

THE AG LEADER

April 2022

Upcoming Events

NW Regional Beef and Forage Field Day *Red River Research Station, Bossier City* April 28

Class XVII National Trip *Washington D.C.* June 6-10

Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation Convention *New Orleans Marriott on Canal Street* June 23-26

Ag Leaders of Louisiana Annual Meeting *New Orleans Marriott on Canal Street* June 24

H. Rouse Caffey Rice Station Field Day *H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station, Rayne* June 29

Rice and Soybean Field Day *Northeast Research Station, St. Joseph* July 7

Sugarcane Field Day *Sugar Research Station, St. Gabriel* July 12



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Class XVII Begins Final Year

It took almost two years, but Class XVII finally turned the corner earlier this year with seminars in Monroe, New Iberia, Jennings and Baton Rouge.

In October, the class began the first session in Monroe. One highlight was a visit from Congresswoman Julia Letlow from the 5th District. It was a great opportunity for the class to get her perspective of the issues impacting agriculture.

The tour day was extensive – beef cattle, forestry, sweet potato, peanuts and cotton were all a part of the tours. A special thanks to Ag Leaders of Louisiana president Bobby Skeen (Class XIII) and vice-president Lance Bruce (Class XIV) for their support.

The sugar industry and hurricane impacts highlighted the seminar in New Iberia in December. The class heard about hurricane research and the economic impacts on agriculture and seafood. The tour day included a sugarcane field visit and a tour of the St. Mary Sugar Co-Op.

The following month in Jennings the class saw and heard about the rice and forestry industry. They also had their persuasive speeches and did an excellent job. The tour day included visits to the Roy O. Martin OSB plant and the Supreme Rice Mill.

The class wrapped up in Baton Rouge in February with a combination of agriculture and advocacy. A visit to the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation gave our group the opportunity to hear from their leadership and the public relations group. The class had an opportunity to see how This Week in Louisiana Agriculture television show is produced. A visit to the state legislature to see how a committee hearing is run was another highlight. A special thanks to Senator Bret Allain (Class III) for organizing the session and the support of Representative Troy Romero (Class XII).

Director's Message



The support of our alumni is vital to our success. There are a number of ways this simple statement has come to fruition since the beginning of COVID-19.

The guidance and support from our Board of Directors has been outstanding. We addressed so many issues that impacted Class XVII, but the focus was to keep the program moving forward. With guidance from the board, the class traveled to Montana in June 2021, delaying the Washington D.C. trip to this June with the hope of reduced COVID-19 protocols. Their input through the leadership of Chairman Marty Wooldridge (Class IX) was great.

In addition, the support from our officers with the Agricultural Leaders of Louisiana is equally important. The "Rainy Day" Fund has surpassed the \$300,000 mark and continues to grow. We appreciate the work of president Bobby Skeen, vice-president Lance Bruce and treasurer Mary Zaunbrecher.

For those traveling to the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention, we look forward to seeing you at the ALL meeting in New Orleans.

Finally, I want to list all of the alumni who have participated in our previous four seminars. They are:

Bret Allain (Class III)	Micah Barham (Class XVI)	Lance Bruce (Class XIV)	Joel Cape (Class X)
Avery Davidson (Class XV)	Kyle Dill (Class XII)	Noble Guedon (Class XII)	Benny Guerrero (Class XI)
Zach Hamilton (Class XVI)	Ronald Hebert (Class V)	Brad Judice (Class XII)	Julie Lively (Class XVI)
Kacie Luckett (Class XV)	Neil Melancon (Class XII)	Nathan Morrow (Class XVI)	Marley Oldham (Group II)
Troy Romero (Class XII)	Jim Simon (Class VII)	Bobby Skeen (Class XIII)	Katie Sistrunk (Class XIII)
Buck Vandersteen (Group II)	Kane Webb (Class VII)	Karl Wiggers (Class XVI)	

Class XVIII Application

The application for Class XVIII will be available in late May 2022. The application will be posted on the Ag Leadership website at www.LSUAgCenter.com/agleadership.

The deadline for the applications will be in August of 2022. Class XVIII will hold their first seminar in Baton Rouge in January 2023.

Loss of Our Own

We want to mourn the loss of three alumni this past year.



Micah Barham (Class XVI) of Oak Ridge passed away in February 2022. Micah farmed cotton, grains and peanuts. He hosted Class XVII during the October seminar.



Windell Jackson (Class III) of New Iberia passed away in March 2022. Windell retired as a senior agronomist with the American Sugar Cane League.



Mike Sullivan (Class IV) of Many passed away in May 2021. Mike was retired from the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Please keep the Barham, Jackson and Sullivan families in your thoughts and prayers.



Ag Leadership | 116 Knapp Hall | Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803 | Phone: 225-578-3659

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