

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

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(North Louisiana)

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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 Steve Hotard at (318) 644-2662.

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Serving North Central Louisiana Through Forestry Education

**Program Highlights
Spring Semester 2004**

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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. The Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

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Support Staff

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2/9/04 Hill Farm Research Station.

Coordinated and conducted training meeting on forestry cost-sharing programs for 25 forest landowners from the Claiborne, Webster and Bienville parish forestry groups.

2/17/04 Jerry Simpson's farm.

Met with Mr. Simpson to assist with planning and development of a nature trail and teaching stations for the Papa Simpson's farm.

3/11/04 Shreveport.

Held the annual Ark-La-Tex Forestry Forum with about 215 participants from throughout the Ark-La-Tex region.

6/22-26/04 Alexandria.

Assisted with the Louisiana Forestry Teachers' Tour with 29 teachers from throughout the state. Teachers participate in Project Learning Tree activities, tour forest product mills and other forestry operations and gain overall knowledge in Louisiana's number one agricultural commodity so as to have a better understanding as they teach on forestry and environmental topics in the classroom.

Ark-La-Tex Forestry Forum

The 19th Annual Ark-La-Tex Forestry Forum was held on March 13, 2003 in Shreveport. Two hundred thirty-four people attended representing landholdings in 25 parishes and four other states. Seventy-eight participants (33%) representing over 2.2 million acres, owned or managed, completed evaluations. Sixty-two participants listed practices they would implement as a result of the program. Fifty-one participants put a total value of \$123,070 on the program.

Bienville Parish Small Forest Landowner Workshop

A workshop for small forest landowners in Bienville Parish was held on March 25, 2003 in Arcadia. Ninety-seven people attended the workshop. About 70% were first-time attendees of an AgCenter program, and this was the targeted audience. This program was modeled after Mississippi State's similar program and partially funded by their SARE Grant.

AqAlley (Monroe) & AqMagic (Baton Rouge)

Forestry display and hands-on activities highlighted the importance of Louisiana's forests to the economy, environment, and resident's way-of-life. Products made from trees were exhibited and discussed. Consumers were made aware of the role of agriculture in our society and increased youth's knowledge of Louisiana's forests. 11,200 students, teachers, and public learned that agriculture is very important to Louisiana's well-being and that forests(trees) are Louisiana's number one agriculture crop. They were made aware of the many products which are produced from trees.

Regional Forest Landowner Meetings

- January – Louisiana Assistance Programs(FIP & FLEP), Mike Thomas, Louisiana Dept. of Ag. And Forestry 17 landowners attended
- February – Louisiana Dept. of Ag. And Forestry Nursery Tour, Monroe, 15 landowners attended
- March – Forestland and Timber Trespass and Timber Theft, Jim Baldwin, Louisiana Dept. of Ag. And Forestry Enforcement Officer and Pamela Stewart, Assistant D.A., Lincoln parish, 17 landowners attended
- April – Forestry in West Carroll Parish, Steven Hotard, LSU AgCenter, 24 landowners attended

Landowners indicated the educational programs were beneficial, resulting in a better understanding of management practices, which will allow for better utilization of forestland resources and will adopt

appropriate practices. These practices will improve forest ownership economics, the environment, and forest resource sustainability.

Regional Goat Producers Meetings

- January – Mid-South Goat Master business and planning meeting, 34 producers attended
- February – Small Ruminant Parasites and the Management, Dr. Jim Miller, LSU, 36 producers attended
- March – Sta-Tite Fence Products, Fred Willis, Company Representative, 25 producers attended
- April – Small Ruminant Nutrition, Erin Tucker, La. Tech University, 35 producers attended
- May – Predator Control, Walter Cotton, U.S. Wildlife services, 30 producers
- June – Host for Regional News Media ABGA, Feed and Presentation
- Annual Association Meeting, Dr. Steve Hart, Langston University

Alternative forest land uses (goats) and land management practices that encourage diversity can achieve profitable land use alternatives for landowners. A meat goat association, Mid-South Goat Masters) has been formed. The members are actively implementing recommended management, and marketing practices learned through participating in educational meetings.

First Friday Programs(Horticulture and Natural Resource Programs)

- February – Fig Tree Cultivation and Use of Fruit, Paulette Allen, producer, 72 homeowners attended
- March – Louisiana Invasive Plants, Dr. Hallie Dozier, LSU AgCenter, 25 homeowners attended
- April – Grafting Fruit Trees and Ornamental Woody Plants, Dr. John Pyzner, LSU AgCenter, 25 homeowners attended
- May – Nature Conservancy, Ronnie Ulmer, Regional Manager of Nature Conservancy, 15 homeowners attended.

Participants have indicated the educational programs have increased their knowledge and understanding of natural resources and horticulture and will adopt practices and concepts learned. This translates in a better way-of-life for those involved and an increase in environmental awareness and stewardship.