West Baton Parish Profile

Report to Stakeholders October 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

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Through continued education efforts such as on farm result demonstrations, grower meetings, and news articles, producers are provided with information on varieties and Best Management Practices. Growers were able to incorporate these practices into their operation to help increase profitability. In addition, through pesticide recertification, residents and producers are educated in worker protection standards, spray control, and proper planning of chemical applications.

4-H Youth Development
West Baton Rouge 4-H is composed of approximately 500 members across 15 clubs, which includes public, private, and homeschool clubs. These club members are taught science-based lessons monthly that allow them to experience hands-on learning in an informal setting. The practical lessons empower the students to apply what they have learned in their classes to real life scenarios.

West Baton Rouge 4-H offers a variety of parish-wide opportunities that are open to all 4-H members. The opportunities include Camps, Junior Leadership Club (7th-12th grade), Workshops, Livestock, and Shooting Sports. These activities encourage teamwork while mastering the subjects taught.

West Baton Rouge 4-H has been greatly involved in school gardens for many years. Through grant funding, the school garden program has grown to seven gardens parish-wide. The gardens allow the members to actively learn the steps necessary to grow produce and the science involved in the process.

West Baton Rouge 4-H participates in several service activities annually. Each year the Holiday Canned Food Drive is held to donate food to the local food banks. 4-H is also active in the State 4-H Service-Learning focuses, which are selected every two years by the 4-H members who attend 4-H University.

Our 4-H slogan is “Learn By Doing” and we try to encompass that goal in all the programming offer in our parish.

Family and Consumer Sciences
Our Nutrition Programs offer many resources to assist in creating a healthier West Baton Rouge Parish to improve the quality of life for individuals and families. Through the Supplemental Assistance Nutrition Program- Education (SNAP-Ed), individuals learn how to select foods that meet their nutritional needs, become more physically active, fix healthful low-cost meals, stretch food dollars, and handle and store food so that it will not spoil and last longer.

The Healthy Community Initiative in West Baton Rouge Parish is designed to improve the nutrition and health of the SNAP-Ed eligible community members using a model that may be replicated across the state. The community development project will promote broad programs in health and nutrition education and physical activity opportunities in the parish.

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Programs

Agriculture & Natural Resources
Animal Production, Beef Cattle, Crop Production, Environment/Watersheds, Horticulture/Lawns/Gardens, Pest Management, Sugarcane

4-H and Youth Development
Livestock, SET (Science, Engineering, and Technology), Shooting Sports

Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS)
SNAP-Ed Program, General Nutrition, Health Education
Whom we reach:

- **3886** - Youth (includes 498 4-H members and 15 school 4-H clubs)
- **2540** - Adults (1340 Ag & Natural Resources and 1200 Family, Nutrition & Health)

How we reach them:

- 4-H clubs, Class series, School Enrichment, Demonstrations, Field Days, Workshops. Newsletters, Web sites, Publications, Social media

Expanding our efforts:

- 150 Volunteers through 4-H, Master Gardeners, Family & Community, Master Farmers, and AgCenter Supporters

Parish Facts:

LSU AgCenter County Agents provide research-based information on plant, aquaculture, fisheries, wildlife and animal enterprises to West Baton Rouge Parish clientele. The 2017 total dollar amount from these commodities were:

- Plant enterprises - $29,684,964.00
- Fisheries and wildlife - $1,497,566.00
- Animal enterprises - $1,285,390.00

Data from the Louisiana Ag Summary

Web site: LSUAgCenter.com/agsummary

Census Information (July 2018)

Population - 26,427; Land area (square miles) - 192.39; Persons under 18 years old - 24.4%; Persons 65 years old and over - 13.6%; Median household income - $ 60,902.00; Persons below poverty - 13.5%

Local issues and plans for this year

**Increase productivity and profitability of Louisiana agriculture.**

- Conduct Sugarcane Field Day.
- Conduct Tri-Parish Farm Forum.
- Coordinate Master Gardener Training.
- Write news column and send articles to producers by email.
- Conduct farm and home educational visits.
- Continue to promote and certify farmers in all 3 phases of the Louisiana Master Farmer Program.

**Build leaders and good citizens through 4-H Youth Development.**

- Develop and implement service learning projects throughout the parish.
- Continue to promote and expand project clubs such as livestock, clothing and textiles, shooting sports, and outdoor skills.
- Junior Leaders will continue to work with Keep WBR Beautiful and other community projects.
- Continue to promote Science and Math Education through 4-H lessons and programming.

**Strengthen families and communities**

- Implement the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - Education (SNAP-Ed) by recruiting clientele through Head Start meetings, senior centers, food banks, health unit, community centers, health fairs, community events, churches, and other local organizations.
- Implement Healthy Community Initiatives through Policies, Systems, and Environmental change (PSE) approaches in community settings throughout the parish.
- Offer general nutrition classes throughout the parish and continue to partner with the West Baton Rouge parish 4-H program.

OCTOBER 2019

**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**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State General Direct</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Funds</td>
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<td>Statutory Deductions</td>
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Local funding

West Baton Rouge Parish Council
West Baton Rouge Parish School Board

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

LSUAgCenter.com