

LSU AgCenter Richland Parish Profile

Report to Stakeholders January 2025



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

Nutrition and Community Health – (NCH)

Flavors of Health is a community nutrition program put in place to motivate and empower Louisianans to make healthy food and fitness choices to live a healthy life. This community-based work focuses on helping to reduce chronic diseases which can be related to poor health outcomes. In Richland Parish, the following topics were covered: A Taste of Herbs and Spices, The Learning Lab, National Nutrition Month, CHEF and Fitness Camp, Cookery Quiz Bowl, Summer Reading: "Cool Nutrition, and Home Food Preservation Workshop: "From Juice to Jars".

4-H Youth Development – (4-H)

Growing up in a rural parish that is full of farmland has its perks, but first you must understand the ways of agriculture. To help with this, we are using the "AgCultivators" program for 4-H club meetings. This program helps the youth understand where products come from, how food is grown and how weather can impact farmers and their products.

Agriculture and Natural Resources – (ANR)

The Richland Parish gross farm value in 2023 was \$160,775,027. Soybeans were the major plant enterprise in 2024. Richland Parish covers 362,640 acres with 41 percent of the land area in agriculture production. Beef cattle is the major animal enterprise. Specialty enterprises include pecans, sweet potato, and peanuts. Core block variety demonstrations with corn and cotton are conducted on producer's farms to provide unbiased information on variety performance to help producers make variety selections for planting. Private pesticide applicator and Worker Protection Standard (WPS) trainings are offered to producers and agricultural workers covering how to work with pesticides safely and protect the environment.

Programs

4-H and Youth Development

- Citizenship/Leadership
- Science, Engineering, and Technology
- Healthy Living
- Life Skills

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Crop and Animal Production
- Horticulture/Lawn and Garden
- Pest Management & Pesticide Safety

Nutrition and Community Health

- Flavors of Health Community Health
- Nutrition and Health
- Chronic Disease Prevention
- Physical Activity
- Basic/Master/Advanced Cooking Camps

Richland Parish Extension Office Address

702 Madeline Street
Rayville, LA 71269-2520
Phone: 318-728-3216
Fax: 318-728-7014

Email:

richland@agcenter.lsu.edu

Office Hours:

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

Website: www.lsuagcenter.com

Social Media:

www.facebook.com/Richland4H



Office Staff

Carol Pinnell-Alison
Extension Agent/Parish Chair
cpinnell-alison@agcenter.lsu.edu

Nate Jennings
Assistant Extension Agent ANR
njennings@agcenter.lsu.edu

Brittney Newsome
Area Nutrition Agent
bnewsome@agcenter.lsu.edu

Morgan Whitehead
4-H Youth Development Agent
mwhitehead@agcenter.lsu.edu

Ann Church
Administrative Coordinator
achurch@agcenter.lsu.edu

WHOM WE REACH:

435 4-H members in 17 school clubs, and 31 Cloverbud classes; 563 agricultural producers and home gardeners and 382 adults and 1,614 youth (through Nutrition and Community Health programs).

HOW WE REACH THEM:

4-H Clubs, school enrichment, field days, farm and home visits, on-farm demonstrations, publications, newsletters, class series, website, social media, emails, and workshops.

EXPANDING OUR EFFORTS:

58 volunteers from 4-H ANR, and NCH (Advisory Leadership Councils, 4-H school club leaders, after-school club leaders, ANR cooperators).

PARISH FACTS:

LSU AgCenter county agents provide research-based information on plant, aquaculture, wildlife and animal enterprises to Richland Parish residents. The 2023 total dollar amount from these commodities were: Animal enterprises, \$14,346,478; aquaculture and wildlife, \$302,160; plant enterprises, \$146,126,398.

Land area - 555.61 square miles; Population - 19,712; Population under 18 years old - 23.8%; Population 65 years old and over - 19%; Median household income - \$52,960; Persons below poverty - 25.1%

LOCAL ISSUES AND PLANS FOR THIS YEAR:

Increase productivity and profitability of Louisiana agriculture.

- Conduct crop production meetings, variety and related on-farm demonstrations.
- Use regular mail, email distributions, Web pages, newsletters, and local newspaper to disseminate information.
- Make farm and home educational visits. Work with commodity and farm groups.
- Irrigation management, surge valves, pipe planter.

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

- Conduct training for private pesticide applicators and agriculture workers.

Build leadership, partnership, and youth potential through 4-H Youth Development.

- Spark STEM interest by creating a Robotics club at the local elementary schools.
- Partner with the NCH Agent to help create fun and positive activities that increase healthy living.
- Increase personal development by teaching leadership skills, boosting confidence and creating positive character development.

Strengthen families and communities.

- Conduct physical activity and fitness workshops throughout the year to address childhood obesity and to improve overall quality of life for both youth and adult community members.
- Conduct a series of 5 nutrition education programs annually: Dining with Diabetes, Smart Portions, Small Changes Healthy Habits, Break Up with Salt, and Stay Independent: A healthy aging series.
- Conduct culinary cooking camps throughout the year for adult and youth clientele to enhance cooking skills and preparation of healthful meals and snacks.
- Facilitate quarterly Healthy Communities Coalition Meetings to identify the needs of the parish to create policy, system, and/or environmental changes.



HOW IS EXTENSION FUNDED?

- Federal funding from the USDA/ NIFA.
- State general funds from the Louisiana Legislature.
- Local support from parish government, including police juries and school boards.
- Self-generated funds.



WHAT ROLE DO YOU PLAY?

Our stakeholders at the parish level are the local supporters and beneficiaries of the LSU AgCenter cooperative extension programs. Their support keeps these critical programs in their communities.



EACH PARISH OFFERS PROGRAMMING IN:

- 4-H and Youth Development.
- Agriculture and Natural Resources.
- Nutrition and Community Health



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

www.LSUAgCenter.com