

Acadiana AgLine

A newsletter for farmers and cattle producers in Lafayette Parish & the Acadiana area.

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SUMMER 2026**



Artificial Insemination – October 7th-9th

There will be an Artificial Insemination School hosted by LSU AgCenter held in October from the 7th through the 9th. Artificial insemination schools are typically held at the Hill Farm Research Station in Homer and the Dean Lee Research and Extension Center in Alexandria. The course is three days of classroom instruction and hands-on practice. This program is intended to show producers how to utilize artificial insemination in their operation. If you have any questions or would like to know more, you can contact Dr. Ashley Edwards, our State Beef Specialist at akedwards@agcenter.lsu.edu or (512-818-5476).

Pregnancy Determination Clinic – October 13th OR 15th

Producers will have the opportunity to attend a one-day class, the Pregnancy Determination Clinic, at the Hill Farm Research Station on October 13th or if you are unable to make that one, there will be another offered on October 15th. The clinic primarily focuses on teaching palpation and blood collection for pregnancy determination assays. The purpose of this class is to teach producers methods of pregnancy determination SOLELY in THEIR herds. According to Louisiana's Veterinary Practice, it is important to understand that it is illegal to determine or diagnose pregnancy status in animals that do not belong to you. For those who are interested, you can contact Dr. Edwards at (512-818-5476).

Roadway Safety and Heat Stress

With the summertime heat and accidents occurring on roadways, sometimes it is better to take precautions. With that being said, roadway safety and heat stress are two important concerns for farmers, especially during the busy summer season. When operating tractors, side-by-sides, or other farm equipment on public roads, farmers should remain alert to surrounding traffic. Motorists should also exercise caution, as farm equipment often travels at reduced speeds and may make wide turns. At the same time, prolonged exposure to high temperatures and humidity can increase the risk of heat-related illnesses, including heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Farmers can reduce heat stress by staying hydrated, taking frequent breaks in shaded or air-conditioned areas, wearing lightweight clothing, and scheduling strenuous tasks during the cooler parts of the day. By prioritizing both roadway awareness and heat stress prevention, farmers can protect themselves, their employees, and the traveling public while maintaining a safe and productive operation.

MASTER FARMER

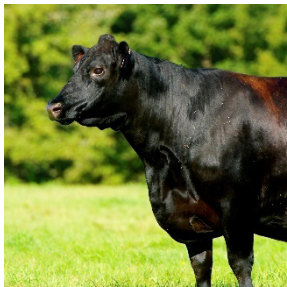
The LSU AgCenter continues to promote the Master Farmer program as one of the most important voluntary programs that farmers can take part in. Environmental and governmental agencies, government programs, and others continue to look at participation in the Master Farmer program as an indicator of a farmer's dedication to environmental stewardship and willingness to follow BMPs (Best Management Practices). Farmers who have not yet chosen to enroll in the Master Farmer program are strongly encouraged to reconsider.

Phase 1 will be classroom instruction on environmental stewardship related to:

- Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Water Quality Challenges and Programs
- Watershed Information
- USDA/NRCS Conservation Planning Process
- Conservation Programs/Related Information

If you are interested in participating in a Master Farmer Program Training, please contact the Lafayette office at 337-291-7090 or lanierichard@agcenter.lsu.edu. We are tentatively planning a program for late September!

Beef Quality Assurance Certification



The Beef Quality Assurance certification is an opportunity for U.S. beef producers to learn systematic information on how to be more progressive or efficient with husbandry techniques backed by science-based standards. The standards used cover the whole beef production process. Some of the topics that will be talked about are cattle handling, facility management, cattle transportation, good record keeping, and protecting herd health. The Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certification is valid for three years before it needs to be renewed.

If you are interested in attending a BQA training, or you need to recertify, please let me know!

Fall Bull Breeding Soundness Exam – Thursday, November 12th

We are excited to once again partner with the Lafayette Parish and St. Landry Parish Cattlemen's Associations to offer a Fall Bull Breeding Soundness Exam. The exam will be held on Thursday, November 12th, 2026, at Dominique's Stockyard. Similar to the Spring Exam, pre-registration is required. To register, please call the LSU AgCenter office in Lafayette at 337-291-7090 and provide your name, the number of bulls you plan to bring, if they need vaccinations, and if you would like to test them for Trichomoniasis. Producers who traditionally turn bulls out early are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to ensure their bulls are prepared for a successful breeding season. We sincerely thank Dominique's Stockyard for their continued support and for providing the facility for this event. The flyer is attached!

LSU AgCenter Forage Testing Lab

As a reminder, the LSU AgCenter Forage Testing Lab is an excellent resource available to Louisiana livestock and hay producers. Forage analysis can provide valuable information on the nutritional quality of hay and other forage resources, helping producers make informed feeding and supplementation decisions while maximizing forage utilization and reducing feed costs. The LSU



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AgCenter's routine forage analysis package is available for **\$15 per sample** and includes key nutritional measurements that can assist in evaluating forage quality. Producers who have baled hay or would like to determine the nutritional value of their forage are encouraged to contact their local LSU AgCenter Extension agent to learn more about sample collection and submission procedures and to take advantage of this valuable service.

I would like to remind hay producers to submit their best hay and baleage test results from the LSU AgCenter's Forage to the **2026 State Hay Contest**. This gives hay producers the opportunity to evaluate and showcase the quality of their hay. The entry deadline is **October 1st**. The winners will be recognized at the Statewide Forage Conference on December 4th, 2026, in Alexandria, La. Contact me at lanierichard@agcenter.lsu.edu for more information on the rules and regulations if you would like to enter.

