lake Charles, LA. In 2017, he obtained a Master's of Science degree in Human Resource

Education from Louisiana State University where he finished with a cumulative grade point average of 3.93.

Jeremy Hebert joined the LSU AgCenter in May 2005 as an Extension Associate working with Dr. Johnny Saichuk in the Rice Verification Program until October 2006 and then moved into the Acadia Parish LSU AgCenter Extension Office as an Assistant Extension Agent working with 4-H. After leaving the Acadia Parish LSU AgCenter in May 2007 and working a brief time with Global Industries LLC as an Offshore Construction Purchasing Agent and Compliance Coordinator in Saudi Arabia, Jeremy found his way back into the LSU System by working with the LSU Purchasing Office as a Purchasing Agent and as a Financial Aid Advisor for the LSU Financial Aid Office. He has since found his way back to the Acadia Parish LSU AgCenter Office working as an Assistant Extension Agent where he was promoted in 2016 as an Associate Extension Agent.

Documentation of Major Program Areas and Initiatives

Horticulture

Jeremy served as the horticulture agent in Acadia Parish from 2011 – 2017. Although not officially the horticultural agent in Acadia Parish anymore, Jeremy has built up a clientele that still relies on him daily which he is still very eager to serve. He helps assist homeowners with their lawn and garden projects as well as several commercial operations within Acadia Parish. With over 22,500 households in Acadia Parish, horticulture is still one of the main projects for Jeremy. He makes daily visits to homes to determine the best course of action for the problems that are reported. Since starting his position in 2011, average monthly contacts have grown from 20 contacts per month to over 60. Contacts regarding lawns, composting, fruit/nut production, garden equipment, ornamentals, trees, landscaping, pest management and vegetables are performed on a monthly basis.

In addition to homeowners, Jeremy also works with several local commercial growers in Acadia Parish. Jeremy introduced one of these growers to sweet potatoes in 2013, and now this grower has gone from zero acres of sweet potatoes to planting 4 acres of foundation seed sweet potatoes within his operation in 2019. By Jeremy providing accurate guidance and being available, this grower's sweet potato operation has become a success. In addition to helping provide a harvestable crop, Jeremy also assists in providing guidance in marketing of the produce. Jeremy was instrumental in helping provide another avenue of marketing for this particular grower by introducing him to Louisiana Market Maker which is a national network of states that connect farmers and fishermen with food retailers, grocery stores, processors, caterers, chefs and consumers. In 2018, Jeremy helped this producer expand to 1 acre of okra. He, and the farmer, projects the operation to grow to 3 acres of okra by 2020. Commercial citrus production is also an area of focus for Jeremy. Although Acadia Parish only has one known commercial citrus grower, the operation is sizable. With approximately 350 citrus trees in this grove, Jeremy currently assists this grower monthly. Beginning in 2012, Jeremy began

assisting the citrus grower and providing education for him to be successful. Over the next year, Jeremy would scout monthly with the grower for harmful insects and diseases and demonstrate to the grower what to look for. Proper fungicide and insecticide applications are now being implemented within his program as Jeremy helped the grower obtain a private pesticide applicators license and adopt Best Management Practices. In addition to the adoption of Best Management Practices, Jeremy played a key role in this grower selling citrus to several supermarkets across Acadiana in 2017 and 2018. He has also introduced the grower to possibly producing citrus products through the LSU AgCenter's Food Incubator in the upcoming year. In the fall of 2017, Jeremy and the producer met about expanding the farmers operation. The farmer had an idea of a "U-Pick-Em" blackberry and blueberry patch. After doing extensive soil sampling and amendments, Jeremy came up with a plan for the grower to expand on his vision and the "U-Pick-Em" blackberry and blueberry patch was open in 2019. Jeremy still meets with this producer monthly to ensure his fruit-bearing plants are healthy and viable.

One program that Jeremy started is an annual strawberry plant program. Beginning in the fall of 2011, Jeremy conducted strawberry production training for homeowners who were interested in growing strawberries. Proper management practices were covered to provide training for interested growers. This program has grown from 10 growers growing 250 plants to almost 60 growers growing over 2,500 strawberry plants in Acadia Parish. In 2018, Jeremy had 57 growers purchase plants. By Jeremy providing successful training for this program, he sees the program continuing to grow into the future.

Acadia Parish beautification projects is another area where Jeremy has devoted time and effort. In 2013, Jeremy served on the planning committee for the Crowley Garden Club's Beautification Project for Crowley, LA. With five other members of the Crowley Garden Club, Jeremy and the planning committee were able to acquire donations for the beautification project for downtown Crowley, LA. Once funds were in place, proper planning was done and volunteers were recruited for the planting of flowers in designated areas, trash clean-up, and the planting of flowers in 12 cast iron planters that were purchased through donations. He also served on the beautification project committee for the Rayne Garden Club in 2013. Here, like the previous beautification project, he and 5 Rayne Garden Club members planned the project and recruited volunteers for the planting of flowers and shrubs in downtown Rayne, LA. In 2017, the Rayne Garden Club reached back out to Jeremy to help establish a magnolia tree memorial garden. The vision was to have families purchase magnolia trees through the Rayne Garden Club and have a memorial plaque for each tree in memory of a person or family. Jeremy was the driving force in selecting the correct location to have the trees planted and was instrumental in the construction of the planting beds. With purchases in place, Jeremy worked with Bob's Tree Service and helped procure the best trees possible. Overall, 28 magnolia trees were planted in Rayne in 2018 and are thriving today.

Not only does Jeremy help serve on beautification projects for garden clubs, but he does for schools as well. He has worked with teachers and principals in receiving in-kind donations of flowers to be planted in the front of schools such as Martin Petitjean Elementary in 2012, Richard Elementary in 2013, Crowley Kindergarten in 2015, Iota Elementary in 2017 and Iota

Middle in 2018. With the help of several teachers from the schools and approximately 10 students from each school, flowers were planted in landscape beds. By utilizing youth within this project, mastery and ownership was adopted by the youth as they now manage the landscape beds at their respective schools. Currently, Jeremy still assists with the care and management of the landscape beds and helps the students identify any problems that might be occurring in the landscape. When problems do occur, he explains to the kids and teachers what is going on and how to properly correct the problem. Jeremy uses these school landscape beds as a teaching tool for not only the teachers, but students as well.

Jeremy also has worked with various organizations in Acadia Parish to implement community gardens. In 2014, Jeremy was approached by a representative at Louisiana State University at Eunice about teaming up and establishing a community garden in Eunice. Over the course of 4 sessions, Jeremy provided training to seven Eunice Garden Club members in 2014. These seven members would oversee the community garden. Together in 2015, Jeremy and the 7 members recruited 10 lower-income families to take part in the community garden. He assisted these families in selecting and planting a variety of vegetables that they could harvest and take home and prepare. In 2016, they saw the program grow to 13 families and again grow in 2017 to 15 families. Sadly the Eunice Garden Club dismantled the community garden for different reasons in the fall of 2017.

Another success story within the community garden sector is Jeremy working with Martin Luther King Youth Center. Jeremy was contacted in 2016 to see if he could help get a garden going for the kids to participate in. Through in-kind donations that Jeremy solicited, he was able to establish 8 raised bed gardens. With the help of the youth, they were able to construct the gardens and plant vegetables in two days. The youth have proved to be very active in these raised-bed gardens and have even harvested the produce and prepared it at the youth center. With the proper training from Jeremy, the director of the youth center has now taken over and has continued the community garden. Jeremy is still involved with the community garden as he offers continuing education training to the directors and volunteers.

In 2016, Jeremy also worked to establish a community garden at a local church. Jeremy was contacted by the pastor and with the collaboration efforts of the local Family and Consumer Science Nutritional Educator, Jeremy was able to construct the raised bed gardens. Members of the church attended two training sessions done by Jeremy and the nutritional educator in 2017 and were able to successfully grow and produce viable vegetable crops. In 2018, Jeremy provided three training sessions to the participants; the training sessions were disease management, insect management, and fertilizer recommendations. The pastor of the church continues the community garden with Jeremy's assistance and has been able to build on the success.

Jeremy also served as an instrumental part to the Southwest Louisiana Garden Show in Lake Charles, LA. Since 2012, Jeremy had attended the garden show and had worked the diagnostic table where interested parties would bring in samples of problems they are having with particular plants or just ask general questions related to vegetable production. When

plants were brought in, Jeremy would view the problems, correctly identify the problems and provide proper treatment options. Jeremy used this opportunity to network with the public as well as network with existing agents that were assisting with the garden show. Jeremy attended the Southwest Louisiana Garden Show from 2012 - 2017.

