

# Jefferson Davis Parish Profile



Report to Stakeholders

April 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

**Family, Nutrition and Health**– The LSU AgCenter focuses on strengthening families and citizens through Nutrition and Health educational programs. By providing the latest LSU AgCenter research findings it creates healthier eating habits, combats childhood obesity and provides effective lifestyle instruction to prevent and/or manage physiological diseases such as diabetes. The Family Nutrition Program teaches nutrition and health programs to Head Start children and parents, Council on Ageing members, OFS and OCS clients. The LSU AgCenter maintains a partnership in education with the LVFC (Louisiana Volunteers for Family and Community). Cooperative efforts focus on Health, Family Life, Environment, Literacy, and International Understanding.

## 4-H Youth Development

“LEARN BY DOING” is the premise of the Jeff Davis Parish 4-H Program. In Jeff Davis Parish, 4-H is a vital part of the educational process with active clubs in all parish public and parochial schools, reaching 911 youth in the 4th through 12th grade. The parish is concentrating on initiatives that include Workforce Preparation, Character Education, Leadership, and Community Service Learning based on the Mission Mandates: Science, Engineering and Technology.

The Clover buds program in our parish is reaching 75 youth in grades Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup>. The program introduces youth to 4-H and the hands on learning process and is working as a recruitment tool for our 4-H program. Teen Leadership is a major program for the parish. The parish teen leader club has 125 members; the club focus is service learning and making a civic impact. Teen Leaders volunteered for the Capital Area Food Bank this past summer in Austin, TX. 64 Teens attended 4-H University, 46 were Blue Ribbon winners and 5 state winners. Two Jeff Davis youth is working in a leadership position on the state level. The purpose of the Jeff Davis 4-H Outdoor Skills Club, our fastest growing program, is to teach youth firearm and archery equipment safety, sportsmanship and marksmanship. Over 130 youth and 15 Level I Certified Instructor with many parent volunteers participate in the program.

Parish 4-H Statistics: 24 organized clubs with 65 organizational leaders, 911 4-H members, 430 youth participated in Youth Wetlands Week, 90 youth attended 4-H summer camp, 157 youth participated in the livestock program and 289 volunteers are active in our program. Youth participating in service learning project reported: New 4-H Programs in the parish concentrating on Science, Engineering and Technology are Water Rocketry and Gardening. Mall Cents is a new 4-H program educating youth on fashion and financial management. 150 7th-12th graders from our parish determined a 91% sense of belonging by being a part of our 4-H program. These youth are more intrinsically motivated, earning higher grades and being leaders in their schools as a result from being a member of 4-H. Jeff Davis Parish 4-H is a vital part of the educational process for all the youth we serve in all parish and private schools within our parish.

**Agriculture & Natural Resources**– Agricultural production is the largest economic generator in Jeff Davis Parish. Profitability in agriculture has become more difficult to achieve due to increased cost of production, greater pest pressure and increased regulatory requirements. In order to help producers achieve fiscally and environmentally efficient production, the LSU AgCenter presents the latest research based recommendations through electronic newsletters, news articles, result demonstrations, farm research plots, field days, educational clinics, mass media and farm visits. Emphasis is in the major commodities of rice, soybean, sugarcane, grain and cattle production. Consumer horticulture (gardens, ornamentals and turf) is another major educational area.

## Jefferson Davis Parish Extension Office

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**Who we reach.**

911 4-Hers enrolled in 24 clubs  
 289 4-H Youth and Adults Volunteers  
 324 Agricultural Producers  
 4,000 Home Gardeners  
 400 Nutrition (FNP) Clients  
 40 LVFC Volunteers

**How we reach them:**

4-H clubs	Class series
School Enrichment	Project Clubs
Demonstrations	Field days
Workshops	Newsletters
Web sites	Publications
On Farm Research	Commodity Schools

**Expanding our efforts:**

1180 youth took part in Smart Bodies,  
 430 youth took part in Youth Wetlands Week &  
 90 youth attended summer camp.  
 500 ag. producers participated in ed. programs  
 154 private pesticide applicators certified

**Parish Facts**

LSU AgCenter Agents provide research-based information to Jefferson Davis Parish clientele. The top agricultural commodities in the parish are: **Rice**-82,000 acres, **soy-bean**-32,000 acres, **crawfish**-22,000 acres, **sugarcane**-3,6000 acres, **hay**-20,000 acres, **turf**-850 acres and **beef cattle**-15,600 head.

The total value of agricultural commodities exceeds **\$140,000,000.**

**Data from the Louisiana Ag Summary**  
**Web site: [LSUAgCenter.com/agsummary](http://LSUAgCenter.com/agsummary)**

Population - 31,097  
 Land area (square miles) - 625.5  
 Persons under 18 years old - 27.6%  
 Persons 65 years old and over - 13.7%

**Local Issues & Plans for this year.**

**Family and Consumer Science**

**1.Enhancing life quality through family, health, nutrition and community development**

- continue LVFC efforts through in the Healthy Lifestyles Seminar and Heart Healthy Month
- provide diverse classes in nutrition and healthy eating habits
- continue to provide training to child providers and child care centers with a focus on childhood nutrition
- make clients aware of educational programs available through the LSU AgCenter

**4-H Youth Development**

**2. Building leaders and citizens through 4-H youth development**

- develop and implement volunteer leadership specifically in the areas of livestock and outdoor skills
- expand the 4-H Clover buds Program throughout the parish to reach more youth
- continue to increase the service learning project work with an educational focus with our Team Leadership Program
- expand programming in the 4-H mission mandate of Science, Engineering and Technology specifically in the areas of photography and robotics
- continue the success of our Teen Leadership Program, Livestock Program, Project Clubs, 4-H Club Program and School Enrichment Efforts

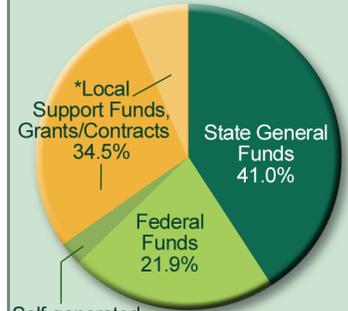
**Ag and Natural Resources**

**3.Increase profitability in agriculture**

- conduct result demonstrations in rice, soy-bean, beef, small grain and alternative fuel crops
- conduct commodity schools and field days for rice and soybean
- use mass media, personal contacts, farm visits and electronic media to inform producers
- use multiple methods to inform home gardeners on effective and environmentally sound practices for consumer horticulture production.



**Extension Funding FY 2012**



Self-generated Funds 2.6%

\*Local Funding

*Ad Valorem property tax administered through the Jeff Davis Parish Police Jury*

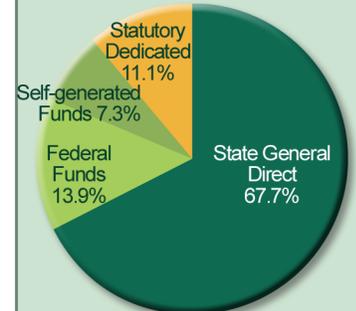
**How we are funded.**

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](http://LSUAgCenter.com)