

LSU AgCenter Washington Parish Profile

Report to Stakeholders January 2026



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

Nutrition and Community Health agents and educators are improving the overall health of residents by helping to reduce chronic diseases which are related to poor nutrition and sedentary lifestyles and improving the health outcomes in which Louisiana has traditionally ranked so low. This community-based work helps individuals and families adopt the nutrition and physical activity principles we have long been teaching.

4-H Youth Development

Washington Parish 4-H programming has continued to grow over the last five years. 4-H in Washington Parish continues to offer traditional programming for members, as well as workshops and numerous opportunities for members to collaborate with each other to shape parish programming. Washington Parish members continue to make their mark on Louisiana 4-H with the participation on state leadership boards, participation in state leadership activities and their willingness to step outside of their comfort zone when at state and regional 4-H events.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Washington Parish is first in Louisiana for watermelon acreage and in the top five for commercial vegetable, blueberry, and nursery crop acreage. These industries contribute to the economy and culture of the parish. Gardening and lawn care bring pleasure to many people and, in many cases, provide a source of nutritious fruits and vegetables. Gardeners and homeowners need reliable information upon which to base decisions about plant selection and maintenance (pest management, fertilization, etc.), to avoid unnecessary expenses and wasteful fertilizer and pesticide applications. Weekly newspaper articles are an efficient way to reach many people with science-based gardening and lawn care information. News articles are posted online and sent weekly to two local papers with distributions totaling approximately 5500 people.

PROGRAMS

4-H and Youth Development

- 4-H.
- FFA.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Animal Production.
- Environment/Watersheds.
- Horticulture Crops
- Lawn and Garden.
- Forestry.

Nutrition and Community Health

- Healthy Communities
- Flavors of Health.

EXTENSION OFFICE

1104-B Bene St. Franklinton, LA 70438
Phone: 985-839-7855
Fax: 000-000-0000

Email:

Washington@agcenter.lsu.edu

Office Hours:

Mon.-Fri.: 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Website:

www.LSUAgCenter.com/Washington

Social Media:

Facebook:

Washington Parish LSU AgCenter
Washington Parish 4-H

Parish Chair:

avarnado@agcenter.lsu.edu

Additional Contact:

Administrative Coordinator

dkthompson@agcenter.lsu.edu



WHOM WE REACH:

- 9,280 youth (includes 465 4-H members and 32 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:

120 volunteers from 4-H Club Leaders, 4-H Livestock, 4-H Junior Leadership, Master Gardeners and Nutrition and Community Health.

PARISH FACTS:

- LSU AgCenter agents provide research-based information on plant, aquaculture, wildlife and animal enterprises to Washington Parish residents. The total dollar amount from these commodities were: Animal enterprises, \$29,870,725; aquaculture and wildlife, \$3,933,785; plant enterprises, \$36,690,815.
- Land area — 676 square miles; Population — 45,133; Population under 18 years old — 26.7%; Population 65 years old and over — 14.3%; Median household income — \$24,264; Persons below poverty — 24.7%

LOCAL ISSUES AND PLANS FOR THIS YEAR:

Increase productivity and profitability of Louisiana agriculture.

- Inform horticultural crop growers about resources and upcoming events with Tangi-Washington Grower Updates, which are emailed and posted online.
- Hold watermelon grower education meeting.
- Provide one-on-one consultation regarding agricultural production practices.

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

- Write news columns, webpage content and seminars on agriculture practices.
- Conduct farm and home educational visits.
- Support the Louisiana Master Gardener program to extend consumer horticulture education efforts.

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

- Develop and implement service-learning projects throughout the parish.
- Provide youth with leadership development opportunities.
- Expand communication efforts to public about opportunities in the 4-H Youth Development program.
- Promote agriculture awareness and careers in agriculture.

Strengthen families and communities.

- Family Nutrition Program clients receive training on feeding their families nutritionally on a budget.
- Targeted programming to help audiences establish health eating habits and teach classes on reducing credit balances and examining spending habits.



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.
- Nutrition and Community Health



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

www.LSUAgCenter.com