Jeremy was the driving force in establishing a partnership between the Acadia LSU AgCenter and Louisiana State University at Eunice by providing educational seminars in the area of horticulture to the LSUE Cajun Prairie Chapter of OLLI at LSU. Designed for energetic, curious adults 50 years and above, the mission of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at LSU (OLLI) is to offer the mature adult peer-learning opportunities in a membership-based community. Starting in 2012, Jeremy began providing educational seminars on the LSUE campus for members of the Cajun Prairie Chapter. Attendance has grown from 10 attendees per session to over 30 members per session. Two to three educational seminars are conducted each year. In 2018, Jeremy saw his largest attendance where 33 attendees participated in his program covering spring vegetable gardening. Volunteer coordinators for the program have expressed to Jeremy the popularity of adding this horticulture dynamic and the experience Jeremy brings. Due to the popularity and success of the partnership, LSUE Continuing Education and Jeremy have decided to continue the horticulture programs within OLLI by having seminars on a regular basis. A variety of topics are discussed; topics such as spring vegetable gardening, fall vegetable gardening, weed management in home lawns, fruit and nut production in backyards, and Integrated Pest Management in home horticulture are just a few of the topics that were discussed. To date, Jeremy has conducted 16 educational seminars from 2012 – 2018 and anticipates adding 2 additional educational seminars in 2019.

Acadia Parish is home to the Cajun Pines Golf Course. This golf course is a small, established golf course that is located in Branch, La and is attended by residents of the surrounding communities. Over the years, Jeremy works with the course owner when he needs help. In the spring of 2019, Jeremy was contacted by the owner. After miscommunication through the chemical company and the owner, the wrong herbicide was applied to all of his 9-hole golf greens. Quickly his golf greens diminished and he was left with bare ground. This caused the golf course to close. With the help of Jeremy and Dr. Ron Strahan, the owner was able to reseed and come up with a custom program that allowed him to reopen his golf course and have golf greens back to manageable conditions. The owner was quoted saying, "With the help of the Acadia Parish LSU AgCenter, we were able to reopen our course within 5 weeks versus the 9 weeks we originally planned for." Jeremy is still currently working with the owner to ensure his golf greens make a full recovery while the course remains open.

Acadia Parish School Gardens

Gardening projects for students in a school setting provide an extraordinary learning opportunity with popularity rising steadily. Through school gardening in Acadia Parish, students are gaining knowledge in science, mathematics, English, environmental studies, health and art. They learn first-hand about plants, nature and the outdoors as well as how fresh fruits and vegetables are grown.

In 2011, the Acadia Parish LSU AgCenter School Garden Program was developed by Jeremy Hebert. Up until this time, the Acadia Parish LSU AgCenter had not implemented a school garden program within the parish that they were directly associated with. After forming a planning committee with the Crowley Garden Club, Crowley Rotary Club, Oak Heart Farms and Lowe's, an overall goal was established to provide a vegetable garden where teachers could implement the vegetable garden as a teaching tool within their lesson plans. Jeremy applied for and was awarded a grant in 2011 from Whole Kids Foundation in the amount of \$2,000. This, along with in-kind donations from Oak Heart Farms and Lowe's, helped launch the construction of the first Acadia Parish LSU AgCenter school garden at Crowley Kindergarten in Crowley, LA.

School gardens in Acadia Parish continue to be productive and Jeremy continues to assist and offer guidance to teachers and students who are part of the Acadia Parish school gardening initiative. Local schools that have participated in the Acadia Parish School Gardening Program are the following:

- **Crowley Kindergarten** (2012 - 2015) Principal: Ida Yeager
 - Grades Participating:
 - Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten (2012 – 2015)
 - Approximate Number of Students Participating
 - 75 students (2012/2013)
 - 95 students (2013/2014)
 - 125 students (2014/2015)
 - Funded By
 - Whole Kids Foundation Grant (2012) \$2,000
 - Children's Trust Fund Grant (2013) \$2,500
 - Crowley Rotary Club \$200
 - Oak Heart Farms \$400 (In-Kind Donation. Composting)
 - Lowe's \$500 (In-Kind Donation. Vegetable plants, garden tools and weather station)

- **Branch Elementary** (2012 – Current) Principal: Marlene Courvelle
 - Grades Participating
 - 4th, 5th & 6th (2012/2013)
 - 4th, 5th, 6th & 7th (2013/2014)
 - K, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th & 7th (2014/2015)
 - K, 3rd, 5th, & 7th (2015/2016)
 - K, 4th, 5th, 6th, & 7th (2016/2017)
 - K, 4th, 5th, 6th, & 7th (2017/2018)
 - K, 4th, 5th, 6th, & 7th (2018/2019)

- Approximate Number of Students Participating
 - 35 students (2012/2013)
 - 40 students (2013/2014)
 - 85 students (2014/2015)
 - 90 students (2015/2016)
 - 90 students (2016/2017)
 - 90 students (2017/2018)
 - 90 students (2018/2019)
- Funded by
 - Fit 4 the Future Grant (2012, 2017) \$1,500 (School Garden Portion of the \$3,000 grant)
 - Crowley Rotary Club \$200
 - Oak Heart Farms \$350 (In-Kind Donation. Composting)
 - Lowe's \$350 (In-Kind Donation. Vegetable plants, garden tools and greenhouse)
- **Martin Petitjean Elementary** (2014 – Current) Principal: Kimberly Cummins
 - Grades Participating
 - 3rd, 4th & 5th (2014/2015)
 - 3rd, 4th, & 5th (2015/2016)
 - 3rd, 4th, & 5th (2016/2017)
 - 2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 5th (2017/2018)
 - 2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 5th (2018/2019)
 - Approximate Number of Students Participating
 - 40 students (2014/2015)
 - 45 students (2015/2016)
 - 55 students (2016/2017)
 - 80 students (2017/2018)
 - 85 students (2018/2019)
 - Funded by
 - Whole Kids Foundation Grant (2015, 2016) \$2,000
 - Oak Heart Farms \$200 (In-Kind Donation. Composting)
 - Acadia Parish, LSU AgCenter \$20 (In-Kind Donation. Strawberry Plants)
- **St. Francis School** (2014 – 2017) Principal: Michael Darbonne
 - Grades Participating
 - 4th, 5th & 6th (2014/2015)
 - 4th, 5th, & 6th (2015/2016)
 - 4th, 5th, & 6th (2016/2017)
 - Approximate Number of Students Participating

- 55 students (2014/2015)
- 65 students (2015/2016)
- 50 students (2016/2017)
- Funded by
 - Oak Heart Farms \$350 (In-Kind Donation. Composting)
 - Acadia Parish Farm Bureau \$300 (In-Kind Donation. Vegetable plants and educational material/Ag in the Classroom)
 - Acadia Parish LSU AgCenter \$40 (In-Kind Donation. Plants)

Jeremy conducted the teacher trainings for the garden leaders at the participating schools. Within the training, he presented the overall objective of the Acadia Parish School Garden Program and provided training material for the garden leaders in order for the teachers to be successful as garden leaders. Once implemented, the students then have the opportunity to fully engage in the school gardening experience.

Jeremy developed a student evaluation form to be completed by the students at the end of the school year in 2016. The goal of the evaluation was to assess how much information the students were retaining and sharing with their parents about what they learned through the school gardening experience. At Crowley Kindergarten, approximately 80% of the students returned their evaluations. The evaluation reflected that the students understood the value of growing fresh fruits and vegetables and showed that they encouraged their parents to create a vegetable garden at home. 91% of the students stated that they used basic math/counting that they had learned in the classroom and applied it within the school garden. 100% of the students stated that they would like to participate in the program the following year. In 2018, another evaluation was done at Martin Petitjean Elementary. This evaluation measured the students pre- and post- knowledge of vegetable gardening as well as the students implementing school procedures within the garden. 87% of the surveys were returned. 93% of the students showed knowledge improvement in basic vegetable gardening and 91% of the students used basic school procedures (math & science) within the garden.

Livestock Projects

Animal Science and Livestock Projects teach youth about animal behavior, health and reproduction while developing life skills. Acadia Parish youth have been involved in livestock projects for many years. Many volunteers assist with the Livestock Project to ensure its success. The Acadia Parish 4-H Livestock Program is one of the largest programs within Acadia Parish.

Jeremy works diligently along his co-workers to ensure that the livestock program provides youth with the opportunity to exhibit their livestock with pride, confidence, and good character while gaining education along the way. With Jeremy and his co-workers working

together, a showmanship clinic was held in 2013 in conjunction with an open show which was coordinated with Jefferson Davis Parish. Here, Jeremy demonstrated to the participant's proper techniques that should be used when showing swine, sheep and goats. The clinic helped the participants learn more about their livestock project, proper nutrient management, grooming methods and showmanship skills that would be beneficial within the show ring.

Jeremy has extensive knowledge in swine nutrition and caring for show pigs. In 2017 to 2019, Jeremy has worked with swine exhibitors with proper swine nutrition and daily care for their animals. During this time, Jeremy meets with swine exhibitors at their location and covers basic nutrition guidelines for show pigs and helps customize a feeding program for their project animals. He also shows and helps the exhibitors groom their show pigs in preparation for the upcoming livestock shows. With Jeremy's extensive knowledge in show pigs, the quality and quantity of the show pig program in Acadia Parish has risen.

