

LSU AgCenter Richland Parish Quarterly Report

Report to Stakeholders October - December 2025



About the LSU AgCenter

The LSU AgCenter provides 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.

Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR)-Nate Jennings

We experienced a record breaking hot and dry summer in Louisiana. The weather station at the Sweet Potato Research Station at Chase recorded 23 days over 100°F and 7 days above 90°F in August. There was only 0.57 inches of rain recorded for the month. Non-irrigated corn, cotton and soybean yields were impacted the most with some non-irrigated soybeans not being harvested. The number of times crops needed to be irrigated increased which increase production costs. The high day and nighttime temperatures probably had a higher impact on crops than the drought. Plants have an optimum temperature for growth and maturity, we were well above these temperatures this summer. The impact was greatest on beef cattle producers. Pastures dried up and hay production was reduced by 65 percent. Many cattle producers are reducing their herd size due to the lack of hay.

The cotton core block variety on-farm demonstration was harvested. We appreciate Eddy Conley cooperating with the LSU AgCenter with this demonstration.



Cotton Core Block Variety
On-Farm Demonstration
Eddy Conley Farm

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PROGRAMS

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Aquaculture
- Animal Production
- Crop Production
- Horticulture/Lawn & Garden Pest Management

4-H and Youth Development

- Citizenship/Leadership
- Science, Engineering and Technology
- Healthy Living
- Life Skills

Family and Consumer Sciences

- Nutrition and Health
- Flavors of Health Community
- Chronic Disease Prevention
- Faithful Families Thriving Communities
- Physical Activity
- Basic/Mastery/Advanced Level Cooking Camps

Family and Consumer Science (FCS) – Brittney Newsome

Dining With Diabetes Holiday Hacks– During the National Diabetes Awareness Month, participants from the Diabetes Support Group at the Delhi Hospital learned some simple holiday hacks to make their holiday dishes just a little bit healthier. Participants learned how to use herbs and spices to flavor their food, tips on how to reduce the amount of fat, sugar, and salt in some of their favorite recipes, and flavor and food combinations. We concluded the presentation by preparing and enjoying a tasty Beef and Rice Mexican Skillet Dish. Be sure to visit your local Richland Parish Library Branch to pick up a sample of an herb or spice each month!

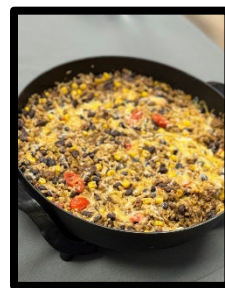
The Germ Cave– The Germ Cave is a fun and interactive station designed to bring awareness to both youth and adults about the importance of handwashing, identification of germs, and food safety. During AgSafety Day, youth participants learned about the major three types of germs (bacteria, viruses, and fungi), when and how to properly wash hands by using “The High Five” method, and the four steps to food safety (clean, separate, cook, and chill). The participants then received faux germs “GLO Germ/Glitterbug Lotion” as they entered the cave filled with LED lighting to highlight what germs would actually look like if you could see them with the visible eye.

4-H Youth and Family Development

Youth are often exposed to drugs, tobacco, and alcohol at a young age. To help with this problem, we have implemented using the “Health Rocks” course work during 4-H club meetings. This program helps youth become aware of what can happen and what the consequences can be if they partake in certain substances. Through the activities in this course, the youth learn how to make knowledgeable decisions that can help them resist substance abuse and live a healthy lifestyle.

Ag Safety Day – Over 300 5th graders from all over Richland Parish got to experience Ag Safety Day that was held at the LSU AgCenter Livestock Barn in Delhi. This event was in collaboration with the Richland Parish Sheriff’s Office and other companies in Richland Parish to help teach children different safety measures. The students that participated got to learn about food safety with the Germ Cave, firearm safety, 911, water safety, fire safety, D.A.R.E. and much more.

4-H members had the opportunity to participate in several contests: Cookery, Creation, Baking, Photography, and Royal Court. A Pet Show was also held.



Dining with Diabetes



Germ Cave



Ag Safety Day

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

LSUAgCenter.com

