

Acadia Parish Profile



Report to Stakeholders

January 2012

About the LSU AgCenter

The LSU AgCenter is dedicated to providing 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.



Program Highlights

Agriculture & Natural Resources

Acadia Parish is the largest rice producing parish in the state. In 2011 Acadia grew 79,000 acres of rice. The county agent has developed a Rice and Soybean Advisory Committee which gives valuable input into the educational programs conducted in the parish. The advisory committee identified maximizing yields as a top priority to keep producers in business during these tough economic times. With the increase in production inputs, producers must maximize yields to increase profitability. Extension programs such as field days and production meetings gives the producer the latest research and updated production practices. The producers also receive information on variety selection, environmental issues and marketing updates. Pesticide safety was also listed as a top priority at the advisory committee meetings. Two pesticide re-certifications were held where 120 producers and home gardeners learned pesticide safety, handling, disposal and renewed their private pesticide applicators card.



With Southwest Louisiana's humid sub-tropical climate and rich soils, Acadia Parish residents are taking advantage of these opportunities to maximize all areas related to horticulture. The Acadia Parish LSU AgCenter recognizes the opportunity and the potential and have taken action by starting two school gardens which will serve as pilot programs for future Acadia Parish school gardens as well offer educational seminars to educate the public and also offer educational workshops that provide a hands-on approach to horticulture. In addition, the assistant extension agent has noticed a high demand for a Master Gardener Program for the parish and will be implementing the program in the summer of 2012 and is also currently assisting in beautification projects throughout Acadia Parish.

Family, Nutrition & Health

Approximately 35.6% of Louisiana children ages 10-17 years are considered overweight or obese according to BMI-for-age standards. Louisiana ranks 46th among the 50 states and D.C. in overall prevalence.



Nutrition education programs based on the 2010 Dietary Guidelines are provided to a variety of clients throughout the parish, including elementary students, Head Start youth and parents, and the general public. A collaborative effort between ANR and FCS is currently taking place at two schools in Acadia Parish utilizing school gardens to enhance academic achievement, a healthy lifestyle, environmental stewardship, and community and social development. These gardens will serve as pilot projects with more planned for the future. Through a grant from the Louisiana Children's Trust Fund, the FCS program provides infant appropriate books to limited resource parents of newborns in the parish. The goal is to help foster a love of reading in their children right from birth.

4-H Youth Development

Acadia Parish has 1,120 youth enrolled in 30 traditional 4-H clubs. The youth development program focuses on leadership development for youth and adults, volunteer management, and enriching the lives of these youth through age appropriate competitions, project workshops, community service-learning activities, livestock programs, overnight camps, outdoor skills training and identifying the knowledge, skills and competences essential to conducting 4-H youth development. Survey data indicates that 69% of youth in 10th grade enrolled in the program view themselves as a leader. Eighty-three percent of the youth indicated their leadership experience came from the 4-H program. Ninety-seven percent of 8th grade 4-H members are willing to organize an activity to protect or improve the environment. They also feel if they participate to help the environment, the situation will improve.



Acadia Parish Extension Office

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Crowley, LA 70526

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Web site:
LSUAgCenter.com/Acadia

Office Hours:
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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Programs

4-H, Youth & Family Development

Healthy Living
Science, Engineering & Technology
Citizenship/Leadership
Nutrition and Health
Family Nutrition Program

•Agriculture & Natural Resources (ANR)

Beef Cattle
Rice
Soybeans
Horticulture/Lawns and Gardens
Pest Management
Crawfish
Environment/Watersheds

Who we reach.

7,500 - Youth (includes 1,120 4-H members & 30 school 4-H clubs; Youth Wetlands Week-866 youth; SmartBodies Program-917 youth; Youth Volunteers-60; Adult Volunteers—130)

17,500 - Adults
7,500 Ag & Natural Resources
8,000 Family Consumer Sciences

How we reach them:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 4-H Clubs | Workshops |
| Field Days | Websites |
| Newsletters | Radio Programs |
| Publications | Newspaper Articles |
| E-Mail Updates | Demonstrations |
| Television Programs | Facebook |

Expanding our efforts:

- 130 Volunteers -
- 4-H, Family & Community, Agriculture

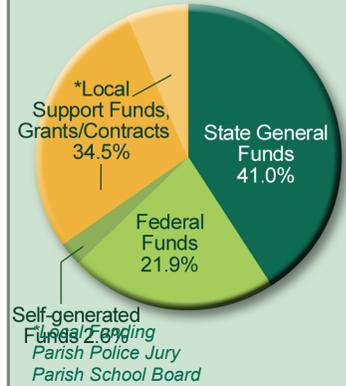
Parish Facts

LSU AgCenter County Agents provide research-based information on plant, aquaculture, wildlife and animal enterprises to Acadia Parish clientele. The 2009 total dollar amount from these commodities were:
—Plant enterprises - \$97,334,074
—Aquaculture and wildlife - \$50,344,510
—Animal enterprises - \$9,228,216

Data from the Louisiana Ag Summary
Web site: LSUAgCenter.com/agsummary

- Population - 60,070
- Land area (square miles) - 655.28
- Persons under 18 years old - 27.5%
- Persons 65 years old and over - 12.6%
- Median household income - \$33,098
- Persons below poverty - 23.5%

Extension Funding FY 2012



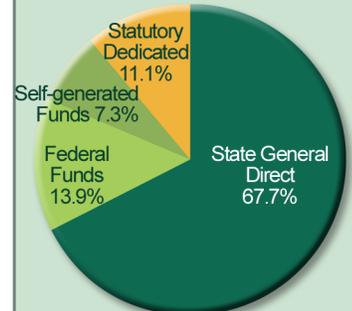
How we are funded.

You are the local supporters and beneficiaries in the LSU AgCenter's Extension programs. Just 20 percent support keeps these programs in your community.

Your parish extension office offers programs in:

- Sustaining Louisiana's agriculture, forestry and fisheries.
- Building leaders and good citizens through 4-H youth development.
- Family, nutrition, health and community development to enhance the quality of life for Louisiana citizens.

LSU AgCenter State Appropriated Funds FY 2012



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

Local Issues & Plans for this year.

1. Increase productivity and profitability of Louisiana Agriculture.

- Rice and Soybean Production Day
- Rice and Soybean Field Day
- News column, radio program, television program for the public
- Email updates and newsletters
- Farm and home educational visits



2. Build leaders and good citizens through 4-H youth development.

- Enhance the existing volunteer development program to include additional resources and incentives.
- Marketing Extension programs.

3. Strengthen families and communities

- Social Media Safety/Etiquette
- Workforce Readiness
- Time Management