Jeremy and his co-workers also reconstructed the Acadia Parish Livestock Show. In 2017, the rabbit show was moved to the Saturday morning of the parish livestock show and additional classes were added. This was done in order to increase participation and allow youth who lived within city limits the opportunity to exhibit animals on a parish level. Key volunteers with rabbit experience were recruited to run the show during the Acadia Parish Livestock Show. Through sponsorships and donations, awards were provided.

The Acadia Parish Livestock Show & Sale takes a lot of effort from all staff members from the Acadia Parish LSU AgCenter Office and volunteers alike. Previously, this was being done as a three-day event; however, Jeremy, his co-workers and the Acadia Parish Livestock Advisory Board made necessary changes. Now the livestock show and sale is a two-day event. Jeremy assists with the overall management of the parish livestock show which includes helping order awards, coordinate volunteers, lining up livestock judges (cattle judge & swine, sheep and goat judge), management of livestock pens, coordinating with exhibitors who are selling livestock in the parish sale and more. With over 140 livestock exhibitors within Acadia Parish and over 60 exhibitors participating in the Acadia Parish Livestock Sale, this program requires specific coordination. Since 2012, the number of livestock exhibitors has increased from 105 in 2012 to 144 in 2019. The growing success of our livestock program helped some of these youth reach awards on a state level and has allowed them to compete on a national level. Participants and parents are continually recruiting additional participants, which allows the program to reach more youth every year.

Jeremy has contributed to the Southwest District Livestock Show as well. From 2012 to 2014, Jeremy served on the swine committee which helped organize and manage the flow of the livestock show. With over 550 market hogs shown at the Southwest District Livestock Show, management from two superintendents was needed. Starting in 2015 to currently, Jeremy serves as the Co-Superintendent of the market swine show where he and his Co-Superintendent manages the market swine show and all personnel associated with the show. The market swine show has been the largest exhibit at the Southwest District Livestock Show for many years and is forecasted to continue to grow. By serving as the co-superintendent,

Jeremy and his co-superintendent have made suggestions and have recommended changes that have improved the quality of the market swine show.

In addition to assisting with the Southwest District Livestock Show, Jeremy also serves on the swine committee for the LSU State Livestock Show and has been doing so since 2012. While serving on the swine committee, Jeremy assists with the market hog classifications, swine breeding show, swine showmanship and the market swine show. At the LSU State Livestock Show, over 1,000 head of swine are shown annually. He works to ensure that this livestock show is ran smoothly and continues to be a positive experience for youth and parents. Jeremy excels in keeping the 4-H livestock families informed of upcoming programs and makes sure to instill hard work, honesty and ambition when working with the students and their families.

Jeremy, along with his co-workers in Acadia Parish, provide leadership to the Acadia Parish Livestock Advisory Board to assist in the planning and implementation of educational experiences for the youth. Each species has two representatives that reports to the board on their needs and experiences. The Acadia Parish Livestock Show is conducted by the Acadia Parish Livestock Advisory Board, Jeremy and his co-workers, as well as volunteers. By giving the Acadia Parish Livestock Advisory Board tasks and giving them ownership within the livestock program, the Acadia Parish Livestock Show continues to be a huge success and will continue to be in the foreseeable future.

Each year during the Acadia Parish Livestock Show, Jeremy conducts the parish livestock judging contest. Students, whether or not they have a livestock project, are able to compete on a parish level and be awarded for their accomplishments. The students are able to display the livestock knowledge they have gained and demonstrate their ranking-of-livestock ability. Each year, approximately 60 students participate in the livestock judging contest where they judge classes of swine, cattle, sheep and goats. In 2018, Jeremy began explaining to the participants the reasons behind the official placings at the conclusion of the contest. This allows the students to understand why a certain livestock evaluation class was placed a certain way and gives the participants opportunities to ask questions. Jeremy firmly believes this will help build the livestock knowledge within the students and make them more knowledgeable in livestock evaluation.

2012 was the last year the state livestock judging contest was held at 4-H University and Jeremy coached the state's winning team in addition to the state's 4th overall team. The winning team from Acadia Parish was able to compete at the national 4-H livestock judging competition in Louisville, KY where they had a positive experience. Jeremy practiced with the Acadia Parish livestock judging team at various locations across Kentucky which helped prepare the team for the national contest. With the new revisions to 4-H University and the livestock judging contest being brought back to 4-H University, Jeremy intends on coaching one or two teams for the upcoming 2020 4-H University.

In addition to 4-H livestock judging, Jeremy also assists with the district and state FFA livestock judging contests. Here, Jeremy helps put together judging classes of swine, sheep and cattle and acts as the main livestock judging official for the district and state contests. Jeremy began assisting in 2015 and in 2017, he became the head official. He continues to serve in this capacity and enjoys sharing his knowledge of livestock with the participants.

Jeremy also helps livestock producers within Acadia Parish. Most recently in 2015, Jeremy helped a local farmer who was interested in raising swine for the livestock shows. With the minimal swine background that the farmer had, Jeremy was able to educate the farmer and help the farmer pick quality breeding animals to start his herd. From having one sow in 2014, the farmer has now increased his herd to over 20 where he has exhibited champion market hogs on a state and national level. Jeremy has diligently taught the farmer proper techniques when artificially inseminating his gilts and sows, proper collecting techniques for collecting semen from boars, and provided him information regarding vaccination protocols for breeding and market animals. 2019 saw drastic changes to the producer's operation. Jeremy worked with him to modernize his facility. His facility now has a climate controlled baby pig nursery, climate controlled farrowing house, a showcase ring to sale animals, and a new sow facility. With Jeremy's help, the livestock producer went from selling market swine in just Louisiana to selling animals in three different states in 2019. The producer is on track to do the same for 2020.

Agricultural and Natural Resources (ANR)

Agricultural and Natural Resources is a large economic driver within Acadia Parish. Soybean production, cattle, horses, pastures, hay, crawfish, and rice all serve as the general make up of this diverse parish. Acadia Parish, for the last 6 years, has been the largest rice producing parish within the state. Each year, Acadia Parish grows approximately 80,000 acres of rice, 25,000 acres of soybeans, farms an estimated 45,000 acres of crawfish, has a population of close to 10,000 head of cattle, 1,500 horses, and is scattered with lots of pastures that are used for grazing and hay production. Beginning in 2018, Jeremy was assigned multi-parish responsibilities and now serves producers in Acadia (rice/soybean/horticulture), Lafayette (rice/soybean), Vermilion (rice/soybean), St. Martin (rice), and Iberia (rice).

Rice Verification Program

Starting in 2014, Jeremy began assisting his parish chair with crop work within Acadia Parish as well as Jefferson Davis Parish. In 2014, Jeremy, as well as other LSU AgCenter personnel, managed a rice field in Jefferson Davis Parish which was part of the LSU AgCenter Rice Verification Program. Weekly scouting of the field with the farmer allowed for proper and timely recommendations to be administered to the rice field as well as educational opportunities for Jeremy and the farmer. Correct fertilization rates as well as fungicide rates were applied to the field based off scouting the field. In 2015, Jeremy assisted his parish chair again with crop work in Acadia Parish and Jefferson Davis Parish. With one official rice field in the LSU AgCenter Rice

Verification Program and one non-official rice field, weekly scouting began in April 2015 and concluded in July 2015. As mentioned above, proper fertilization rates and fungicide rates were applied based on scouting results. This provided educational opportunities again as valuable information was gained by conducting weekly scouting. In 2016, Jeremy worked with another farmer that was interested in the rice verification program. Beginning this year, Jeremy was the main ANR Agent in Acadia Parish after the retirement of his parish chair. Here Jeremy met with the farmer weekly and scouted his fields with the farmer. He helped the farmer identify certain weeds and diseases as well as assisted him with the proper fertilizer recommendation. In previous years, this farmer averaged 42 barrels per acre and Jeremy helped him increase his yields on this particular farm by 3 barrels due to his participation in the rice verification program. 2017 was another successful year within the verification program. Jeremy worked closely with two farmers that were fairly new to farming. Like in previous years, Jeremy met with these farmers weekly and scouted the two fields with these two farmers. Jeremy taught the two farmers how to identify common weeds found within rice fields and what herbicides should be used. He also showed the farmers how to randomly scout fields and what to look for when identifying sheath blight (most common rice disease in Louisiana), cercospora, and blast. In addition, he also provided these two farmers with disease management guides that gave recommended fungicides for rice along with their efficacy. Average barrels per acre on these two farms increase by 4 barrels per acre and 2 barrels per acre thanks in part to the assistance of Jeremy and the Rice Verification Program. In 2018, Jeremy was assigned multi-parish responsibilities and continued the rice verification program in Acadia Parish and assisted in Vermilion Parish. Here Jeremy worked with the resident agent within the parish and helped conduct two different rice verification programs in Vermilion Parish. One farm was planted with a new herbicide technology variety, Provisia, and the other with an existing herbicide technology variety, Clearfield. Like in previous years, weekly scouting was done and proper weed management, disease management, and insect management was done. A unique situation was occurring with one of the producers, Josh Sonnier. Josh Sonnier, the 28-year-old producer in this situation, had terminal brain cancer and was being assisted in managing and producing this crop by his father, Kevin Sonnier. Kevin had very little experience in producing agriculture as he worked in Louisiana oilfields most of his adult life. Many of the major field operations were performed by or with the assistance of their neighbor, Kent Lounsberry, his men, and Josh's hired man. Josh passed away before the field was harvested. His field was one of the highest yield in the Rice Verification Program that year. Keith Fontenot, LSU AgCenter Rice Verification Program Coordinator said this in his annual Rice Verification Program Report, "A quick note about this situation and the cooperative efforts of Louisiana Rice Producers and the LSU AgCenter. Due to the caring attitude and personalities of two AgCenter agents, Andrew and Jeremy, this program was conducted to assist a producer in their area. From this, the cooperativeness, assistance, and help rendered by friends, neighbors, family, and businesses, all of which were part of the rice industry, was nothing short of amazing to see. This was a real testament to the character of these agents, rice producers and industry, and the people of the area." Jeremy chose to continue the Rice Verification Program again in 2019. Jeremy selected a farmer in Acadia Parish that was new

