



Headland Highlights



Volume 18, Issue 3

July 2025

Agricultural Newsletter of the LSU AgCenter's Iberia Cooperative Extension Service

This issue contains information regarding:

- * Introduction
- * 2025 Sugarcane Field Days
- * 2025 Sugarcane Variety Survey
- * 2024 Sprayed Sugarcane Acreage Survey
- * 2025 Sugarcane Variety Performance Guide
- * 2025 New Sugarcane Variety
- * 2025 New Sugarcane Variety Availability
- * 2025 Agriculture News and Updates
- * Louisiana Crops Newsletter
- * Beef Cattle Updates
- * Other
- * Closing

Introduction

The month of July has arrived along with rain and very warm temperatures. It's hard to believe that only 5 or 6 months ago our area experienced record low temperatures and record amounts of snow. July also means that we are at the start of the second half of the calendar year, the beginning of the fiscal year for the LSU AgCenter and that sugarcane field days and sugarcane planting are nearly upon us. Despite the nearly daily rain showers our area is receiving, local crops appear to be in very good shape. Our sugarcane crop is in the midst of the "grand growth" period while our soybean and rice crops are reaching early maturity stages. The hot, humid, and rainy weather conditions have brought about pockets of insect pressure (such as Sugarcane borers, Mexican Rice borers, and stinkbugs). Given the cold temperatures and snow, we experienced at the start of 2025 we must not forget that the 2025 hurricane season has started. It is my hopes and prayers that the Teche area is spared from any major hurricanes. We have a long way to go before our crops are harvested, indications are that our local crops and livestock are doing well, and yields should be very good.

Sugarcane Field Days

A) 2025 St. Martin/Lafayette/Acadia Sugarcane Field Day

Friday, July 25, (LASUCA Sugar Mill 6092 LA-347, St. Martinville)

7:45 a.m. – Registration and Equipment Displays - Levert/St. John Tractor Shed (St. Martinville)

8:15 a.m. – Welcome

8:20 a.m. – Pre-Field Day Vendor Visits

9:00 a.m. – Field Tours – topics: Chopper Harvester with shields update, Sugarcane Drones Update, Billet Planting Update, Sugarcane Variety Update

Immediately following Field Tours/Approx. 10:15 a.m. – Inside program – Topics: Sugarcane Industry Update, Sugarcane Weed Update, Residue/Shuck Management, Sugarcane Crop Update

A meal will be served following all the indoor presentations and door prizes will be given out throughout the program. (LASUCA Boardroom 6092 Resweber Hwy, St. Martinville)

B) 2025 St. Martin/Lafayette/Acadia/St. Landry Sugarcane Field Day

Tuesday, July 29, (Building 107, 107 West Edwards St., Erath)

7:45 a.m. – Registration

8:15 a.m. – Field Stop #1 – Cover Crops and Drones

Field Stop #2 – Greenhouse Gas Monitoring, Billet Planting Update, and Climate Smart Nutrient Management Practices

10:45 a.m. – Indoor Program – Topics – Residue/Shuck Management, Carbon Credit Economics & Soil Health, New Variety Update, Sugarcane Industry & Crop Update, Master Farmer Program Updates/Evaluations

A meal will be served following all the indoor presentations and door prizes will be given out throughout the program. **(Building 107, 107 West Edwards St., Erath)**

2025 Sugarcane Variety Survey

Please see the information below regarding the 2025 Sugarcane Variety Survey. The variety survey information is very important on a local and statewide basis as it allows us to monitor the progress of varieties and their acceptance by producers. Surveys can also be used to warn producers of potential problems if they are keeping varieties with serious problems. It is hoped that when completed, the 2025 Sugarcane Variety Survey will give us precise information on variety preferences and trends that can be used in formulating future research and extension programs. Data gathered can also be useful in obtaining section 18 pesticide labels if needed.

Please note that the 2025 variety survey form lists eleven (11) varieties: HoCP (96)-540, L (01)-283, L (01)-299, HoCP (09)-804, L (12)-201, Ho (12)-615, Ho (13)-739, L (14)-267, HoCP (14)-885, L (15)-306, and HoL (15)-508. All other varieties are to be listed in the “Others” category. Please note that the number in parenthesis represents the year the variety was assigned its designation.

I am kindly asking you please return the attached 2025 Sugarcane Variety Survey by **Friday, August 1st**. One (1) variety survey form should be completed by each farm (it is not necessary for each producer to complete a separate form). Also, if you farm in multiple parishes, you can turn in one survey form for all your sugarcane operation in the parish in which you have the majority of your farm’s acres.

2024 Sprayed Sugarcane Acreage Survey

Please complete and return attached survey.

2025 Sugarcane Variety Performance Guide

The Sugarcane Variety Performance Guide was emailed earlier this month and is attached to this email. If you do not have email; please contact the Iberia Parish Extension office (337-369-4441) if you would like a “hard copy”. Please keep in mind the importance of sugarcane varieties to your farming operations. We have a new variety being released this year; therefore, you have several choices that should be good for your farming operations. Please use this information in making your planting decisions for 2025.

2025 New Sugarcane Variety

Earlier this year the Agriculture Research Service of the USDA, the LSU AgCenter and the American Sugarcane League who work in cooperation to develop experimental sugarcane varieties announced a new sugarcane variety, HoCP (18)-803. This variety will be available commercially for planting in 2025. It’s the cross between the female parent HoL (08)-718 and the male parent HoCP (09)-814. This new variety is another positive for the Louisiana Sugarcane industry and further details of it can be found within the May issue of the Sugar Bulletin.

