

LSU AgCenter Caddo Parish Profile

Report to Stakeholders November 2023



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

Many Caddo Parish residents suffer from obesity and chronic disease. Nutrition education programs currently offered include Break Up with Salt, Stay Independent, Faithful Families Thriving Communities, and Healthy Communities. Nutrition agents have taught general nutrition education at Shreve Memorial Library, Paradise Baptist Church, St. Rest Baptist Church, and Volunteers of America South Pointe Place. Healthy Communities outreach is currently being done throughout Caddo parish, including five Little Food Pantries installed in 2023. Articles are also written periodically for "318 Forum Magazine" and monthly for "The Best of Times Magazine." The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) serves Caddo Parish and reached 92 limited-resource adults and 604 youth with nutrition education this past year. Healthy Beginnings for Your Baby is also offered and teaches parenting skills to pregnant women and parents of infants.

4-H Youth Development

The Caddo 4-H program reaches more than 1000 youth through school club meetings, school-enrichment, workshops, after-school programs, and overnight/day camps. Project clubs include archery, rifle, Junior Leadership and livestock. 4-H club members receive monthly educational lessons focusing on leadership, citizenship, science, and engineering and technology. This year, 4-H members learned how important mental health is and strategies to manage stress and mindfulness in their everyday lives. Through service-projects, they shared positive messages with their peers and school. Caddo 4-H partnered with Shreveport Green to host a community service event in the urban farm in Downtown Shreveport. 4-H members, volunteers, and families planted fruit trees, built garden rows, and performed garden maintenance.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Caddo parish currently has cotton, corn, and soybean test plots. Each covers approximately 20 acres with 16-20 varieties per plot. The plots were planted March-June, 2023 and were harvested August-October, 2023. The test plots are a joint effort between Caddo parish and Dean Lee Research Station in Alexandria. This year, row crop production meeting and beef/forage production meetings were held for local producers in Caddo parish. Over 70 producers attended and learned about best management practices, new varieties, and current research on pest management.

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PROGRAMS

4-H and Youth Development

- School Clubs
- Project Clubs
- Shooting Sports
- Community Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Animal Production
- Beef Cattle



- Environment/Watersheds
- Horticulture/Lawn and Garden
- Pest Management
- Urban Forestry

Family and Consumer Sciences

- Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (EFNEP)
- Flavors of Health
- Healthy Beginnings for Your Baby
- Healthy Communities
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Education (SNAP-Ed)

WHOM WE REACH:

Over 33,000 youth and almost 10,000 adults were reached through 4-H, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Agriculture and Natural Resources programming and contacts.

HOW WE REACH THEM:

4-H Clubs, school enrichment, field days, publications, newsletters, class series, website, soil analysis, school gardens, demonstrations, Master Gardeners, EFNEP programs, social media, and workshops.

EXPANDING OUR EFFORTS:

Nearly 1,000 volunteers from 4-H, Master Gardeners, Family and Consumer Sciences volunteers, and Agriculture and Natural Resources.

PARISH FACTS:

LSU AgCenter county agents provide research-based information on plant, aquaculture, wildlife and animal enterprises to Caddo Parish residents. The total dollar amount from these commodities were: Animal enterprises, \$34,076,048; fisheries and wildlife, \$1,071,041; plant enterprises, \$70,451,275.

Land area — 878.54 square miles; Population — 239,775; Population under 18 years old — 26.21%; Population 65 years old and over — 17.21%; Median household income — \$43,153; Persons below poverty — 23%

LOCAL ISSUES AND PLANS FOR THIS YEAR:

Increase productivity and profitability of Louisiana agriculture.

- Conduct crop production meetings to educate local farmers on the latest research-based information and technology.
- Conduct pesticide recertification meetings to local producer, homeowners, nurseries, and pest control companies.
- Conduct farm and home educational visits.
- Continue to provide information to local farmers and homeowners on crops, animals, gardens, and wildlife.

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

- Provide clientele with information regarding feral hog control options.
- Conduct cotton, soybean, and corn variety trials with Caddo parish producers.
- Conduct beef field day for local cattle producers that includes forage, market updates, and current management practices.

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

- Develop leadership skills in 4-H youth through educational programs conducted in school club meetings, service-learning projects, workshops, and after-school settings.
- Youth will learn and apply key life and social skills for success through educational program during 4-H club meetings.
- Develop volunteers to lead youth through positive youth development activities on the parish, regional, and state level.

Strengthen families and communities.

- Conduct cooking workshops for Caddo parish youth.
- Continue to provide high quality education to clients with different class series offerings.
- Continue to strengthen partnerships with Healthy Communities coalitions.



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.
- Family and Consumer Sciences.



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