to farming and he felt this farmer could benefit from the program since this program is designed to be a teaching tool. This farmer only had three years of farming experience on his own but has helped his family out in years past on the family farm. Jeremy would scout the fields weekly and collaborate with the farmer. Jeremy, with the help of Keith Fontenot, would provide recommendations to the farmer so that he could implement the recommendations on his farm. This farm has yet to be harvested but looks very promising. Due to the success of the LSU AgCenter Rice Verification Program, Jeremy continues to work with the program and has already selected a farmer for 2020.

Soybean Official Variety Trial

In 2015, Jeremy assisted with the planting of two soybean demonstration plots on farmer's land in Jefferson Davis Parish and Acadia Parish. In both fields, 16 different varieties were planted with the help of the farmer and other LSU AgCenter personnel. Midway through the growing year at these plots, Jeremy hosted a soybean disease field day with the state soybean pathologist. This field day allowed farmers to not only see 16 different soybean varieties but also see the disease package that each variety has. Jeremy had 21 attendees at the Jefferson Davis Field Day and 34 attendees at the Acadia Parish Field Day. In 2018, Jeremy chose to put out another soybean OVT (official variety trial). A local farmer was selected in Iota, La and 10 varieties were planted. Midway through the season, again Jeremy chose to have a soybean field day. Jeremy sees the value in allowing farmers and consultants the opportunity to see first-hand soybean varieties that they may choose to plant. These farmers and consultants were able to walk through the plots and visually see pod sets as well as any disease and insect damage. After harvest, Jeremy took the yield data from each plot and put together a summary. The summary included date of planting, weekly rainfall, stages of growth for each variety, disease ratings, and yield data and provided this information to various stakeholders. Jeremy will continue the soybean official variety trial in 2020 and has selected a farmer in Crowley, La. By planting these varieties in multiple parishes, yield data is collected and analyzed for crop improvements. These plots serve as tools that farmers can use in upcoming years when selecting soybean varieties that they intend to plant.

Soybean Aerial Blight Trial

Aerial blight is a very destructive disease in soybean production. Beginning in 2015, Jeremy began working with Dr. Trey Price and Dr. Boyd Padgett in implementing soybean aerial blight trials. A farmer was selected in Iota, La and a fungicide trial was implemented with various fungicides. Jeremy, along with Dr. Price, would apply the fungicides, rate the fungicide trial blocks, and record the data to see the efficacy of the fungicide and how it relates to the disease. In 2016, Jeremy chose a farmer in Mowata, La. Here the same practice was used as in the previous year and ratings on aerial blight, as well as cercospora, were done. Cercospora is another very problematic disease in soybean production and is very common throughout Louisiana. Starting in 2017, Jeremy and Dr. Price implemented two different fungicide trials at the same location in Iota, La. Each fungicide trial was one acre in size and consisted of various blocks within the one-acre trials. Each block was applied with a specific fungicide at a specific

rate and its efficacy was recorded at a later date. In 2018, Jeremy and Dr. Price chose to continue the fungicide trials and again had two different trials located in Iota, La. Both cercospora and aerial blight were looked at. The program will continue in 2019. The soybeans have been planted and are currently growing. Once the field has reached the appropriate growth stage, the fungicide trial will begin. With these trials, valuable information is gathered that can potentially help soybean farmers within Louisiana.

Rice Fungicide Trial

In 2019, Dr. Don Groth contacted Jeremy about possibly administering a rice fungicide trial with Amistar Top. This is a newer fungicide that was released in 2018 and field results were not matching test trial results. Jeremy met with Dr. Groth and the fungicide was secured and an aerial applicator company was contacted about their willingness to apply the contact. The fungicide will be applied at two different rates with two different planes (notably one plane being able to apply pesticides at a slower rate). This trial will consist of the two rates and a check plot within the two blocks. This fungicide trial is set to be implemented in July of 2019.

Pesticide

To better aid farmers and homeowners in Acadia Parish and surrounding areas, Jeremy obtained his commercial pesticide license in the area of Agriculture Pest Control, Demonstration and Research and General Standards in 2012. In addition, Jeremy was certified in Worker Protection Standard and can now successfully train and certify personnel in WPS. Each year, Jeremy recertifies farmers and consultants who currently have their private applicators license and need recertification. In conjunction with his annual rice and soybean producer's meetings, Jeremy recertifies on average 85 producers a year. In addition to the private applicators license renewal, Jeremy also certifies personnel as Workers and Handlers (Worker Protection Standards) when dealing with pesticides. Each year, Jeremy certifies approximately 25 people to become Workers or Handlers. This certification allows these workers to legally handle and mix pesticides.

General Agricultural and Natural Resources

Jeremy hosts an annual rice and soybean producers meeting each year. This producers meeting consists of LSU AgCenter specialists discussing a variety of topics related to rice and soybeans; these topics include recommended rice varieties, rice fertilization and nutrient management, rice disease management, rice insect management, rice weed management, crop outlook/market, soybean production, soybean insect management, and soybean disease management. During the 2018 rice and soybean producers meeting, Jeremy constructed a survey and wanted to see how he could improve the producers meeting. With an overwhelming response to add crawfish production to the program, Jeremy implemented crawfish production starting at the 2019 producers meeting. Another change that was made to the producers meeting was inviting other rice producing parishes to the meeting to consolidate the number of producer meetings that are held in January. With Jeremy's multi-parish

responsibilities, he chose to invite St. Martin Parish rice farmers to the meeting instead of having a standalone meeting in St. Martin Parish. These meetings are a large draw for farmers and consultants and has attendance of 100+ producers/consultants each year. In 2017, Jeremy invited KATC News to attend the meeting. A feature was done on the rice and soybean producers meeting and brought awareness to one of the programs that Jeremy does.

Jeremy serves as an Agent Tour Guide for the LSU AgCenter Rice Research Station Field Day from 2012 – current. By serving as a tour guide, he is able to provide specific details about the Rice Research Station to his clientele and use this opportunity as a networking event. During the seven years as serving as a tour guide, he is able to visit with farmers and consultants and he gains valuable information regarding what varieties they are planting, what diseases they are seeing, what insects they are seeing, and more. He plans on continuing this effort in the future.

Each year, Jeremy hosts the Acadia Parish / LSU AgCenter South Farm Field Day. This field day is a very popular field day as it differs from other parish field days. Jeremy coordinates the field day and selects the presenters, solicits donations for the breakfast, and provides information on the program. The Acadia / South Farm Field Day consists of LSU AgCenter specialists giving presentations on rice varieties, rice diseases, rice insects, statewide rice update, soybean production and a “rolling-tour” of rice herbicide trials. Dr. Eric Webster conducts valuable rice herbicide research on the LSU AgCenter South Farm and this field day and its’ location allows for participants to see each rice herbicide plot where research is conducted. Dr. Webster talks about a variety of herbicide plots and what seems to be working and what does not seem to be working. Producers and consultants are very interactive and are encouraged to ask questions. Each year, this field day provides approximately 85 – 100 participants and is one of the most beneficial programs Jeremy coordinates throughout the year.

The LSU AgCenter Rice Varieties and Management Tips publication is a valuable tool for farmers and consultants around the state of Louisiana. Beginning in 2017, Jeremy began serving on the committee to help put the publication together. This committee consists of LSU AgCenter rice specialists, researchers, Rice Research Station personnel, and Jeremy who is the only Extension Agent on this committee. This publication provides recommended varieties for planting, yield data, disease management, insect management, weed management, nutrient management and other Best Management Practices. This publication serves as a valuable tool for rice farmers across the state and has been a very instrumental guide to many farmers. Jeremy has served on this committee from 2017 – current.

