

## Extension Agents for Bienville Parish

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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  
Fall Semester 2003**

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## Ag & Natural Resources

- Eight commercial vegetable growers participated in the North Louisiana Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference. They gained knowledge on new varieties, pest management, transplanting and marketing skills.
- Recruited cattle producer to participate in the State Calf to Carcass program with six head for evaluation and marketing purposes.
- Educated seven producers through hay and soil analysis, proper calibration and herbicide usage to improve forage quality.
- Assisted 32 residents by visiting and phone conferences on home grounds, gardening and soil fertilization.
- Six poultry producers were assisted in soil and litter samples to begin development of comprehensive nutrient management plan.
- Two Master Gardeners working on community service projects in two different cities in the parish, both are involved in city beautification.
- Periodic newsletters and information via internet to area producers
- Conducted home visits and individual conference with parish residents on Water Test results for drinking water safety. Home care and maintenance of private water wells.
- 16 area horse owners/producers were assisted by home visits, phone conference and reference materials in the area of nutrition, reproduction, breeding, stallion management, forage production, forage varieties, riding skills, and youth projects.

## Family and Consumer Science

- Five 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 in cooperation with the Bienville Parish Sheriff's Office. Seventeen participants 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.
- Twelve residents participated in a *Healthy Indoor Air* class. Participants learned to identify mold and mildew, health problems related to exposure to mold and mildew, ways to remove mold and mildew safely, and methods to prevent reoccurrence of the problem. Three of the participants with mold problems have successfully identified the problem areas contributing to mold growth in their homes and have taken steps to remove the damaged materials and repair the problem areas.

- Over 1800 visitors to the *Bonnie and Clyde Trade Days* monthly events received information about threat of West Nile Virus and recommendations to prevent exposure to mosquito bites.
- Twenty-five residents participated in a workshop featuring Louisiana State Representative James Fannin. Participants were given an up-date from the general legislative session and an overview of Representative Fannin's proposals and bills authored. The workshop gave residents an opportunity to meet their new representative, voice concerns, and discuss possible solutions for problems in their local communities.
- Twenty-two ladies participated in a debt management workshop. Following the *Power Pay Method*, ten participants have reported they feel they have successfully reduced their debt. Five have reported a decrease in debt but have not yet reached their goal.

## 4-H and Other Youth Development

- Re-established the Northwest District 4-H Horse Show Association which is governed by volunteers/parents of 4-H members involved in the horse project. Eight parishes participate and sponsor horse shows each month. Over 50 youth and adults participate.
- 21 youth with 4-H livestock projects participated in the parish and state fair shows gaining knowledge and skills exhibiting their animal projects. Two youth placed in the blue ribbon group in state livestock records.
- 18 4-H clubs were met in September. Youth were recruited into the 4-H program enrolling over 650 members.
- 22 Bienville Parish youth participated in various contests at State 4-H Short Course during June. Four youth placed in the blue ribbon group.
- Over 700 youth/adult leaders attended club meetings in October gaining knowledge in the area of personal health from a demonstration on internal organs, their functions and proper care.
- Conducted 4-H officer trainings in 100% of the 18 clubs plus the Jr. Leader Club to train officers in proper parliamentary procedure and club meeting management.
- The 4-H Advisory Leadership Council for 2004 was organized with diverse representation throughout the parish. Through this committee and subcommittees, priority needs related to the three initiatives were recommended along with procedures for implementing programs.
- The three main initiatives in Bienville Parish 4-H this year include childhood obesity, character education, and workforce preparedness.

- Over 700 youth/adult leaders participated in "The Organ wise Guys" Basic Training for Better Health, a nation-wide program to teach youth about making changes for a healthier tomorrow.
- Approximately 10 members assisted 25 families with the Prime Time Family Reading Program in Ringgold.
- A beginner sewing class was held to teach basic construction and machine embroidery to 25 youth and adults with 100% project completion.
- Character essay contests are held monthly for youth to improve writing skills and become more aware of being a person of good character. Winning essays are published in the 4-H newsletter.
- Three youth and two adult leaders participated in a statewide Fashion, Food, and Fitness Camp to attain knowledge and skills to bring back to the parish and teach workshops to our members.
- A Character Education In-Service Training was taught to all of the character education coordinators in the schools, Ringgold Elementary teachers and staff, and 12 youth leaders.
- The character pillar "Respect" was taught by Jr. Leaders through skits to approximately 1000 children at the state fair, public libraries, and Prime Time.
- A costume contest was held at the parish fair to attain costumes for our "Character Critters" programs.
- Curriculum, lesson plans, and "To Go Kits" have been shared with all of the site coordinators and director of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant Program for after school education in Bienville Parish.
- Make and Take projects were taught to teachers at an Ag in the Classroom Workshop at Creekwood Gardens.
- 4-H youth became more aware of hunger needs through the "Louisiana 4-H CAN Make a Difference" project in which they collected over 1700 pounds of food and donated to the needy in the parish.
- 4-H youth became more aware of helping others in unhappy situations through the hundreds of toys they donated to Domestic Abuse Resistance Team in Bienville Parish and the children at the LSU Pediatric Unit.
- Yellow ribbons were made by members/leaders for each school child, teacher, and many community leaders to wear on the proclaimed "Yellow Ribbon Day" in Bienville Parish to honor our soldiers.
- Jr. Leaders are learning the benefits of helping others and conserving energy through the ongoing Home Weatherization Project being done in homes of elderly, needy, and single moms.
- A game, Adolescent Alley, was played with youth at club meetings to teach them to think through the consequences of actions before making a decision.