

Extension Agents for Bienville Parish

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Cathy Judd – Agent (Child Care Provider Trainer)

Patricia B. Staggs – Agent (Family Resource Mgmt.)

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NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Dr. Allen Nipper, Regional Director

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

Karen Martin, Regional 4-H Coordinator

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 Karen Martin at (318) 263-7400

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Serving Bienville Parish Through Education

**Program Highlights
Spring Semester 2003**

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Ag & Natural Resources

- Two hundred thirty-four people attended the Ark-La-Tex Forestry Forum representing landholdings in 25 parishes and four other states.
- Seventy-eight of Forestry Forum participants (33%) represented over 2.2 million acres, owned or managed, completed evaluations.
- Sixty-two Forestry Forum participants listed practices they would implement as a result of the program.
- Fifty-one Forestry Forum participants put a total value of \$123,070 on the program.
- Ninety-seven people attended a Bienville Parish Small Forest Landowners workshop. About 70% were first-time attendees of an AgCenter program. This program was modeled after Mississippi State's program and partially funded by their SARE Grant.
- Calibrated Poultry Litter Spreader for poultry grower
- Conducted 2 educational programs concerning CAFO Regulations to Raeford Farms service personnel
- Educated Bienville producers on nutrient management, CAFO regulations, mortality management and general farm best management practices
- Conducted one educational program for Raeford Farms personnel on "In-house" composting of poultry litter
- Quarterly newsletters to poultry producers addressing environmental issues..."The Litter Letter"
- Periodic newsletters and information via internet to area producers
- Contributing author of "Soil and Poultry Litter Sampling" publication
- Author of "Nutrient and Pesticide Application Field Journal for Poultry and Cattle Producers"
- 50 farmers attended Master Farmer program entitled "Environmental Stewardship for La. Farmers"
- 45 participated in Career Day at Gibsland Coleman School which helped youth to discover careers in environmental/science related fields
- 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.
- Through variety testing, following recommended practices on pasture/forage one producer won the State Hay Show.
- 11 commercial vegetable/watermelon growers participated and gained knowledge in diseases, irrigation, and transplanting.
- Two horticulture workshops were held discussing and demonstrating pruning, fertilization, pesticides, and calibration.
- Conducted home visits and individual conferences with residents on home grounds, garden, pasture/forages, and soil analysis.

- The Gibsland Farmers' Market Association opened for business in June of 2002 with 30 members and sold produce from June to September. In its first year of operation, sales reported by members totaled over \$6,000. All producers did not report sales.
- The Gibsland Farmers' Market Association applied for and received designation into the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. The GFMA is listed in the 2003 directory for the program and \$1600 in coupons will be issued June '03 in Bienville Parish.

Family and Consumer Sciences

- 68 parents of Head Start students learned and are practicing food safety skills in to help prevent food borne illnesses.
- 12 young parents learned and are practicing safe methods of preparing and storing formula and baby foods.
- 18 persons with Type 2 Diabetes have successfully lowered and maintained safe blood sugar levels.
- Young mothers learned to use the use the Food Guide Pyramid to plan and serve meals meeting the nutritional needs of children.
- 6 teachers and aides in the Head Start Centers were trained to present Character Critters programs and activities to their students.
- 98 Head Start students participated in character education programs learning ethical behavior in a series of six lessons involving stories, show and tell, and take home activity sheets.
- 145 parents of Head Start students were involved in teaching ethical behavior to their preschool children.
- 8 young mothers referred by Office of Family Services completed "Every Touch Counts" classes. The mothers learned positive parenting techniques.
- 7 in-home child care providers participated in educational training sessions and received required certification hours.
- 18 residents critiqued their homes and followed recommended practices for removing mold and mildew.
- 19 adults and one teenagers attended "Children in the Middle" classes developing skills for reducing conflict for their children while going through divorce or child custody proceedings.
- 22 women in their senior years learned and are practicing low impact exercises to insure flexibility and muscle strength.
- 368 senior citizens learned of the danger and adopted recommended practices to reduce the risk of contracting West Nile Virus through mosquito bites.
- 25 volunteer leaders assisted in projects and programs addressing the needs of families and children. More than 100 families were reached through their educational efforts.

4-H and Other Youth Development

- The 4-H Advisory Committee of 18 adults and youth was established. Through this committee and subcommittees, priority needs related to the four initiatives were recommended along with procedures for implementing programs.
- 100% of 676 4-H youth created an awareness of how their teamwork through monthly community service impacted the lives of over 10,000 others. 100% of the 26 organizational leaders were also involved.
- 85% of the 26 volunteer organizational leaders participated in parish, district, or state leader training meeting. Encouragement has been given for participation in the southern region leader training at Rock Eagle, Georgia.
- 676 4-H youth became more aware of the Six Pillars of Character and the impacts good character has on one's life through monthly club meetings, newsletters, and news articles. Jr. Leaders developed presentation skills through planning and performing Character Critters skits teaching responsibility to approximately 1000 children.
- Through monthly club meetings, Jr. Leader meetings, newsletters, published news articles, tours, and Career Awareness Day 100% of 4H youth received direction for workforce preparedness. 676 4-H members and approximately 50 non-4-H members became more aware of planning and preparing for their future careers.
- Awareness of citizenship and community involvement has increased through youth and leader participation in Citizenship Louisiana Focus, Citizenship Washington Focus, and 4-H Legislative Day at the Capitol.
- 409 youth and adults attended 4-H Awards Night. 346 were recognized for their achievements. 131 received a purple ribbon for their record book, which was 47% of the number turned in for the year.
- As a result of leader trainings, 4-H projects, and involvement in parish activities the parish has competed in State Records contest, finishing with one Volunteer Leader recognized for Outstanding Leadership, 2 4-H'ers winning the Jr. Wildlife Trip, and one receiving a blue ribbon with Livestock Records.
- Raised over \$15000.00 for support of the parish youth program.
- Approximately 200 4-H'ers and parents gained knowledge and skills to advance them in the horse projects.
- 1146 youth participated in the State Mosquito Awareness program entitled "Skeeter Busters".
- 6 Volunteer Leaders conducted clinics for shotgun and rifle disciplines for 4-H members. 17 competed on the state level; 2 teams placed 2nd and one placed 3rd with one individual placing 2nd and going on to National Competition.