

# St. James Parish Profile



## 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

#### **Family and Consumer Sciences**

SNAP-Ed (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education) is our nutrition intervention program. It is designed to help primarily food stamp recipients make wise food choices that are healthy and safe. The program also helps families select and prepare meals consistent with their cultural traditions, while improving their overall health. Lisa Weber, Nutrition Educator, delivers research-based, family focused programs consistent with the program's mission. Participants in SNAP-Ed are exposed to food taste-testing, parenting and childcare education and nutritional education. As a result, the underserved residents of St. James Parish have reported an improvement in their quality of life.

#### **4-H Youth Development**

St. James Parish 4-H provides community youth with opportunities to develop life skills through experiential learning activities, school enrichment, and extracurricular programming. During the 2018-19 school year approximately 4000 youth will gain knowledge in the areas of agriculture, financial literacy, workforce preparation, service learning, healthy living, citizenship, and science, engineering and technology. St. James 4-H gives youth endless opportunities to work with caring adult volunteers to foster personal growth and become well rounded citizens through the Essential Elements of 4-H: Belonging, Independence, Generosity, and Mastery. Highlights of the year include Ag Day, Youth Wetlands Week, Livestock Shows, 4-H University, Summer Camp, 4-H Day at the Capitol, Healthy Lifestyles Fun Run, Welcome to the Real World and other 4-H events.

#### **Agriculture and Natural Resources**

Sugarcane is the most valuable row crop commodity in St. James Parish. It is produced on over 28,100 acres and creates an economic impact of over \$36,415,000. Soybean production remains steady in St. James Parish. In 2018 producers grew soybeans on 3,600 acres. Perique tobacco, a crop unique to our parish, was grown on approximately 75 acres. Producer field days and meetings for all row crop commodities were conducted throughout the year on topics including pest management, drift reduction, and environmental stewardship. The 11th Annual Tomato Field Day was held to educate commercial producers and home gardeners on new tomato, pepper, and cucumber varieties and production practices.



### St. James Parish Extension Office

#### **Your address:**

2430 Louisiana Ave./P.O. Box 849  
Lutcher, LA 70071  
Phone: 225-562-2320  
stjames@agcenter.lsu.edu

#### **Website:**

www.LSUAgCenter.com  
Office ours:  
8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

#### **Parish Chair**

rcaastro@agcenter.lsu.edu

#### **Additional contacts:**

#### **Renee Castro**

Parish Chairman

#### **Dawn Culbreath**

Extension Agent, 4-H

#### **Carly Boudreaux**

Extension Agent, 4-H

#### **Matt Foster**

Sugarcane Agent, Area ANR

#### **Al Orgeron**

Regional IPM Specialist

#### **Andre Brock**

County Agent, Horticulture

#### **Lisa Weber**

Nutrition Educator

#### **Sophie Aime**

Administrative Coordinator

#### **Mollie Arceneaux**

Administrative Coordinator

### Whom we reach:

30,301 youth (includes 800 4-H members and 13 school 4-H Clubs)  
15,901 adults (3,548 agriculture and natural resources and 21,353 family consumer sciences)

### How we reach them:

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

### Expanding our efforts:

350 volunteers from 4-H, Master Gardeners, family and community volunteers are essential to our programs.

### Parish Facts:

LSU AgCenter county agents provide research-based information on plant, aquaculture, wildlife and animal enterprises to St. James Parish residents. based information on plant, fishery, wildlife and animal enterprises to St. James Parish clientele. The 2019 total dollar amount from these commodities were:

—Plant - \$41,186, 221

—Fisheries and wildlife - \$1,634,764

—Animal - \$781,677

### Data from the Louisiana Ag Summary

**Web site:** [LSUAgCenter.com/agsummary](http://LSUAgCenter.com/agsummary)

Population - 21,567, Land area - 258 square miles, Persons under 18 years old - 23%, Persons 65 years old and over - 16%, Median household income - \$51,107  
Persons below poverty - 16%

### Local issues and plans for this year

#### ***Increase productivity and profitability of Louisiana agriculture.***

- Conduct sugarcane field day.
- Conduct master vegetable field day.
- Write news column, webpage content and seminars on agriculture practices.
- Conduct farm and home educational visits.

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

- Before and after hurricane tree care seminars.
- Acorns of Hope coastal tree plantings.
- Develop a comprehensive tree management plan and tree best management practices plan for guidelines of trees on public property.
- Organize and present four storm surge modeling programs in the parish.
- Conduct Coastal Roots program with coastal schools and 4-H youth to grow native grasses and mangrove trees.

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

- Develop and implement service-learning projects throughout the parish.
- Plant live oaks with Acorns of Hope for storm surge protection on coastal areas.
- Junior Leaders will work with CASA, character education projects and fashion club members on promoting youth development activities.

#### ***Strengthen families and communities***

- Family Nutrition Program clients receive training on feeding their families nutritionally on a budget.
- Conduct workshops on disaster preparedness, grab and go Boxes, storm clean-up and house cleaning after a storm.
- Teach classes on reducing credit balances and examining spending habits.

### 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.

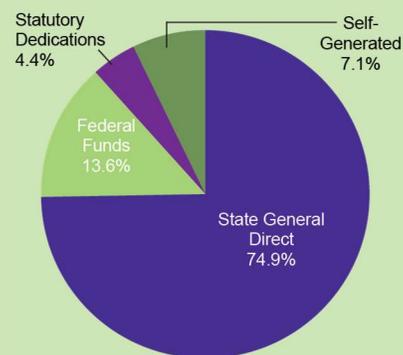
Your parish extension office offers programs in:

**Sustaining Louisiana agriculture, forestry and fisheries.**

**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 2019-2020



For the latest research-based information on just about anything, visit our website:

[LSUAgCenter.com](http://LSUAgCenter.com)