



SUGARCANE IN LOUISIANA BY THE NUMBERS

Research on sugarcane has been an integral part of the LSU AgCenter from its beginning. Sugarcane research projects are led by scientists at the Sugar Research Station and the Audubon Sugar Institute, both in St. Gabriel, Louisiana, and the LSU College of Agriculture in Baton Rouge. Continually researching and improving sugarcane production has made Louisiana one of the top sugarcane producers in the U.S.

\$3 BILLION

overall economic value of the Louisiana sugarcane industry.
(American Sugar Cane League)

No. 1 ROW CROP

in total economic value.
(AgCenter Ag Summary)



500,000 ACRES

of sugarcane grown in 24 Louisiana parishes.
(AgCenter Ag Summary)

1.8 MILLION

tons of raw sugar produced in 2018.
(AgCenter Ag Summary)



225 YEARS OF SUGAR IN LOUISIANA

The Louisiana sugar industry was born 225 years ago when a French-born planter bet everything on sugarcane. After pests ruined his indigo crop, Jean Étienne de Boré risked his fortune to create a commercial process to granulate sugar and converted his crop to sugarcane. His gamble in 1795 paid off. Today sugarcane is the top row crop grown in Louisiana, contributing billions of dollars to the state economy.

While the sugar industry began in 1795, many producers and scientists have worked tirelessly to improve the varieties grown in Louisiana.

1699

Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville lands in present-day Louisiana to explore the land for colonization. He brings sugarcane from the West Indies.

1795

Etienne de Boré and Antoine Morin granulate sugar from sugarcane on de Boré's plantation in New Orleans. The Louisiana sugar boom begins.



1885

The Louisiana Sugar Planters Association establishes the Sugar Experiment Station at Shulze Plantation in Kenner.



1920s

Disease epidemics nearly destroy the Louisiana sugar industry. Other exotic varieties are imported to stave off disease. USDA research and American Sugar Cane League are established. Three-way agreement governing variety development established in 1926.

Present day

LSU AgCenter researchers continue to develop new sugarcane varieties and improve farming procedures to help the sugar industry grow.



1751

Jesuit priests are credited with the first successful establishment and culture of sugarcane in Louisiana on a plantation that covered much of what is now the Central Business District of New Orleans.

1843

Norbert Rillieux, a French-speaking creole, pioneered the multiple effect evaporator, which revolutionized sugar processing.

1888-1915

The Sugar Experiment Station tests thousands of varieties under direction of Dr. William Carter Stubbs.



1950s

Louisiana researchers use photoperiod house to begin on-site crossing, leading to the development of high-sucrose varieties.