

# Bienville Parish Profile



## Report to Stakeholders

January 2016

### About the LSU AgCenter

The LSU AgCenter is dedicated to providing 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.



### Program Highlights

#### Family, Nutrition and Health

Obesity rates continue to rise and Louisiana ranks as the most obese state in the nation. Teaching youth to learn the importance of eating healthy and taking care of their bodies should help them be less likely to experience the consequences associated with obesity later in life. For this to happen the "Let's Eat for the Health of it/Youth" curriculum was taught to fifth graders in Castor, Gibsland-Coleman, Ringgold, and Saline through the Bienville Parish School Board.



The Jurors and Schools Empowering Teens summer youth enrichment program has employed youth 16 to 18 years old at various businesses during their summer break. This year the Bienville Parish School Board joined in to equally support the funding of the program up to \$50,000. JET is a one-month work study program funded by the police jury and school board and conducted by the Bienville Parish LSU AgCenter Agents. This program not only provides a valuable first employment experience, but also focuses on the development of financial management skills, character education, and workforce preparedness. The objective for this program is to promote long-term goals regarding careers, workforce preparedness, financial management, and decision-making that will support enduring financial stability.



#### 4-H Youth Development

In response to needs identified by the Advisory Leadership Council in four parishes, a series of lessons on communication were developed and presented at monthly club meetings during the 2015-2016 school year. Lesson topics included: ways to communicate, conflict resolution, telephone/text etiquette, thank you notes, public speaking, social media and digital foot prints. Youth indicated the following topics were the most important when building communication skills: technology safety, thank you cards and public speaking. The lesson on thank you cards was utilized in December, and youth were challenged to write numerous thank you cards over the holiday break. After a survey at January club meetings, youth reported writing 1,236 thank you cards between December and January club meetings.



Service Learning Projects were conducted with two different groups. Group 1 was with Ringgold High School 4-H Club for a FIT Nation. Through this project, youth conducted service for the local food pantry and assisted families in the community who might not meet the income qualifications but had an immediate need due to extenuating circumstances. The food drive gave youth the opportunity to connect with younger students in their school, use math skills, and have community involvement. Group 2 was with the Junior Leader Club on Domestic Abuse Resistance. Youth chose to provide service to our local DART organization and ended up sponsoring two DART families with gifts for children and mothers.

#### Agriculture & Natural Resources

The agricultural agent conducted pesticide recertification and worker protection standard meetings for producers and homeowners. The shooting sports programs had increased participation and some of the students have placed in 4-H state competitions. Our office has continued to work with local homeowners and businesses to address horticultural and lawn issues.

### Bienville Parish Extension Office

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LSUAgCenter.com/Bienville  
**Office Hours: Monday—Friday**  
8:00a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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#### Programs

- 4-H Youth Development**  
Citizenship/Leadership  
Science, Engineering & Technology
- Family, Nutrition and Health**  
Let's Eat for the Health of It/  
Youth & Adult  
Smart Portions  
Eat Smart Live Strong  
Family Nutrition Night  
Happy Healthy Me  
Show Me Nutrition
- Agriculture & Natural Resources (ANR)**  
Environment/Watersheds  
Forestry  
Horticulture/Lawns & Gardens  
Pest Management

**Who we reach.**

53,922— Youth (Includes 469 4-H members & 15 clubs)  
64,786 - Adults

**How we reach them:**

4-H clubs	Class series
School Enrichment	Demonstrations
Field days	Workshops
Newsletters	Web sites
Publications	Social media

**Expanding our efforts:**

203 Volunteers -  
4-H, Master Gardeners, Family & Community

**Parish Facts**

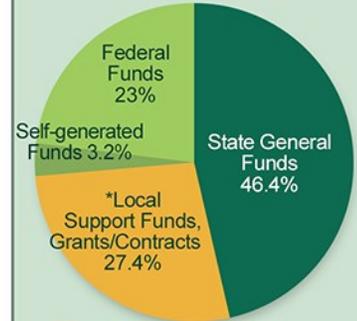
Population - 13,786  
Land area (square miles) - 811.27  
Persons under 18 years old - 22.4%  
Persons 65 years old and over - 19.4%  
Median household income - \$32,876  
Persons below poverty - 25.4%

LSU AgCenter County Agents provide research-based information on plant, aquaculture, wildlife and animal enterprises to Bienville Parish clientele. The 2015 total dollar amount from these commodities were:

—Plant enterprises - \$58,580,497  
—Fisheries and wildlife - \$2,736,767  
—Animal enterprises - \$39,372,812

**Data from the Louisiana Ag Summary**  
**Web site: LSUAgCenter.com**

**Extension Funding FY 2016**



\*2016 Local support goal - 20% of salaries and benefits

**How we are funded.**

You are the local supporters and beneficiaries in the LSU AgCenter's Extension programs. Just 20 percent support keeps these programs in your community.

Your parish extension office offers programs in:

- Sustaining Louisiana's 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 citizens.

**Local Issues & Plans for this year:**

**1. Family, Nutrition and Health**

- ◆ For youth and adult clientele to increase knowledge and make positive behavior changes through research-based nutrition education.
- ◆ For fourth grade youth to learn about the importance of eating healthy and taking care of their bodies.
- ◆ Work toward the goal of the Healthy Communities Project which is now in a beginning phase of community information gathering process.
- ◆ For youth, ages 16-19 in Bienville Parish, to increase knowledge in financial literacy and workforce preparedness, and to engage these youth in exploring career opportunities to make positive lifestyle changes and choices similar to those faced by adults on a daily basis.



**2. 4-H Youth & Family Development**

- ◆ Build leaders and good citizens through 4-H Youth Development programs.
- ◆ Develop and implement a service learning project.
- ◆ Conduct series of six lessons on health and fitness during 4-H club meetings.
- ◆ Host parish wide Educational Achievement Day.
- ◆ Build leadership through youth led club meetings and projects.
- ◆ Teach teens workforce preparedness through the Jurors (and Schools) Empowering Teens Program.
- ◆ Teach life skills through various camping opportunities.

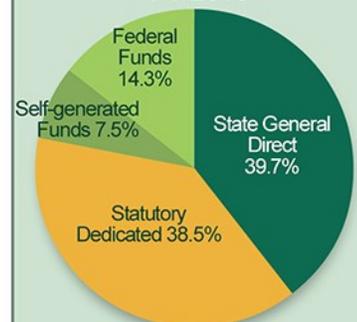


**3. Agriculture & Natural Resources**

- ◆ Pesticide recertification meetings
- ◆ Worker Protection Standard classes



**LSU AgCenter State Appropriated Funds FY 2016**



For the latest research-based information on just about anything, visit our website: [LSUAgCenter.com](http://LSUAgCenter.com)