In 2016, Jeremy served on the LSU AgCenter Rice Extension Advisory Board. Jeremy, along with a couple extension agents, met with researchers and discussed needed trainings, tools, and problems that extension agents are facing in the field. Through this advisory board, a rice disease management training was done and it allowed agents the opportunity to see different diseases first-hand and find proper ways to treat the diseases.

In 2017, Jeremy started working with Dr. Blake Wilson who serves as the LSU AgCenter rice and sugarcane entomologist. Dr. Wilson contacted Jeremy to help locate a field where he and a student could conduct research. Upon locating a field, Jeremy assisted the research team in conducting research regarding the number one pest in rice production, the rice water weevil. This research continued in 2018 and 2019. Samples are taken throughout the growing season on non-insecticidal seed treated rice fields to determine populations and how insecticides can be applied in a more cost-effective manner. In addition to the rice water weevil project, Jeremy also currently assists Dr. Wilson in conducting stored rice grain bin samples. Stored grain insects are very damaging to the grain in the bins and very little research has been done. With the help of Jeremy, Dr. Wilson has been able to locate farmers across Acadia Parish and take core samples within the bins to monitor insect pressure. Jeremy has located a farmer that will be doing research with Dr. Wilson's plan and this will be conducted in the fall of 2019.

Jeremy enjoys working with the public and showcasing what Acadia Parish has to offer. In 2017, Jeremy worked with the LSU Rice Research Station in hosting the Adecoagro Group from Argentina. This was a group of farmers that were on a several week tour of the United States. Jeremy's sole responsibility with this group was farm tours. With the help of the Acadia Parish Rice Growers Association, Jeremy was able to tour 3 farms during harvesting as well as two grain drying facilities with this group. Jeremy also collaborated with the Acadia Parish Farm Bureau and conducted a farm tour/presentation for the National Bonding Commission in 2018. Here Jeremy lined up a farm tour and grain drying tour as well as had a question and answer session with the National Bonding Commission. The commission was composed of approximately 70 people from across the United States.

Jeremy works diligently with farmers throughout Acadia, Vermilion, Lafayette, St. Martin and Iberia Parishes. With his primary responsibilities being rice and soybeans, covering these five parishes is a large undertaking. Approximately 139,000 acres of rice was grown throughout these parishes and 39,500 acres of soybeans in 2018. Jeremy has gained the respect of farmers across these parishes and visits farms regularly providing guidance and knowledge. One particular farmer in Acadia Parish, Kevin Reiners, was quoted last year saying, "Jeremy saved me \$10,000 on my rice crop. My chemical rep recommended I spray fungicide in a number of my fields and I wanted a second opinion. I called Jeremy and he scouted the fields with me and recommended I do not spray. This \$10,000 was critical in me making a profit on my rice crop or me breaking even. I trust his opinion." Jeremy takes this position very seriously and knows that margins are tight and all input costs must be evaluated. Jeremy often states to farmers that he meets "It's not about the yields at the end of the year but it's about whether farmers are making a profit or going into the red and my job is to help farmers get the best return on their investments."

Jeremy meets monthly with the Acadia Parish Farm Bureau Federation board. This board consists of farmers and leaders within Acadia Parish. During the meeting, Jeremy provides a monthly "County Agent Report" that consists of local issues that farmers/commercial growers are facing within the parish, upcoming events, news as it relates

to the LSU AgCenter, and trainings. Jeremy began serving in this capacity in 2015 and has continued this practice in 2019.

General

Since starting his current position in the fall of 2011 with the Acadia Parish LSU AgCenter, Jeremy continues to be a valuable asset to the 4-H Program and 4-H Agents within the parish. He values the importance of assisting youth in learning opportunities. Each year, the youth that participate in these learning opportunities gain knowledge and life skills that help them grow as young adults. From 2012 – 2018, Jeremy continued to help train 4-H University teams for their respective contests. Jeremy has coached the horticulture team from 2012 - 2015 where the teams have continued to be blue ribbon state winners. In 2014, Jeremy served as the Acadia Parish Fishing Sports coach. The team competed at 4-H University where they were blue ribbon winners as well. In 2017 and 2018, Jeremy coached the soybean illustrated talk participant. This participant went on to place 3rd in the state in 2017 and 3rd in the state in 2018. 4-H University is important to the youth and continues to be a large program for Acadia Parish 4-H. Each year, Jeremy serves as an additional Agent for Acadia Parish in order to help facilitate the 4-H University experience for the youth. With over 70 4-H members from Acadia Parish attending annually, it takes effort from volunteers that are recruited as well as the agents within the parish to ensure an enjoyable experience is had. Jeremy intends on coaching the livestock judging teams in 2020 and beyond.

Also in 2014, Jeremy attended 4-H Camp at Camp Grant Walker as an Agent from Acadia Parish. With both 4-H Agents on maternity leave, Jeremy assisted with 4-H Camp and brought over 70 students from 4th grade to 6th grade. While there, the students were able to experience many different learning activities in non-formal setting where mastery of skills were adopted.

Acadia Parish Achievement Day is held annually in Acadia Parish. Prior to 2015, Achievement Day provided youth an opportunity to test their knowledge in various 4-H project areas. Many participants in the contests learn problem solving and decision making skills by competing in their contests. In 2015, Achievement Day was revamped and included educational sessions for the students to attend. Educational opportunities were available to all students that attended Achievement Day. Along with other Agents and staff in the office, Jeremy helps organize Achievement Day to make it a successful day for all 4-Hers.

Each year, the Acadia Parish 4-H Junior Leaders have a trip that they are eligible to attend. In 2017, Jeremy was asked to serve as one of the Acadia Parish staff members on the trip. The trip was to Memphis, Tennessee and approximately 75 students from two parishes attended.

Jeremy also assisted with attending Acadia Parish 4-H Club Meetings as an Agent. Jeremy attended 3 club meetings in 2012, 3 in 2013, 4 in 2014, 3 in 2015, 5 in 2016, 5 in 2017, and 4 in 2018. At the club meetings, Jeremy covered the Acadia Parish Cloverleaf Newsletter and upcoming events and deadlines that were approaching. He provided information to the

students to better their 4-H experience and provided necessary information. He is always willing to lend a helping hand in order to help when his co-workers are in need.

Jeremy served as Parish Chairman for Acadia Parish from 2015 – 2018. During this time of being the parish administrator within the Acadia LSU AgCenter, he had two 4-H agents, one Nutritional Educator, one Administrative Coordinator, and one student worker within the office. He strived to give support to each program and to make sure each program was successful. This position posed a major challenge for Jeremy. 2016 brought a major flood to Acadia Parish and surrounding areas. During this flood, the Acadia Parish LSU AgCenter Office was flooded and major renovations had to be done and staff had to move to a temporary location. With very little guidance, Jeremy oversaw major reconstruction and renovations to the office as well as the USDA Office which joins them. He worked with various construction companies and mold remediation teams to put the pieces back together. Over a period of 14 months, the Acadia Parish office and the Acadia USDA office renovations were completed and totaled over \$400,000. With having a minimal construction background, Jeremy oversaw major reconstruction while serving the agricultural community in Acadia Parish and surrounding areas.

Promotion and tenure is very important to the employees of the LSU AgCenter. Jeremy has sat on five promotion committees for LSU AgCenter employees and witnessed the success of each one of their promotions. He served on promotion committees for Bradley Pousson, Frances Guidry, Dan Devenport, Megan Sarver, and Amy Welch. During these promotion committees, feedback was gathered from committee members and was then presented to the employees up for promotion. This feedback allowed them to make any necessary changes to their promotional packets and then submit them for final approval.

The International Rice Festival is held annually in Crowley, La and is one of Louisiana's largest and its oldest agricultural festival. Since its first festival in 1939, over 7 million people have attended the annual event. Each year the event recognizes the International Rice Festival Farmer of the Year and this Farmer of the Year is a prestigious honor. Jeremy currently serves as the chairman of the agricultural committee for the International Rice Festival and oversees forming a committee who selects the Farmer of the Year. Jeremy has been serving in this capacity since 2016.

Jeremy was also a part of a steering committee for Annie's Project in 2017. Being a part of this committee allowed the Annie's Project Coordinator to revise the program and select participants that were suited for the program. Annie's Project is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing educational programs designed to strengthen women's roles in the modern farm enterprise.

The LSU AgCenter Southwest Region hosts a career day for high school students annually which began in 2017. Jeremy was asked to serve on the planning committee for the Ag Career Day. During this process, Jeremy along with other personnel, discussed ag-related topics that would be appropriate for high school-aged students. A program and schedule was

then constructed and the first LSU AgCenter Ag Career Day was implemented in 2017. After the first Ag Career Day, a meeting was held with the planning committee to see what worked and what didn't. Slight changes were made and revised for the next Ag Career Day which was held in 2018. With this Ag Career Day, the participants are presented with hands-on opportunities in various aspects of agriculture. These participants are comprised of a majority of non-traditional agricultural students. This program still resumes today and Jeremy still currently serves on the planning committee. Approximately 50 – 60 high school-aged students participate each year.

