

LSU AgCenter Red River Parish Profile

Report to Stakeholders October 2023



ABOUT THE LSU AGCENTER

The LSU AgCenter provides 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

FCS Programs

- SNAP-Ed
- Healthy Communities
- Let's Eat for the Health of It: Youth & Adults
- Family Nutrition Night
- Dining with Diabetes
- Smart Portions
- Breakup with Salt
- Small Changes, Healthy Habits
- Stay Independent
- Faithful Families

4-H Youth Development

Red River Parish has 259 4-H club members and 30 volunteers enrolled in 11 of the 4-H clubs in the parish. There are six project clubs in the parish: Junior Leader Club, 4-H Outdoor Skills, 4-H Livestock, Robotics, 4-H Chefs, and 4-H Explorers.

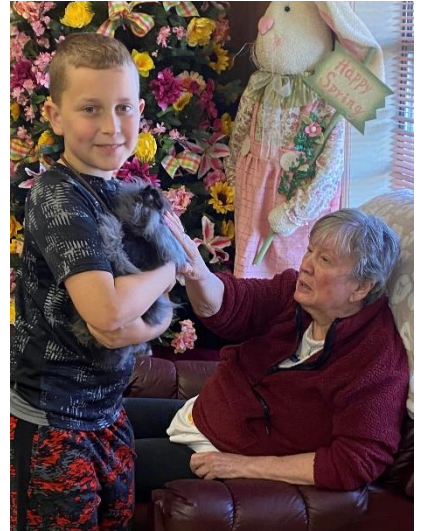
Events

- Camps (Summer Camp, Drone Camp, LOST Camp, Marsh Maneuvers, Fashion Camp, Junior Leader Conference, Challenge Camp, Shooting Sports Camp and many more)
- Workshops (Culinary, STEM, Crafts, etc.)
- School Gardening Lessons for 4th graders at Riverdale, Red River Elementary, and Red River Academic Academy
- 4-H University (LSU University)
- National 4-H Week
- Achievement Day
- Contests (pet show, Cooking Contest, Christmas Cookies, Pet Art, LEGO Engineering, Beef Poster, Dairy Poster, Pumpkin Decorating, etc)
- Regional/State Junior Leader events
- Regional/State Leadership events
- Regional/State Shooting Sports and Livestock events
- AgMagic (State Fair of Louisiana)



Services

- Christmas Parade Float
- Nursing Home (Goodie Bags, Plants, Adopted Residents, etc)
- Donations for Hurricane Victims
- Council on Aging
- Foster Children (GEAUX bags)
- Blessing Bags for Homeless
- Farmer's Market in Natchitoches
- Donated Items for Red River Industries
- Plant flowers with the special education classes at elementary school
- Made cards for Operation Gratitude (Veterans, Active Duty, First Responders)
- Easter egg hunt/goodie bags at elementary school
- HYPE group painted playground stencils on the sidewalks at the elementary school.



School Enrichment

School Gardens (Food from the Garden Classes), Intercession Classes (Fishing) at Red River Elementary School

Agriculture and Natural Resources

LSU AgCenter county agents provide research-based information on plant, aquaculture, wildlife, and animal enterprises to Red River Parish residents. Agriculture plays a major role in the livelihood of Red River Parish residents. The parish is very diverse agriculturally, with the livestock and plant industries valuing \$40 million. The largest economic production comes from forestry, beef cattle, corn, and soybeans. Other crops that are grown in Red River parish include grain sorghum, wheat, and hay production. In addition to large-scale producers, home gardens are common throughout the parish, with homeowners tending to fruits, vegetables, and ornamentals. The total dollar amount from these commodities were: Animal enterprises, \$32,740,018; aquaculture and wildlife, \$428,744; plant enterprises, \$20,390,335.

EXTENSION OFFICE

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<https://www.facebook.com/Red-River-Parish-4-H-194717887221703>

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PROGRAMS

4-H and Youth Development Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Fisheries/Coastal Issues
- Animal Production
- Beef Cattle
- Environment/Watersheds
- Horticulture/Lawn and Garden
- Pest Management
- Urban Forestry
- Sugarcane

Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS)

- Parents Preparing for Success.
- Family Resource Management.
- FNP-Family Nutrition Program.
- Nutrition and Health.

WHOM WE REACH:

259 youth (includes 259 4-H members, 10 school clubs, 1 Homeschool clubs, 5 Project Clubs)
500 agriculture, natural resources, and family consumer sciences

HOW WE REACH THEM:

4-H Clubs, school enrichment, field days, publications, newsletters, class series, website, social media, and workshops.

EXPANDING OUR EFFORTS:

50 volunteers from 4-H, family, and community

PARISH FACTS:

Red River Parish is in northwest Louisiana and consists of 388.6 square miles. Established March 2, 1871, the parish was named for the Red River which flows through the entire length of the parish. Coushatta is the parish seat and was named for an Indian tribe which once inhabited the area. Population 9,091: Population under 18 years old — 23.4%; Population 65 years old and over — 19.7%; Median household income — \$33,817; Persons below poverty — 23.7%

LOCAL ISSUES AND PLANS FOR THIS YEAR:

Increase productivity and profitability of Louisiana agriculture.

- Conduct beef cattle and crop workshops, along with other related topics.
- Write news columns, webpage content and seminars on agriculture practices.
- Conduct farm and home educational visits.

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

- Develop and implement service-learning projects throughout the parish.
- Junior Leaders will work with parish and city leaders to make improvements to the parish and city character education projects.
- Grow school gardens in our local schools.

Strengthen families and communities.

- Expanding ongoing Healthy Communities Projects through Triple R Healthy Young People Empowerment Coalition
- Provide programming to prevent, reduce, or manage various diet-related diseases.



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