

## Extension Agents for Bienville Parish

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(Ag & Natural Resources & 4-H)

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### *Classified Staff*

Michelle Martin, Secretary

## NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Dr. Allen Nipper, Regional Director

Dr. Jan McDade, FCS Field Program Leader  
(North Louisiana)

### NOTE:

Membership and participation in activities and events are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, veteran status, or disability. If you have a disability that requires special accommodation for your participation in a meeting, please contact Noah Washburn at (318) 263-7400

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## Serving Bienville Parish Through Education

**Program Highlights  
Spring Semester 2004**

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## Ag & Natural Resources

- The Gibsland Farmers' Market Association re-opened for business in June of 2004 with eight farmers participating in the market and five of the farmers participating in the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. Farmers' participation in this voucher program allows Bienville residents on limited incomes to receive vouchers in the amount of \$16 for fresh fruits and vegetables. Approximately 117 vouchers have been authorized for Bienville Parish; if all vouchers are spent at the Gibsland Farmers' Market the market will receive an additional \$1872 above normal sales.
- Established a beef/forage advisory committee which prioritized the parish needs and planned educational programs accordingly.
- Establishing a Beef Marketing Alliance with parish producers which will improve profits and herd management.
- 9 area horse owners were assisted by visits, phone conferences, and reference materials in the areas of nutrition, reproduction, management, forage production, and riding skills.
- 7 Commercial Vegetable Growers were assisted with soil analysis interpretations and recommendations. Advised on pesticide usage and sprayer calibration.
- One producer was selected for the Master Farmer Model Farm research project.

## Community Economic Development

- Gibsland Revival 2000 Committee received a USDA Grant/Loan to build a multi-purpose building behind the town's gazebo. The building will home to the Gibsland Farmers' Market and other town activities and social events. Completion of the building is expected in 2005.
- Bienville Parish community leaders have been meeting to look at the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for tourism in the parish. The Arcadia/Bienville Parish Chamber of Commerce and the Arcadia's Mayor Eugene Smith are considering two programs: "First Impressions" and "Customer Relations" to be taught by the LSU AgCenter.
- Louisiana Tech's Architecture Department I preparing drawings for an overhead structure for the "old football field" in downtown Arcadia. Development of this project would bring people into the downtown area to support the retail district.

## Family and Consumer Science

- Seven Bienville and Claiborne Parish residents participated in court ordered classes of *Children in the Middle* parenting sessions. The parents learned and are practicing communication techniques to reduce stress in the lives of their children due to divorce and custody appeals.

- A *Protect Yourself from Identity Theft* workshop was conducted for Council on aging participants. Forty-seven senior citizens were made aware of the ways their identity could be stolen, the incidence of identity theft in the parish, and preventative measures they could take to protect themselves. Participants were made aware of various scam and con techniques related to identity theft.
- Twenty-two residents participated in a health issues seminar for women. Participants learned the importance of proper health care as related to nutritional needs, exercise, and preventative measures for life threatening diseases.

## 4-H and Other Youth Development

- Five State Awards of Excellence were given to outstanding junior 4-H members.
- Approximately 700 youth/adult leaders attended club meetings gaining knowledge on healthy eating, exercise, fast foods, proper nutrition, and careers.
- Monthly newsletter "The Green Scene" was written and distributed to over 700 youth/adult leaders each month of the school year to publicize upcoming events and recognize participants, winners, leaders, community service projects, and character education pillars.
- Character pillars of trustworthiness, fairness, citizenship, and decision-making were taught to over 700 youth/adult leaders.
- Essay contests were held monthly for the character pillars.
- Over 100 Dairy Posters were made by youth in the parish to learn about dairy products and the industry.
- One youth won Honorable Mention in the State Dairy Poster Contest.
- 350 4-H members collected 1,709 pounds of food in 65 hours of service to donate to the needy in our parish.
- All six schools in the parish were involved in 4-H'ers collecting toys for Domestic Abuse Resistance Team for children in unhappy situations at Christmas.
- 4-H youth collected \$101.50 for St. Jude's Children's Hospital.
- 101 coats were collected by 4-H members to donate to the "Coats For Kids" Project.
- Three 4-H members and two adult leaders participated in the State Fashion, Food, and Fitness Camp bringing back information and teaching it to Bienville Parish Youth at the Parish Commodity Foods Contest.
- Parish and district Beta Clubs and FCCLA Clubs were judged for public speaking and team community service contests.
- Over 36,000 candy bars were sold for the parish wide fundraiser for Bienville Parish 4-H Foundation to sponsor awards, contests, camps, scholarships, and educational programs.

- As a result of multi-parish partnering with an electric coop, 82 youth/adult leaders were involved in learn by doing experience in electrical knowledge, safety, and conservation.
- Through Challenge Camp, 19 youth were challenged to set high personal goals as a result of activities designed to develop a positive self-concept, teamwork skills, and communication skills. Through the "Louisiana Safari" theme campers learned about Louisiana agriculture through hands-on activities.
- As a result of organizing, promoting, and training sessions, 17 youth participated in 4-H University (formerly Short Course) with three placing in the Blue Ribbon Group.
- Thirty-five award-winning youth/adult leaders participated in the second annual 4-H Legislative Day at the State Capitol visiting with legislators about issues and learning of political processes.
- Through partnership with Bienville Parish School Board and Louisiana Technical College a Career Exploration Day was held for all 8<sup>th</sup> graders in Bienville Parish which contributed toward meeting the mandates of Act 1124, Career Options Law.
- A tour of Louisiana Technical College in Shreveport was organized for tenth grade students at Gibsland Coleman School for them to learn about training offered for employment in skilled trader positions.
- Parish, area, and state Commodity Foods/Ambassador contests were held for youth to learn about nutrition principals, food preparation skills, and to promote commodities of beef, egg, poultry, seafood, and turkey.
- Achievement Day was held at Ringgold Elementary School for all 4-H youth to demonstrate knowledge and skills learned in 4-H.
- 4-H Records contest was held for members to learn record keeping, show accountability for their project work, and compete for awards.
- An end of the year Awards Banquet recognized youth and adult leaders for project work and volunteerism.
- Five youth received 4-H scholarships with a total scholarship amount of \$7100.
- 18 4-H'ers participated in the State Shooting Sports Competition. The Sr. Shotgun Team placed 2nd, Jr. Shotgun Team placed 2nd, and one individual won the overall shotgun competition.
- 2 State Horse Camps were offered-one in North and other Central, Louisiana. These camps involved 235 4-H members, parents, and leaders. 6 from Bienville Parish attended.
- Northwest District 4-H Horse Association sponsored 8 Horse Shows with approximately 30 4-H members and 18 leaders/parents completing the year. 4 from Bienville Parish participated.