Dr. Janet Fox was very instrumental in the success of Jeremy's graduate schooling. During this time, they formed a great relationship and after his graduation, she asked Jeremy to serve on a Success in Graduate School panel. Jeremy has served on this panel for two years, 2017 and 2018. While on this panel, Jeremy and three others meets with Dr. Fox's graduate school class and they talk about their journey through graduate school. Students are able to ask questions and Jeremy, as well as other panel members, are able to answer and discuss the questions that are asked. This panel is a highlight of Jeremy's professional development as graduate school was a unique journey for him and one of his proudest moments.

Advisory Process and Critical Issue Responsiveness

Jeremy effectively uses the advisory committees to help meet the needs of programs throughout the parish. Jeremy, along with his coworkers and committee members participate actively in defining problem areas and offering suggestions as possible solutions.

- *Livestock Advisory Committee* – This committee focuses on meeting the needs of the livestock program. Rules, clinics and the parish show are planned by this committee. The Acadia Parish Livestock Show and Sale continues to be a successful program and is well organized due to the leadership and guidance of the livestock advisory board. This allows youth the ability to gain mastery, a sense of belonging, independence and responsibility. Recommendations are made by the advisory board for the district livestock show and state livestock show. 2011 - Current
- *Overall Acadia Parish Advisory Leadership Council* – The issues discussed by this council are as follows: finding ways to promote the LSU AgCenter and its programming efforts, discussing topics facing youth and addressing ways of reaching clientele. Jeremy has worked on addressing these issues presented by these committees. He has worked on promoting the LSU AgCenter and its purpose. Jeremy also utilizes different forms of media to attract attention and publicize information about the LSU AgCenter. 2011 - 2016
- *Acadiana Rice & Soybean Advisory Board* – This committee meets annually and consists of farmers and consultants from Acadia Parish, Lafayette Parish, and St. Martin Parish. Each year, this committee establishes average yields in rice and soybeans from the previous year. This yield information is used when compiling information for the annual LSU AgCenter Ag Summary. This committee is also used when determining rice acreage

planted by variety. This report is put out each year by Dr. Dustin Harrell and it summarizes rice acreage by varieties. 2011 – Current

- *Southwest District Livestock Show Agent Advisory Committee* – This committee meets three times a year to discuss the upcoming Southwest District Livestock Show and Rodeo. Meetings are held to plan/change rules, select judges, pen assignments, schedule, and more. 2011 - Current
- *LSU AgCenter Rice Extension Advisory Committee* - This committee was constructed to see what information/tools could be changed to better serve rice extension agents within the LSU AgCenter. 2016

Innovative Teaching Methods, Knowledge and Application of New Technology

In 2017, Jeremy attended a workshop within the LSU AgCenter regarding the use of drone technology in agricultural production. This peaked Jeremy's interest and he attended several other meetings throughout the state in the following months. Working with the Acadia Parish Police Jury and the LSU AgCenter, Jeremy was able to purchase a drone that has Normalized Difference Vegetative Index (NDVI) capabilities. Jeremy has visited with several farmers about conducting test imagery on their selected farms and all are willing. Jeremy is currently studying to become a certified pilot so that he can begin using this new technology with drones and NDVI.

In every aspect of program delivery, Jeremy tries to use the most appropriate methods of teaching. Jeremy researches his target audience and basis his program delivery on their specific needs. Group teaching methods, PowerPoint presentations, hands-on learning, talks and visual presentations are utilized when providing educational sessions to his target audiences.

Jeremy understands the value of using technology in supplying his clientele with the information they need. He utilizes PowerPoint, Excel, Word and Access with proficiency to aid his clientele in understanding program objectives. He is very familiar with using technology such as projectors, internet tools and Adobe Acrobat. E-mail is another means by which Jeremy transfers information on a regular basis. He responds continually to emails from LSU AgCenter employees and the general public. Jeremy also uses Facebook as a useful tool to communicate with exhibitors and parents that are associated with the livestock program. Jeremy is able to make this information available instantly and provide information to the youth and parents in a timely manner.

Presentation and Media of Research Based Material

Jeremy has worked to bring education of research-based material to the horticulture and ANR programs in Acadia, Vermilion, Lafayette, St. Martin and Iberia Parishes via news articles, newsletters, presentations and radio programs since 2011. He has worked to develop

useful information that homeowners and commercial producers can utilize within their operations. Newspaper articles were submitted to Church Point News, Rayne Acadian Tribune, Crowley Post Signal, and the Louisiana Farm and Ranch. Radio programs were recorded and aired on KSIG 1450AM until 2016. Newsletters were constructed and emailed out to contacts in Acadia, Vermilion, Lafayette, St. Martin and Iberia Parish producers.

The following newspaper articles were written and published in selected newspapers as well as recorded and aired on the radio:

2011

- 8 newspaper articles covering horticulture
- 8 topics aired on the radio covering horticulture

2012

- 20 newspaper articles covering horticulture
- 18 topics aired on the radio covering horticulture

2013

- 18 newspaper articles covering horticulture
- 18 topics aired on the radio covering horticulture

2014

- 18 newspaper articles covering horticulture
- 16 topics aired on the radio covering horticulture

2015

- 23 newspaper articles covering horticulture
- 2 newspaper articles covering agriculture and natural resources
- 16 topics aired on the radio covering horticulture
- 2 topics aired on the radio covering agriculture and natural resources

2016

- 12 newspaper articles covering horticulture
- 8 newspaper articles covering agriculture and natural resources

2017

- 10 newspaper articles covering horticulture
- 12 newspaper articles covering agriculture and natural resources

2018

- 6 newspaper articles covering horticulture
- 14 newspaper articles covering agriculture and natural resources

2019 (as of 7/2/19)

- 4 newspaper articles covering horticulture
- 7 newspaper articles covering agriculture and natural resources

Other Media

Established in the fall of 2012, Jeremy was the driving force behind *The Handy Horticulturalist*. This newsletter, which initially was sent out on an as-needed basis, quickly turned into a quarterly newsletter when Jeremy recognized the need for providing helpful information to his clientele. Within the newsletter, there was a vegetable gardening section, fruit tree section, small fruit section, lawn section and landscape section. When the newsletter first began in 2012, Jeremy had approximately 20 people on the email list and had built up to approximately 350 contacts. In the fall of 2015, Jeremy revised his newsletter when he was assigned ANR responsibilities and now sends out the Acadiana Ag & Hort. This newsletter combines the horticulture aspect as well as agronomics as well. During the spring time, this newsletter is sent out twice a month. Once summer approaches, the newsletter is sent out monthly and again twice a month in the Fall. During the winter months, it is sent out once a month. This newsletter reaches approximately 550 contacts and he continues to add contacts each year and continues to grow.

External Funding, Material Support & Grants

Since Jeremy joined the LSU AgCenter in his current position, he has worked to secure funding to purchase supplies, donations and program support. The information below lists the funding Jeremy has secured to support his parish programs from 2011 – current.

2011-2012

Grants:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|--|
| • Whole Kids Foundation | \$2,000 | Provided funding for school garden at Crowley Kindergarten |
| • Fit 4 the Future | \$3,000 | \$1,500 allocated for school garden at Branch Elementary |

Monetary Donations:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|---|
| • Crowley Rotary Club | \$200 | Donation for Crowley Kindergarten school garden |
| • Crowley Rotary Club | \$200 | Donation for Branch Elementary school garden |

In-Kind Donations:

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------|---|
| • Oak Heart Farms | In-kind | Donation of compost soil for Crowley Kindergarten school garden |
|-------------------|---------|---|

• Oak Heart Farms	In-kind	Donation of compost soil for Branch Elementary school garden
• Lowe's	In-kind	Donation of vegetable plants and garden tools for students at Crowley Kindergarten
• Lowe's	In-kind	Donation of labor for construction of school garden at Crowley Kindergarten
• Landry's Feed Store	In-kind	Donation of vegetable planting tools for fall vegetable garden seminar giveaway
• Crowley Garden Club	In-kind	Donation of labor for construction of school garden at Crowley Kindergarten
• Rayne Garden Club	In-kind	Donation of labor for construction of school garden at Branch Elementary
• Acadia Parish School Board	In-kind	Donated use of laminating machine
• Acadia Parish School Board	In-kind	Donated use of laminating machine
• Community Auctioneer	In-kind	Donation of time auctioneering at the Acadia Parish Livestock Sale
• Harmon's Nursery	In-kind	Donation of garden materials for Crowley clean-up day
• Landry's Feed Store	In-kind	Donation of pine shavings for Acadia Parish Livestock Show
• Grote Family	In-kind	Donation of labor to cook lunches for the Acadia Parish Livestock Board, Acadia staff and livestock volunteers
• LSUE	In-kind	Donation of rooms for educational seminars as well as electronic equipment
• Crowley City Hall	In-kind	Donation of area to provide educational displays about Acadia LSU AgCenter

