

LSU AgCenter Vermilion Parish Profile

Report to Stakeholders January 2025



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

Nutrition and Community Health

According to the County Health rankings of 2022, Vermilion Parish has 40% of its population suffering from obesity and 50% of the population lacks access to physical activity opportunities. While this impacts the overall health of the residents of our parish, the FCS program provides education on nutrition, health, physical activity, and food safety to combat these issues. The General Nutrition program and Snap-Ed (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) help teach audiences about making lifestyle choices to improve their overall health. General Nutrition classes are offered to residents to make healthier food choices along with lifestyle changes to improve their health. Both programs work to make Vermilion Parish a healthier community.

4-H Youth Development

In Vermilion Parish, 4-H is a vital part of the educational process with over 30 school clubs serving more than 1,200 members annually. Our club programming offers youth a variety of hands-on opportunities to build knowledge and improve their leadership, communication, and life skills. Members attend monthly club meetings in school, work on individual projects, and take part in community service activities. They also have opportunities to participate in parish-level workshops and contests. The positive, incentive-based program provides rewards for members every step of the way. Young people in 4-H "learn by doing!"

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Agriculture and Fisheries have a major economic value in Vermilion Parish. Combined they generated \$ 263 million to the local economy. Vermilion is the 6th largest land size in Louisiana. Major commodities include rice, sugarcane, beef cattle, crawfish, alligators and shrimp. LSU AgCenter agents provide research-based information in these areas through home visits, field days and educational programs.

VERMILION EXTENSION OFFICE

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PROGRAMS

4-H Youth Development

- In-School Clubs
- Jr. Leader Club
- Livestock Projects
- Shooting Sports Program
- Performing Arts Club
- Sewing Club
- Community Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Fisheries/Coastal Issues
- Crawfish production
- Beef Cattle
- Horticulture/Lawn and Garden
- Sugarcane
- Rice

Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS)



- SNAP-Ed – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program.
- Healthy Communities
- Nutrition and Health

WHOM WE REACH:

42,785 youth (includes 1,250 4-H members and 36 school 4-H Clubs)
24,901 adults (3,548 through agriculture and natural resources and 21,353 through 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:

With the assistance of over 300 volunteers, we work to provide educational opportunities for our clientele through 4-H, FCS and ANR programming efforts.

PARISH FACTS:

LSU AgCenter county agents provide research-based information on plant, aquaculture, wildlife, and animal enterprises to Vermilion Parish residents. The total dollar amount from these commodities were: Animal enterprises, \$39,733,252; aquaculture and wildlife, \$100,798,519; plant enterprises, \$122,668,850. Vermilion was established in 1844 with the Parish seat located in Abbeville. Population – 57,2359; Land area — 1,542 square miles; 24% of the parish is covered by water systems.

LOCAL ISSUES AND PLANS FOR THIS YEAR:

Increase productivity and profitability of Louisiana agriculture.

- Conduct sugarcane, cattle, rice field days.
- Educational resources and industry updates for shrimpers and crawfish producers.
- Due to excessive drought conditions through the summer / fall more alternatives will be shared to meet winter nutrition requirements for beef cattle.
- Write newsletters, and seminars on agriculture practices.
- Conduct farm and home educational visits.

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

- Resources and educational material are shared with local groups and governing bodies related to environmental and coastal protection strategies.
- Jr. Leader club members will conduct service-learning projects and hear from guest speakers throughout the year to learn and create community awareness related to large and small animal issues.

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

- Hands -on programs related to life skills will be taught to 4-H members at monthly club meetings throughout the parish.
- Parish contest events will be offered such as: Personal Development, Demonstration Day, Achievement Day and Record Books to allow 4-H members an opportunity to build organizational, communication and team working skills.
- Junior Leaders organized a yearlong service-learning effort on large and small animals to increase knowledge and promote community awareness.

Strengthen families and communities.

- Snap-Ed program clients receive education and training on feeding their families healthier with limited resources.
- Nutrition and health programs to help reduce the incidence of chronic disease and prevent obesity.
- With Healthy Communities efforts residents will have greater access to walking and biking safely to the downtown Abbeville area.



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

