

# Serving Claiborne Parish Through Education

## Program Highlights Spring Semester 2003

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## NORTH CENTRAL REGION

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### Extension Agents for Claiborne Parish

**Dora Ann Hatch** - Parish Chair/Extension Agent  
(Community Economic Development Specialist)

Karen M. Martin – Agent (4-H)

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Joan P. Almond – Agent (Nutrition & Health)

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Ricky L. Kilpatrick - Area Agent (Forestry & Wildlife)

Matthew F. Stephens - Area Agent (Nutrient Management)

### *Classified Staff*

Angela Hood, Secretary

#### 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 the meeting, please contact Dora Ann Hatch at (318) 927-3110

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#### Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station

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#### Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service

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## Ag & Natural Resources

24 forest landowners from Claiborne, Webster and Bienville parishes attended a tri-parish forestry meeting to discuss forestry taxes.

Claiborne Parish forestry landowners were among the 234 landowners who attended an Ark-La-Tex Forestry Forum in Shreveport.

30 Claiborne parish producers participated in the Master Farmer program. The producers learned how non point pollution issues are affecting ag producers and how Best Management Practices when implemented on their farm can address those pollution issues.

Conducted “In-Vessel” composting trial and “In-House Pasteurization” Project with poultry producers in Claiborne Parish.

Conducted 2 educational programs for poultry integrator’s service personnel concerning Master Farmer Program, In-House Pasteurization Project, and CAFO Regulations.

Conducted 4 “Master Poultry Grower” educational programs for poultry and cattle producers. Each program included surface water regulations, alternative land use, nutrient management, forage management, soil sampling, poultry litter sampling, mortality management and CAFO regulations.

Conducted 30 farm visits regarding nutrient management, water management, mortality management and soil sampling.

Distributed quarterly newsletter, “The Litter Letter” to ~ 42 Claiborne Parish poultry producers.

Distributed weekly informative materials, news, publications, etc. to Claiborne Parish poultry producers via Internet list serve.

## Family and Consumer Sciences

Over 30 participants lost more than 200 pounds during weekly taught Portions Classes from January 8-February 26<sup>th</sup>. Nutrition information, exercise, behavior modification and group therapy were all parts of this successful program.

Three “Children in the Middle” classes for divorcing parents were offered to help parents cope with the transition from married to single parenting.

Three, three hour in-service classes for daycare workers were conducted to meet their certification requirements.

Presented a program on “Discipline for Young Children” to Homer and Haynesville Head Start Centers.

Program on “Saving Food Dollars” presented to Haynesville residents (Cadenhead Community Center) and Homer residents (Homer City Hall) in conjunction with Mrs. Valena Lane and Rep. Gallo. Over 65 senior citizens were in attendance.

## 4-H and Other Youth Development

Conducted monthly 4-H club meetings in 21 locations throughout the parish. Emphasized food safety, the importance of showing “respect” to others, and good record keeping skills.

12 parish 4-H volunteer leaders attended 4-H leader training in the parish.

Hosted a 4-H Beef/Seafood Cookery Preliminary Contest with 13 entries; nine of the entries qualified to attend the Area 4-H Cookery competition in Shreveport.

300 4-H’ers attended the annual 4-H Valentine’s Day Dance; 10 adult volunteer leaders helped with the dance. The annual fundraiser helps offset 4-H educational expenses for trips outside the parish.

17 Claiborne Parish 7<sup>th</sup> graders attended Challenge Camp at 4-H Camp Grant Walker near Pollock. They learned leadership and social skills.



250 Claiborne Parish sixth graders (4-H and non 4-H) participated in the First Annual Water Awareness Day to learn more about water conservation and water quality issues relevant to the Sparta Aquifer. The Natural Resource Conservation Service, Louisiana State Parks, Lake Claiborne State Park, United States Geological Survey, Claiborne Parish Schools, and the LSU AgCenter collaborated on the project.

250 participants from five parishes attended 4-H Energy Day which is sponsored annually by Claiborne Electric and LSU AgCenter. During the day, 4-H’ers learned the importance of conserving electrical energy, electrical safety, and contributed to an electrical community service project.

5 Claiborne Parish Jr. Leaders participated in the State Jr. Leadership Conference to learn how to assume leadership roles.

300 4-H’ers and their families attended the Annual 4-H Awards Banquet in April. During the award’s ceremony, 4-H’ers received recognition and awards for Record Book Achievement, Project Awards, Scholarships, Outstanding Recognition and overall Club Recognition. Summer Camp Scholarships totaling over \$300 were awarded to 23 club members; and \$1,600 in college scholarships were awarded to graduating seniors.

## Community Economic Development

Made parish residents aware of the “Renewal Community” designation and its tax incentives for business owners. One parish businessman received a \$77,000 tax deduction to expand his business; other business owners reported saving thousands of dollars through employee tax credits.

Participated in Claiborne Economic Development committee meetings; provided information to committees and located resources.

Hosted several public meetings concerning the Sparta Aquifer.

Presented a parliamentary procedure workshop to newly elected members of the Homer Town Council.

Recruited businesses to attend Louisiana Tech’s Delta E-Commerce program to help rural businesses develop a website.

Assisted local dairy farmer in exploring agri-tourism options for his farm; helped develop a brochure for marketing his new venture; and made contacts with local school systems to market the farm as a school field trip destination.

The 4-H; Family and Consumer Sciences; and Animal and Natural Resource Advisory Leadership Councils met to review programming for the parish.