2012 – 2013

Grants:

• Children's Trust Fund	\$10,000	\$2,500 allocated for Crowley Kindergarten school garden and remainder allocated for educational material for students/parents
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In-Kind Donations

• Landry's Feed Store	In-kind	Donation of door prizes for garden leader training for school gardens
• Harmon's Nursery	In-kind	Donation of vegetable plants for garden leader training for school gardens
• Oak Heart Farms	In-kind	Donation of compost soil for school garden at Branch Elementary
• Lowe's	In-kind	Donation of sprinkler system for school

• Mike Miller	In-kind	garden at Branch Elementary Donation of labor to work the ground where garden was to be planted at Branch Elementary
• Acadia Parish Sheriff's Office	In-kind	Donation of inmate labor to help clean up Crowley and Rayne for beautification project
• Oak Heat Farms	In-kind	Donation of compost soil for planting urns for downtown Crowley
• Oak Heart Farms	In-kind	Donation of compost soil for landscape bedding for downtown Rayne beautification project
• Livestock Show Leader	In-kind	Donation of labor to cook lunches for the Acadia Parish Livestock Board, Acadia staff and livestock volunteers
• LSUE	In-kind	Donation of rooms for educational seminars as well as electronic equipment
• Crowley City Hall	In-kind	Donation of area to provide educational displays about Acadia LSU AgCenter

2013 – 2014

Grants

• Fit 4 the Future	\$2,600	\$1,500 allocated for Branch Elementary school garden and remainder allocated for food & fitness camp
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In-Kind Donations

• Landry's Feed Store	In-kind	Donation of door prizes for garden leader training for school gardens
• Harmon's Nursery	In-kind	Donation of vegetable plants for garden leader training for school gardens
• Lowe's	In-kind	Donation of tomato stakes and cages for school gardens at Crowley Kindergarten, Branch Elementary and Martin Petitjean Elementary
• Community Auctioneer	In-kind	Donation of time auctioneering at the Acadia Parish Livestock Sale
• Acadia Parish Police Jury	In-kind	Donation of compost mulch for school gardens
• Iota High School	In-kind	Donation of labor to fix broken pens in livestock barn

- | | | |
|--------|---------|--|
| • LSUE | In-kind | Donation of rooms for educational seminars as well as electronic equipment |
|--------|---------|--|

2014 – 2015

Grants

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|---|
| • Whole Kids Foundation | \$2,000 | Provided construction and maintenance for Martin Petitjean Elementary school garden |
|-------------------------|---------|---|

In-Kind Donations

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------|---|
| • Oak Heart Farms | In-kind | Donation of compost soil for Martin Petitjean Elementary school garden |
| • Lowe's | In-kind | Donation of greenhouse supplies for Martin Petitjean Elementary school garden |
| • Mark Atteberry | In-kind | Donation of equipment to move compost soil into garden area |
| • Pat Schultz | In-kind | Donation of labor and machinery to fix livestock pens in Rice Arena |
| • LSUE | In-kind | Donation of rooms for educational seminars as well as electronic equipment |

2015 - 2016

In-Kind Donations

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------|--|
| • Oak Heart Farms | In-kind | Donation of compost soil for Branch Elementary |
| • First South Farm Credit | In-kind | Donation of 12 cases of water for ag programs within Acadia Parish |

Monetary

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|---------------------------|
| • Crowley Grain | \$150 | Acadia Parish Ag Programs |
| • First South Farm Credit | \$150 | Acadia Parish Ag Programs |
| • Valent | \$150 | Acadia Parish Ag Programs |
| • Helena | \$150 | Acadia Parish Ag Programs |
| • Ducks Unlimited | \$150 | Acadia Parish Ag Programs |
| • Green Point Ag | \$150 | Acadia Parish Ag Programs |
| • FMC | \$150 | Acadia Parish Ag Programs |
| • BASF | \$150 | Acadia Parish Ag Programs |
| • Monsanto | \$150 | Acadia Parish Ag Programs |
| • G&H Seed | \$150 | Acadia Parish Ag Programs |

2016 - 2017

In-Kind Donations

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------|--|
| • First South Farm Credit | In-kind | Donation of 14 cases of water for ag programs within Acadia Parish |
|---------------------------|---------|--|

Monetary

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|---------------------------|
| • Crowley Grain | \$150 | Acadia Parish Ag Programs |
| • First South Farm Credit | \$150 | Acadia Parish Ag Programs |
| • Valent | \$150 | Acadia Parish Ag Programs |
| • Helena | \$150 | Acadia Parish Ag Programs |
| • Ducks Unlimited | \$150 | Acadia Parish Ag Programs |
| • Green Point Ag | \$150 | Acadia Parish Ag Programs |
| • FMC | \$150 | Acadia Parish Ag Programs |
| • BASF | \$150 | Acadia Parish Ag Programs |
| • Sanders | \$150 | Acadia Parish Ag Programs |
| • Acadia Parish Farm Bureau | \$150 | Acadia Parish Ag Programs |

2017 - 2018

In-Kind Donations

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------|--|
| • First South Farm Credit | In-kind | Donation of 12 cases of water for ag programs within Acadia Parish |
|---------------------------|---------|--|

Monetary

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------|---------------------------|
| • Crowley Grain | \$150 | Acadia Parish Ag Programs |
| • First South Farm Credit | \$150 | Acadia Parish Ag Programs |
| • Valent | \$150 | Acadia Parish Ag Programs |
| • Helena | \$150 | Acadia Parish Ag Programs |
| • Ducks Unlimited | \$150 | Acadia Parish Ag Programs |
| • Green Point Ag | \$150 | Acadia Parish Ag Programs |
| • FMC | \$150 | Acadia Parish Ag Programs |
| • BASF | \$150 | Acadia Parish Ag Programs |
| • Sanders | \$150 | Acadia Parish Ag Programs |
| • Acadia Parish Farm Bureau | \$150 | Acadia Parish Ag Programs |
| • Acadia Parish Rice Growers | \$100 | Acadia Parish Ag Programs |

2018 - 2019

In-Kind Donations

- First South Farm Credit In-kind Donation of 12 cases of water for ag programs within Acadia Parish

Monetary

- Crowley Grain \$150 Acadia Parish Ag Programs
- First South Farm Credit \$150 Acadia Parish Ag Programs
- Valent \$150 Acadia Parish Ag Programs
- Helena \$150 Acadia Parish Ag Programs
- Ducks Unlimited \$150 Acadia Parish Ag Programs
- Green Point Ag \$150 Acadia Parish Ag Programs
- FMC \$150 Acadia Parish Ag Programs
- BASF \$150 Acadia Parish Ag Programs
- Sanders \$150 Acadia Parish Ag Programs
- Acadia Parish Farm Bureau \$150 Acadia Parish Ag Programs
- Acadia Parish Rice Growers \$100 Acadia Parish Ag Programs

Referred Journal Articles

Jeremy has not written any articles for publication in referred journals to this date.

Presentations at Professional and Clientele Targeted Conferences

Jeremy has presented numerous presentations for clientele targeted audiences from 2011 – 2019. He strives to provide the most up-to-date educational material for the benefit of his target audience.

- Fall Vegetable Gardening
 - Open to Public/Acadia Extension Office 9/2011
- Annual Flower Information and Goals as a Horticulture Extension Agent
 - Crowley Garden Club 10/2011
- Strawberry Production in Southwest Louisiana
 - Acadia Parish Police Jury Safety Meeting 10/2011
- Rose Care and Goals as a Horticulture Extension Agent
 - Rayne Rotary Club 10/2011
- Native Trees of Louisiana and Proper Care
 - Crowley Garden Club 12/2011
- The Use of Recyclables for Gardening
 - Acadia Parish Food & Fitness Camp 1/2012
- Native Trees of Louisiana and Proper Care
 - Acadia Parish Police Jury Safety Meeting 1/2012

- Proper Care within the Landscape
 - Acadia Homemakers Achievement Day 3/2012
- Spring Vegetable Gardening
 - Open to Public/Acadia Extension Office 3/2012
- Winterizing Your Landscape
 - LSUE OLLI Continuing Education 10/2012
- Proper Care of Azaleas
 - Crowley Garden Club 2/2013
- Proper Care of Azaleas
 - Rayne Garden Club 3/2013
- Spring Vegetable Gardening
 - LSU OLLI Continuing Education 3/2013
- Lawn Insect Management
 - Rayne Rotary Club 5/2013
- General Horticulture Issues Across Acadia Parish
 - Crowley Garden Club 7/2013
- Fall Vegetable Garden Production
 - LSUE OLLI Continuing Education 10/2013
- Fall Vegetable Garden Production
 - Open to Public/Acadia Extension Office 10/2013
- Poinsettia Care for the Holidays
 - Open to Public/Acadia Extension Office 11/2013
- Perennial Selections for the Landscape
 - Rayne Garden Club 2/2014
- Fruit and Nut Production of Louisiana
 - LSUE OLLI Continuing Education 3/2014
- Spring Vegetable Gardening
 - Rayne Garden Club 3/2014
- Butterfly Gardening at its Best
 - City of Rayne Flower Show 4/2014
- Lawn Insect Management
 - LSUE OLLI Continuing Education 6/2014
- 4-H Educational Tracks
 - Camp Grant Walker 7/2014
- Proper Management on Fruit-Bearing Trees
 - Acadia Parish Kiwanis 8/2014
- Nutrient Deficiencies in Ornamentals
 - Southwest LA District Garden Conference 9/2014
- Citrus Best Management Practices
 - LSUE OLLI Continuing Education 10/2014
- Citrus Best Management Practices
 - Open to Public/Acadia Parish 10/2014