Ag Burning School

Ag burning continues to be a hot topic in the agriculture industry. This is especially true in parishes like Lafayette, that have growing urban populations taking over lands that have been predominantly agricultural in the past. In recent years, we have also been faced with burning complaints lodged against farmers, cattlemen, and other ag producers for the burning of other agricultural debris (old hay bales, trees/ limbs cleared from fence lines, wheat straw, etc). Considering the number of storms that we have had lately, this could be a regular occurrence! For these reasons, we are hosting **"Agricultural Prescribed Burn Manager"** classes to educate everyone on the safety precautions to take before deciding to burn. Be on the lookout for classes! If you are interested, you can call the Lafayette office, and we can start a list. If we receive enough interest, we can look into hosting more classes. Please be aware that these classes also serve as re-certification for any who were certified previously and in need of recertification. Burn Manager recertification is required every 5 years. For further information on any of the above, please contact me 337-291-7090 or email me at lanierichard@agcenter.lsu.edu

Master Horseman Program

The Master Horseman Program is an educational program designed to help horse owners and enthusiasts gain a deeper understanding of equine management, training, riding, and care through research-based instruction. The program combines classroom education with hands-on demonstrations to teach best management practices and improve horsemanship skills. Participants attend clinics covering topics such as horse health, nutrition, behavior, training, and riding techniques. Upon completion, graduates are encouraged to share their knowledge with others and provide volunteer service within the equine community, including assisting with youth programs, clinics, and 4-H horse activities. The overall goal of the program is to develop knowledgeable horse owners, strengthen Louisiana's equine industry. If you would be interested in participating in this program, please contact me at 337-291-7090 so I can start an interested list.

Master Cattleman Program

The Louisiana Master Cattleman program began in the summer of 2004 and has continued successfully. The course includes ten three-hour lectures covering Animal Handling, Animal Health, Beef Quality Assurance, Breeding and Selection, Economic and Marketing, End Product, Nutrition, Pasture Agronomy, Reproduction, and Weed Management. It is a commodity-specific program to enhance the profitability of beef producers by equipping them with important information on all aspects of beef production. It allows participants to add farm management/marketing components related to their beef operations. Upon completion of the Master Cattleman program, participants should be better able to increase farm profitability while being environmentally sustainable. We are hopeful to host another Master Cattleman Program Class in the Acadiana area in the Spring of 2027. Please let us know if you would like to sign up at lanierichard@agcenter.lsu.edu. There will be more details to follow in the future!

Grazing School

We will once again offer the LSU AgCenter Grazing School. This program is a hands-on educational program designed to help livestock producers improve forage production, grazing management, and overall pasture efficiency. The school consists of five workshops that combine classroom instruction with practical field experiences led by LSU AgCenter specialists and agents. The Grazing School topics such as forage establishment, soil fertility and soil health, forage testing and nutritive value, weed management, grazing systems, fencing, water systems, animal nutrition, and the economics of grazing management. While the program primarily focuses on beef cattle operations, it also discusses how grazing strategies can be applied to small ruminants and horses.

The dates and location of each session of the school are as follows:

- Session 1: Soil Fertility and Health, Components of Grazing Plans - September 16, 2026 - State Evacuation Center - 8125 Hwy 71 South, Alexandria, LA
- Session 2: Comparing Forage Species and Weed Management - October 1, 2026 - State Evacuation Center - 8125 Hwy 71 South, Alexandria, LA
- Session 3: Establishing Forages, Hay Production, Supplementation Considerations - October 14, 2026 - Rapides Parish Extension Office – 300 Grady Britt Drive, Alexandria, LA
- Session 4: Grazing Behavior, Forage Intake and Digestibility, Animal Health - October 28, 2026 - DeWitt Livestock Show Facility - 8125 Hwy 71 South, Alexandria, LA
- Session 5: Grazing Systems, Fencing and Water Supply, Economics of Grazing - November 10, 2026 - State Evacuation Center - 8125 Hwy 71 South, Alexandria, LA

The Grazing School consists of 5 full day sessions (from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm). Each session will have an indoor, lecture type component and an outdoor, more hands-on component. The cost of the Grazing School will be \$175 per person. This covers course materials, lunch, and refreshments. If you are interested in attending, please contact Dr. Kurt Guidry at 337-788-7531, or KMGuidry@agcenter.lsu.edu.

Master Small Ruminant

This year marks the transition from the Master Goat Program to the Master Small Ruminant Program. With this change, we have expanded the curriculum to include sheep best management practices alongside goat production topics, allowing us to better serve the growing number of sheep and goat producers across Louisiana. Through the LSU AgCenter's small ruminant educational efforts, participants learn practical skills such as parasite management, hoof trimming, animal handling, and other essential management practices that can improve animal health and profitability. The program is beneficial for both beginning and experienced sheep and goat producers looking to expand or enhance their operations. For more information, you can contact Tyler Barlow at 318-767-3967 or tbarlow@agcenter.lsu.edu.

Upcoming Events:

- Dean Lee Beef and Forage Field Day – **Thursday, September 10th, 2026** (Dean Lee Research and Extension Center – Alexandria)
- Northeast Louisiana Beef and Forage Field Day – **Thursday, September 17th, 2026** (Goldmine Plantation – Mangham)
- Poultry Field Day – **Wednesday, September 30th, 2026** (Hill Farm Research Station – Homer)
- Acadiana Homesteading Workshop – **Friday, November 6th, 2026** (Blackham Coliseum - Lafayette)
- LFGC/LGLCI Louisiana Forage Conference – **Friday, December 4th, 2026** – (Evacuation Center – Alexandria)

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Bull Breeding Soundness Exam

Thursday, November 12th, 2026

Breeding Soundness Exam - \$60

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LSU AgCenter 2026
Poultry Field Day



