

LSU AgCenter Franklin Parish Quarterly Report

Report to Stakeholders January - March 2024



About the LSU AgCenter

The LSU AgCenter provides innovative research, information, and education to improve people's lives. Working in a unique 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.

Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR)-Carol Pinnell-Alison

We had a wet January through March. We received 21.55 inches of rain during this time from data collected at the LSU AgCenter's Sweet Potato Research Station at Chase, LA. The average yearly rainfall for NE Louisiana is 57 inches. After the record drought last summer, the rain is appreciated. A drawback of the weekly rainfall is that it has made planting field corn a challenge. The LSU AgCenter's recommended planting window for field corn in north Louisiana is March 10 to April 10. The earlier planting in this window the better for maximizing yields.

Our agricultural producers dealt with excessive rain at harvest in 2022 and record drought and heat in 2023. Low yields and poor quality of the harvested crops impacted the revenue producers received in both years. Due to lower commodity prices and input costs more soybean acres are expected in the parish. Soybean input costs are lower than corn and cotton due primarily to not needing to apply nitrogen fertilizer. Soybeans are a legume and have the ability through nodulation to produce the nitrogen needed to produce a crop.

The annual corn core block on-farm variety demonstration has been planted. Plans are to plant a cotton and soybean core block variety demonstration also.



2024 Corn Core Planting
Campbell Farms

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Programs

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Aquaculture
- Animal Production
- Crop Production
- Horticulture/Lawn and Garden
- Pest Management

4-H and Youth Development

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

Nutrition and Community Health (NCH)

- Nutrition and Health
- SNAP-ED

4-H Youth and Family Development

The Northeast District 4-H Livestock Show was held January 31 to February 3, 2024, at the Delhi Livestock Barn. Franklin Parish was well represented at the show with the following 4-H members participating: Aubree Carroll, Sara Ezell, John Randall Faulk, Kate Graham, Bonnie Grayson, Tucker Grayson, Piper Jones, Colton McMurray, Caleb Peters, Kelsi Thomason, James Vallee, Thomas Vallee, Tucker Woodruff, and Ty Woodruff.

Belana Davis, Jeremy and Johnathan Donnell participated in the 4-H Area Commodity Cookery Contest. Johnathan Donnell won 1st place Rice-Any Other and Best of Show with the same dish, Belana Davis won 3rd place in Sweet Potato and Jeremy won a blue award in Quick & Easy Ground Beef and a red award in egg.

Thirty-seven 4-H Shooting Sports members participated in the Northern Regionals. Franklin Parish had the first placed BB Team. Sabian Crawford was the first place overall BB individual, and John McBroom was the second place overall BB individual.

Nutrition and Community Health (NCH) – Quincy Vidrine SNAP Ed Nutritional Educator – Krissten Medlin

Crowville School & Community Garden

Spring garden planting is underway at the school & community garden in Crowville. The Macon Ridge Master Gardeners, Crowville 4-H Club/Shelley Goddard (Leader), and LSU AgCenter Horticulture (ANR) & Nutrition agents have come together to make the Spring Garden into an interactive learning environment. Included in the 2024 Spring Garden will be areas with raised beds that focus on certain types of food and meals that kids like such as “Pizza Garden”, “Salad Station”, and “Salsa & Herbs” to name a few. Mrs. Goddard will also have her raised beds that highlight some of the very important row crops in Franklin parish – these will pair with her science curriculum in the fall. The Friends of Crowville, SNAP, and Driftwood Garden Supply (St. Joseph) have played a major role in providing financial support and donations for much needed supplies and plant material for the spring planting season. 4-H Club members spent an hour learning how to plant seedlings in the soil and about what will be needed to help them grow and thrive in the upcoming months. If you would like to volunteer for this project, please call the Franklin Parish Extension office!

Story Walk is Coming to Baskin

The park in Baskin will soon be a place where families can play, read, and spend quality time together outdoors thanks to a grant that the LSU AgCenter obtained for Franklin parish back in 2022. The story walk was originally slated for set up in Crowville around the old sports complex on Football Field Rd. Construction work to start at the Crowville Community Center and the parking for large events became an issue, so the Friends of Crowville decided to delay the installation of the story walk. The Nutrition & Community Health Agent, Quincy Vidrine asked them if they would be open to sending the existing units obtained for use in Baskin and they quickly said “Yes!” A story walk is a deconstructed book that is divided into 20 display case units installed around the walking track in the park. Each month, there will be a different book on display sponsored by the LSU AgCenter’s SNAP Ed program. This effort promotes literacy and physical activity all at once! The books will focus on topics such as healthy living, agriculture and where our food comes from, and being a good citizen.



Area Cookery Contest Winners



Shooting Sports BB Team
Northern Regionals



Crowville School &
Community Garden



Story Walk Plans for Baskin
Shown: Quincy Vidrine and
Baskin Mayor Layton Curtis

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

LSUAgCenter.com

