

West Feliciana Parish Profile

February 2021



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

4-H Youth Development

In 2020-2021, our 4-H clubs have looked very different due to COVID-19. Though we are not allowed to have as many school club meetings as we would like to, we are still having community club meetings, as well as home school meetings. At these meetings, our theme for the year is Youth Wetlands, and we are also presenting them on a virtual format in the form of videos on our social media pages and emails. The Youth Wetlands lesson study consists of science experiments, games, and lessons to teach youth about the importance of wetlands, as well as the flora and fauna that live there. This year, we are also focusing on our project clubs to give our youth the best 4-H experience they can possibly have in this new world of COVID-19. The West Feliciana 4-H Club is having much success with the Sewing Club, Shooting Sports, Junior Leaders, Horse Club, and Livestock Club.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

In 2018, the value of Agriculture and Natural Resources topped 25.77 million dollars with timber and cattle production being the largest agricultural enterprises. The parish has a unique agriculture base being home to the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola. Agriculture enterprises include timber, cattle, hay, corn, cotton, soybeans, hunting leases, and fruit and vegetable production. The horticulture agent coordinates the Feliciana Master Gardener Program where horticulture enthusiasts are trained to provide research based educational information to the public. There are currently 40 Master Gardener volunteers who have volunteered over 363 hours for the program.

Family and Consumer Sciences

School gardens provide a living laboratory where learning comes alive. Studies show that school gardening increases self-esteem, helps students develop a sense of ownership and responsibility; helps foster relationships with family members, and increases parent involvement. 76 nutrition and gardening classes reaching 350 kindergarten and first graders were conducted at Bains Lower Elementary. Surveys were distributed to first grade program participants using paper pretests and online (Qualtrics-based) post-test surveys. The change from a paper survey to an online survey was made because of the school closures due to COVID-19. An assessment of knowledge in three areas (nutrition, physical activity, and garden) was conducted. All three assessments of knowledge showed statistically significant increases from pretest to post-test.



West Feliciana Parish Extension Office

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Programs

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Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Animal Production
- Beef Cattle
- Environment/Watersheds
- Horticulture/Lawn and Garden
- School Gardens
- Pest Management
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Family and Consumer Sciences

- Nutrition and Health
- School Gardens

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Whom we reach:

989 youth (includes 285 4-H members from 5 4-H Clubs and At Large Membership, 354 2nd graders participating in School Gardens at Bains Elementary, and 350 kindergarteners and 1st graders at Bains Lower Elementary participating in nutrition & school gardens)

809 adults (Agriculture and Natural Resources and Family & Consumer Sciences)

How we reach them:

4-H clubs, farm and home educational visits, school enrichment, field days, publications, newsletters, class series, website, social media, email updates, and workshops.

Expanding our efforts:

122 volunteers from 4-H, Master Gardeners, and Family & Consumer Sciences

Parish Facts:

LSU AgCenter county agents provide research-based information on plant, wildlife and animal enterprises to West Feliciana Parish residents. The total dollar amount from these commodities were: Animal enterprises, \$7,430,936; aquaculture and wildlife, \$3,513,491; plant enterprises, \$14,833,666.

Land area — 403.21 square miles; Population — 15,460; Population under 18 years old — 16.2%; Population 65 years old and over — 15%; Median household income — \$55,647; Persons below poverty — 21%.

Local issues and plans for this year

Increase productivity and profitability of Louisiana agriculture

- Conduct fruit and vegetable producer's field day.
- Conduct home horticulture seminars.
- Coordinate Master Gardener programs such as the Spring Garden Tour, field trips, school gardens, and other horticulture education and service projects.
- Conduct farm and home educational visits.
- Provide newsletters and newspaper articles to promote horticulture education.
- Conduct Master Cattleman's Series.

Providing more outdoor living and life skills opportunities through 4-H Youth Development

- Junior Leaders will actively participate in service-learning projects, mentoring youth at workshops and doing more to become an active part of the community.
- Sewing Club will teach youth the skill of sewing garments. Four-H'ers will participate in service-learning projects such as the face masks project for health care workers they worked on earlier.
- Shooting Sports participants will acquire knowledge about firearm safety, develop life skills, and form attitudes so that they may become self-directing, productive, and contributing members of society.
- Horse Club and Livestock Club will continue giving youth a chance to get outside and be a part of a healthy socially distant activity that is good for both physical and mental health, as well as developing a sense of belonging, responsibility, independence, and mastery.

Strengthen families and communities

- Youth at Bains Lower Elementary will grow and maintain 10 raised beds. They will harvest and taste their crops while learning where their food comes from.
- Virtual nutrition series will be offered to help adults use the dietary guidelines to make smart choices, find a balance between food and physical activity, get the most nutrition out of calories, and stay within daily caloric needs.
- Classes on how to eat a healthy diet and how to become more physically active will be conducted for The Family Service Center reaching Adult Ed students, parents and grandparents of Early Head Start & Head Start and staff of The Family Service Center.

How we are funded

You are the local supporters and beneficiaries in the LSU AgCenter extension programs. Just 20% support keeps these programs in your community.

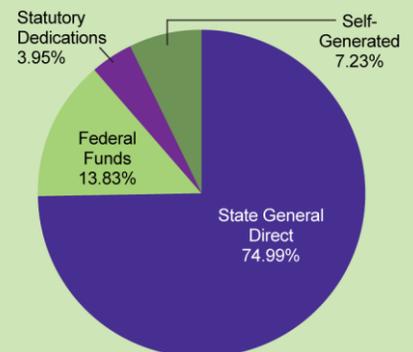
Your parish extension office offers programs in:

Sustaining Louisiana agriculture and forestry.

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

Family, nutrition and health to enhance the quality of life for Louisiana's citizens.

LSU AgCenter State Appropriated Funds FY 2020-2021



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LSUAgCenter.com