2025 New Sugarcane Variety Availability

The American Sugarcane League has been directed by the USDA and the Louisiana Experiment Station to distribute the newly released variety of sugarcane HoCP (18)-803 for the summer of 2025. Farmers wanting to order seed cane of this new variety must complete the application form in the July issue of the Sugar Bulletin, or they can download the application online at the following link: www.AMSCL.org or they can use the QR code in the July issue of the Sugar Bulletin. Completed applications must be received by the American Sugarcane League by Friday August 1st, 2025. The price of the seed cane for this new variety is \$60.00 per ton. Further details about ordering this new variety can be found in the July 2025 of the Sugar Bulletin.

2025 Agriculture News and Updates

Throughout the year emails are sent out to farmers and others involved in the agriculture industry. Some of the emails include The Crop Market Report, Ag Policy and Market Situation Newsletter and Sugarcane Growth Measurements. These emails are intended to keep producers updated with local, state, national and worldwide agriculture news. Please contact the Iberia Parish Extension office (337-369-4441) if you are not receiving this information and would like to.

Louisiana Crops Newsletter

The Louisiana Crops Newsletter is made available by LSU AgCenter Specialist, Dr. David Moseley, and emailed to producers. It is also available online; you can find it by going to the publications tab and clicking newsletters on the LSU AgCenter Website. www.lsuagcenter.com

Beef Cattle Update

Despite a cold winter our beef cattle and pastures have experienced good growth heading into July. The excessive heat has not been easy on our livestock and daily rains have delayed hay production. We seem to have plenty of hay from last year, but hopefully we can have good hay production in the upcoming month as feed prices remain high. The beef cattle market remains strong, and hopefully we can continue to maintain a steady demand for beef in the United State and abroad.

Please be on the lookout for beef cattle educational information via email.

Other

As we look at agriculture issues on the national/federal level the passage of a Farm Bill continues to be the primary focus for the American agriculture industry. Congress has recently focused on the “One Big Beautiful Bill” (OB BB) which was passed earlier this month. Please check your emails as information has been sent with initial details on how the OB BB may affect agriculture. As many of you are aware, plenty of work has gone into improving the Farm Bill. Producers are encouraged to contact their U.S. Representatives and Senators and encouraging them to pass the Farm Bill. Producers are reminded that USDA programs are available, and they should be in contact with their local FSA and NRCS offices to properly report and receive updates and details.

On the state level, the Louisiana Legislative conducted its second session with Governor Jeff Landry. Many issues were discussed related to agriculture in this session and details will be forthcoming. Higher Education, which includes the LSU AgCenter basically received a “stand still funding” budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Producers are also reminded to stay in contact with their state Representatives and senators.

During the recent Farm Bureau convention in New Orleans, producers were reminded about issues such as labor (safety regulations and wages) as well as an effort concerning food especially related to artificial sweeteners, calories, and food/consumer labeling. It is because of these types of issues that producers must maintain a voice with their elected officials on the local, state and national levels of government.

The 2025 Sugarcane Festival is slated for September 25th-28th in New Iberia. Festival organizers are busy preparing for this annual event to include music, food, parades and fun. Also, the Iberia Extension office will be conducting the annual 4-H livestock show and sale, sugar cookery contest, as well as the sugarcane exhibit and sugarcane judging events.

During the month of May LSU and the LSU AgCenter experienced some changes in leadership. LSU AgCenter President Dr. William Tate is headed to Rutgers University and Dr. Matthew Lee will serve as interim President to the LSU system. With this change the following people will transition into interim leadership roles:

- A.) Dr. Micheal Salassi – Interim Vice President of the Louisiana AgCenter and Dean of the College of Agriculture
- B.) Dr. Glen Gentry – Interim Director of the Louisiana Agriculture Cooperative Stations
- C.) Dr. Tara Smith – will remain as Director of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service

Also, some additional administrative duties must be shifted to a few other LSU AgCenter administrators. Their appointments should allow LSU and the AgCenter to remain committed to serving the people of Louisiana. Your continued support is appreciated.

Closing

The first six months of 2025 have come and gone, and the second half of 2025 is off to a fast start with preparations for rice and soybean harvests as well as the planting of sugarcane upon us. Daily showers may delay these activities; but I think our local crops and livestock are in good shape. Based on observations, and farm/field visits I believe we are poised for a good second half of 2025. One major concern is the forecast for an active tropical/hurricane season. I will continue to pray that Louisiana and the Acadiana area are spared from the damages of a tropical system/hurricane. During recent meetings such as the Farm Bureau Annual Convention in New Orleans we heard several positives regarding the future of agriculture ranging from technology to the world demand for the products we grow and raise. We were also reminded of the obstacles and challenges facing the agriculture industry. At times it can be frustrating to be a farmer in America, but the positives are certainly greater than the negatives. Your hard work and devotion to your farming operations continue to amaze me.

This newsletter once again contains several email references. If you have email and you are not receiving emails from me, please email your email address to me so that you can get this information via the internet. My email address is bhebert@agcenter.lsu.edu. If you do not have access to email and would like any of the referenced material in this newsletter mailed to you, please contact me at the Iberia Extension Office of the LSU AgCenter (337) 369-4440 so that this information can be sent to you.

I hope that good weather conditions are in store for us for the remainder of 2025, and I wish each of you the best of luck with your crops and livestock. I look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming field days, and if you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact me at the Iberia Extension Office of the LSU AgCenter.

Sincerely,

Blair J. Hebert
Extension County Agent/Parish Chairman
Iberia Parish

BJH/alm