- Shrub and Tree Care
 - LSUE OLLI Continuing Education 4/2015
- Benefits of LSU AgCenter Extension
 - Jefferson Davis Kiwanis 7/2015
- Fall Vegetable Gardening
 - Crowley Garden Club 7/2015
- Fall Vegetable Gardening
 - Rayne Garden Club 8/2015
- Pesticide Safety
 - Acadia Parish Rice & Soybean Meeting 1/2016
- Pesticide Safety
 - Acadia Parish Rice & Soybean Meeting 2/2016
- Artificial Insemination in Swine Production
 - Louisiana Pork Producers Assn. 3/2016
- Weed Management in Home Lawns
 - Acadia Parish Kiwanis 4/2016
- Managing Home Landscape
 - Rayne Rotary Club 5/2016
- Best Management Practices in Rice Production
 - Acadia Parish Rice Growers Assn. 8/2016
- Weed Management in Pastures
 - Acadia Cattlemen's Assn. 8/2016
- Pesticide Safety
 - Acadia Parish Rice & Soybean Meeting 1/2017
- Pesticide Safety
 - Acadia Parish Rice & Soybean Meeting 2/2017
- Barnyard Grass in Rice Production
 - Acadia Parish Rice Growers Assn. 3/2017
- Vasey Grass Control in Pastures
 - Acadia Cattlemen's Assn. 3/2017
- Artificial Insemination in Swine Production
 - Louisiana Pork Producers Assn. 3/2017
- Swine Vaccines for Baby Pigs
 - Louisiana Pork Producers Assn. 7/2017
- Ratoon Crop in Rice Production
 - Acadia Parish Rice Growers Assn. 8/2017
- Pesticide Safety
 - Acadia Parish Rice & Soybean Meeting 1/2018
- Pesticide Safety
 - Acadia Parish Rice & Soybean Meeting 2/2018
- Spring Vegetable Gardening
 - Crowley Garden Club 3/2018
- Swine Artificial Insemination

- Louisiana Pork Producers Assn. 3/2018
- Herbicides in Rice Production
 - Acadia Rice Growers Assn. 5/2018
- Citrus Tree Production
 - Rayne Rotary Club 7/2018
- Swine Vaccinations for Baby Pigs
 - Louisiana Pork Producers Assn. 7/2018
- Pesticide Safety
 - Acadia Parish Rice & Soybean Meeting 1/2019
- Pesticide Safety
 - Acadia Parish Rice & Soybean Meeting 2/2019
- Home Lawn Care
 - Rayne Garden Club 4/2019
- Acadia Parish Farm Bureau Board Meeting
 - Acadia Farm Bureau Office 2011 - Current
- Parish Livestock Show and Sale
 - Acadia Parish LSU AgCenter 2012 – Current
- Acadia Parish Livestock Judging
 - Acadia Parish LSU AgCenter 2012 – Current
- Acadia Parish Livestock Advisory Board
 - Acadia Parish LSU AgCenter 2011 – Current
- Acadia Parish Livestock Show and Sale
 - Acadia Parish LSU AgCenter 2012 – Current

Participation In and Leadership of Professional Organizations/Committees

Membership:

- Louisiana County Agricultural Agents Association
- Louisiana Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association
- Crowley Garden Club
- Rayne Garden Club
- Louisiana Rice Growers Association
- Acadia Rice Growers Association
- Acadia Cattlemen's Association
- Louisiana Pork Producers Association

Committee Activities:

- Crowley Beautification Project Committee
- Rayne Beautification Project Committee
- LSU State Livestock Show Swine Committee
- International Rice Festival Agricultural Committee

- Louisiana Pork Producers Reproduction Committee

Offices Held

- Louisiana County Agricultural Agents Association Southwest Region Board Member
2015 – 2017
- Louisiana County Agricultural Agents Association State Secretary
2018 – 2019
- International Rice Festival Agricultural Chairman
2016 - Current

Continued Coursework, In-Service Training, Sabbaticals, Professional Improvement

Jeremy has participated in a variety of trainings and professional improvement opportunities from 2011 – Current.

- Lafayette Parish Master Gardener Program Training Course (2011)
- Louisiana Commercial Vegetable Production Training (2011)
- LSU AgCenter Landscape Horticulture Field Day (2011 - Current)
- Tree Root Workshop (2011)
- Organic Vegetable Production Meeting (2011)
- ACE Horticulture Meeting (2011)
- LSU AgCenter Turf Grass Conference (2012 - Current)
- Acadia Parish Farm Bureau Meeting (2011 – Current)
- Southwest Louisiana Garden Show (2012 – Current)
- State Police Jury Conference (2013)
- USA Rice Outlook Conference (2015, 2018)
- Rice Technical Working Group (2016)
- BASF Provisia Rice Training (2017)
- BASF Dicamba Training (2018)
- Louisiana Soil Health and Cover Crop Convention (2018)
- LSU AgCenter Rice Research Field Day (2012 – Current)
- LSU AgCenter Rice Disease Workshop (2014 - 2016)
- LSU AgCenter Rice Production Meetings (2015 – Current)
- LSU AgCenter Soils Meetings (2011 – Current)
- LSU AgCenter Annual Conference (2011 – Current)
- LSU AgCenter Southwest Region Agent Training (2014 – Current)
- LSU Graduate School Courses (Graduated 2017)

Participation in Public Policy and Community Issues

Jeremy has participated in several public events & community issues.

- Crowley Beautification Project (2012)
- Rayne Beautification Project (2012, 2017)

- Louisiana Police Jury Association Convention (2013)
- First Baptist Church Community Garden (2016)
- MLK Youth Center Community Garden (2016)
- International Rice Festival (2016, 2017, 2018)

Awards and Recognition

Jeremy continues to participate in several key organizations/functions throughout the parish and state levels. To date, Jeremy has received the following awards:

- 2015 LCAAA Agent Scholarship to be applied towards his advanced degree
- 2015 NACAA Agent Scholarship to be applied towards his advanced degree
- 2016 LCAAA Achievement Award winner
- 2016 NACAA Achievement Award winner
- 2016 NACAA Voting Delegate
- 2019 NACAA Voting Delegate

Multi-Institution, Agency, and State Collaboration

Jeremy has collaborated with multiple business and community agencies with his multi-parish assignments to provide educational programming to his clientele. Jeremy has collaborated with other parishes within the LSU AgCenter to provide programming for multi-parish, regional and statewide programs.

The programs Jeremy works with in southwest Louisiana are enhanced by collaboration efforts with other agencies and institutions. Organizations he has collaborated with include:

- Louisiana State University at Eunice
- Crowley Garden Club
- Rayne Garden Club
- Acadia Parish Farm Bureau
- Acadia Parish Police Jury
- Acadia Parish School Board
- Acadia Parish Rice Growers Association
- Louisiana Rice Growers Association
- Acadia Cattlemen's Association
- Louisiana Pork Producers Association
- International Rice Festival

Other Scholarly or Creative Activities or Other Contributions to the Profession

Parish Level:

- Acadia Parish Commodity Cookery Judge (2011 – 2018)
- 4-H Record Book Judge (2012)
- Acadia Parish Safety Officer (2011 – 2019)
 - Conduct quarterly safety meetings
 - Manage all necessary safety documents of all personnel in the Acadia Parish Extension Office
- Assist with 4-H Club meetings within Acadia Parish (2011 – 2019)

Regional Level:

- LSU AgCenter Southwest District Commodity Cookery Judge (2012 – 2018)
- Southwest District Livestock Show Co-Superintendent (2015 - 2019)

State Level:

- Dorm Supervisor at LSU AgCenter 4-H University (2012, 2014, 2015, 2017)
- Scholarship Judge for LCAAA Student Scholarship (2012, 2014, 2015)

Professional Service

Jeremy assists fellow agents within the Acadia Parish LSU AgCenter by sharing program ideas and different ways to get youth and adults involved in the various programs that the LSU AgCenter has to offer.

Other External and Community Service

- St. John Berchmans Catholic Church; member
- Knights of Columbus; 3rd Degree Council 3006; member
- McNeese State University Agriculture Alumni Association; member
- McNeese State University Alumni Association; member
- Fort Scott Community College Alumni Association; member
- Louisiana Pork Producers Association