Union Parish Profile

Report to Stakeholders December 2019

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

Due to the constant rise of obesity among Louisiana residents, the faculty focus on educating the residents of our parish by conducting a series of nutrition and wellness classes. Through the partnership of our SU AgCenter Family & Consumer Science Assistant Area Agent and LSU AgCenter Nutrition and Health Agent, we strive to change the behaviors of clientele using research-based curriculum structured for the individual or family component. In addition to making healthier choices, adults and youth learn about budgeting food dollars, food safety and other easy living skills that will assist them in providing a happy, healthy environment for their families.

Youth Development

Union Parish 4-H has in-school clubs in the parish's public, charter, and private schools reaching 300 youth in 4th-12th grades. Hands-on educational programs in science, leadership, and social skills are provided monthly to 4-H club members. 4-H Cloverbuds offers age appropriate, fun and exploratory learning experiences for children in the third grade. School Enrichment is offered in a sequence of learning experiences for groups of youth in the classroom during school hours supporting the school curriculum. It involves direct teaching by extension faculty reaching an additional 260 youth. Programs are specific, with an emphasis on science, engineering and technology.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

In Union Parish, agriculture is big business-contributing $315.7 million (LSU AgCenter Summary of Agriclulture-2018) to our state's economy, employing thousands of people and providing many of the consumable agricultural products we use every day. Including forestry, produce, fruits, poultry and beef cattle, and much more in between, Union Parish agriculture provides families with food and fiber. Furthermore, the agricultural and agricultural-related jobs sector consists of farmers and foresters, as well as the many service-related industries that handle food and fiber products along their way to consumers. The Union Parish faculty and staff of the LSU AgCenter & Southern University AgCenter are proud to support the food and fiber producers of our great parish.

Union Parish Extension Office

Address:
210 East Water St.
Farmerville, LA 71241
Phone: 318-368-9935
Fax:318-368-2997

Email:
Union@agcenter.lsu.edu

Website:
www.LSUAgCenter.com
Office hours:
8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Parish Chair
Jason E. Holmes
jholmes@agcenter.lsu.edu

Additional contacts:
Administrative Coordinator
Jennifer Lary
jlary@agcenter.lsu.edu
4-H Extension Agent
Brandon Reeder
breeder@agcenter.lsu.edu
Assistant County Agent
Odis Hill
Odis_hill@suagcenter.com
FCS Assistant Area Agent
Marianna Langston
Marianna_langston@agcenter.com
Nutrition & Health Agent
Markaye Russell
mrussell@agcenter.lsu.edu

Programs

4-H and Youth Development
- Citizenship
- Leadership
- Science, Engineering & Technology

Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Livestock Production
- Commercial Horticulture
- Forestry & Wildlife
- Home Lawns & Gardens
- Pest Management

Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS)
- Healthy Homes
- Community Nutrition
- Emergency Preparedness
- Health Literacy

Whom we reach:
67-Commercial Poultry Growers.
130-Cattlemen.
301-4-H youth enrolled in 15 clubs at 6 schools.
50-4-H youth and adult volunteers.
21-Master Gardeners.

How we reach them:
4-H Clubs, school enrichment, field days, publications, newsletters, demonstrations, website, workshops and classes.

Expanding our efforts:
Volunteers from 4-H, Master Gardeners, family and community.

Parish Facts:
Land area — 877 square miles; Population —22,330; Population under 18 years old — 21.9%; Population 65 years old and over — 20.6%; Median household income — $38,916; Persons below poverty — 17.7%

LSU AgCenter county agents provide research-based information on plant, aquaculture, wildlife and animal enterprises to Union Parish residents. The 2018 total dollar amount from these commodities were: Animal enterprises, $260.8 million; aquaculture and wildlife, $4.9 million; plant enterprises, $50 million.

Local issues and plans for this year

Increase productivity and profitability of Louisiana agriculture.
- Conduct on-farm demonstrations, field days and other educational seminars.
- Provide commodity specific newsletters.
- Conduct farm and home educational visits.

Promote the wide use of natural resources and protection of the environment.
- Conduct Private Pesticide Applicator training and recertification programs.
- Provide soil and forage analysis.
    - Develop soil nutrient management plans based on soil analysis.
- Conduct farm and home educational visits.
    - Community based educational outreach activities focused on helping residents achieve environmental sustainability.

Build leaders and good citizens through 4-H Youth Development.
- Provide youth training and opportunities to develop their leadership and communication skills.
- Conduct educational programs to youth through 4-H club meetings.
- Participate in school and community service-learning projects.
- Encourage youth to be involved in community and civic activities.

Strengthen families and communities
- Family Nutrition Program clients receive training on feeding their families nutritionally on a budget.
- Conduct workshops on disaster preparedness, grab and go Boxes, storm clean-up and house cleaning after a storm.
- Teach classes on reducing credit balances and examining spending habits.

William B. Richardson, LSU Vice President for Agriculture, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station, Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, LSU College of Agriculture. The LSU AgCenter and LSU provide equal opportunites in programs and employment.

How we are funded
You are the local supporters and beneficiaries in the LSU AgCenter extension programs. Just 20% support keeps these programs in your community.

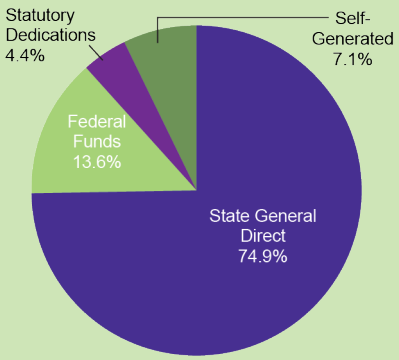
Your parish extension office offers programs in:

Sustaining Louisiana agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

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

Family, nutrition and health to enhance the quality of life for Louisiana's citizens.

LSU AgCenter State Appropriated Funds FY 2019-2020



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