

Extension Agents for Jackson Parish

Eddie White - Parish Chair/County Agent

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Eddie D. White – County Agent (ANR & 4-H)

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Matthew F. Stephens - Area Agent (Nutrient Management)

Margaret F. Stoker - Area Agent (Environment/Watersheds)

Dora A. Hatch – Extension Agent (Community Economic
Development)

Cathy S. Judd – Agent (Child Care Provider Training)

John R. Pyzner – Associate Professor (Commercial Fruits,
Nuts & Vegetables)

Classified Staff

Dora Hall, Secretary

Charlotte Hanes, Secretary

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Dr. Allen Nipper, Regional Director

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

Mrs. 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 the meeting, please contact Eddie White at (318) 259-5690

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Serving Jackson Parish Through Education

**Program Highlights
Spring Semester 2004**

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Ag & Natural Resources

- An average of 28 beef producers attended monthly meetings gaining information on fire ant control, beef cattle statistics, herd evaluation, forage establishment and farm safety.
- Nineteen beef producers gained knowledge in beef production and product quality by participating in the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program held in the Jackson Parish Community Center in September.
- Eight land owners gained knowledge in the management of their timberlands by participating in a parish meeting presented by the area forester and a forest researcher.
- A fire ant control demonstration initiated in cooperation with a local poultry producer and Dr. Dale Pollet, State Specialist (entomology) and the County Agent continues to gather data.
- Five cattle producers assisted with cattle working chores at two farms by participating in a HELP program developed by the Jackson Parish Beef Advisory Committee and the County Agent.
- Twenty home owners were assisted with home visits to diagnose problems with lawns, home grounds, home gardens and small fruits.
- Five poultry producers were assisted with soil and litter samples to begin development of comprehensive nutrient management plans.

Family and Consumer Sciences

- Twenty five parents with children enrolled in the Head Start Program learned the importance of and developed communication skills to help their children develop a strong sense of self-esteem and confidence.
- Eight teenaged mothers referred by the Louisiana Office of Family Support participated in *Every Touch Counts* classes developing skills to better nurture, feed, and provide a healthy environment for their infants and toddlers.
- Fourteen teens in the *Workforce Preparation Program* participated in a financial skills class learning: the costs of setting

up independent housing, steps in preparing a budget, and innovative ways to save by setting goals.

- Ten participants enrolled in a debt reduction workshop adopted the *Power Pay Method* as the tool for their families to use to get out of debt. All have had success in reducing their debt, but have not reached their final goal.
- Forty-eight senior residents attended a health workshop gaining knowledge about the different types of arthritis, treatment for the various types, and research the being conducted to find a cure for the disease.
- Eleven local residents participated in *Children In The Middle* parenting classes as ordered by the district judge in their child custody hearings. The parents learned and are practicing communication techniques to reduce stress in the lives of their children.
- *Protect Yourself From Identity Theft* educational classes were conducted with one hundred eighteen local residents participating. Classes were scheduled with cooperating agencies and special interest groups working with the LSU AgCenter. Participants were made aware of the ways their identity could be stolen and ways they could prevent the theft.
- Seven women enrolled in the *Portions* workshop. Five of the women lost weight following the program guidelines and have been successful at maintaining the weight loss for three months.

4-H and Other Youth Development

- Visits were made to the School Superintendent and Principals to set up schedules and organize 4-H Clubs for the 2003-2004 year.
- Thirteen 4-H Clubs met in September and youth gained knowledge concerning the 4-H program and how they could become members of their local clubs.
- Officers were elected in all thirteen 4-H Clubs during the November club meetings. Officers were given packets containing educational materials related to their respective offices.
- Approximately 300 Jackson Parish youth joined 4-H for the club year.

- Twenty-five Jackson Parish 4-H'ers participated in various livestock shows during October. These youth earned premiums totaling approximately \$800.00.
- Eight Jackson Parish 4-H'ers participated in the Louisiana State Fair Livestock Shows exhibiting a total of 25 animals.
- Four Jackson Parish youth participated in State 4-H Short Course during June.
- Thirty-five Jackson Parish 4-H'ers participated in Jr. 4-H Camp held during July.
- Three day camps were held during the summer with 15 youth participating.
- Four-H members attending club meetings in November gained knowledge in the area of personal health by viewing a demonstration on internal organs, their functions and health.

Community Economic Development

- Congressman Rodney Alexander addressed two hundred thirty veterans, their families, and friends at the annual Veteran's Day Observance program held November 11, 2003. LSU AgCenter Extension Service Agents worked with the Veteran's Day Committee to conduct the program The Jackson Parish Police Jury has developed a Veteran's Memorial Park The park will be used for numerous observances and community activities.
- A Homeland Security Council was formed with representation from local emergency response groups, governing bodies, and civic agencies and groups. The council meets bi-monthly with updates by newsletter monthly.
- LSU AgCenter agents are participants in a Community Design Workshop being conducted by the University of Louisiana – Lafayette. The project, which is being funded by the Jackson Parish Police Jury, City of Jonesboro, and the North Louisiana Community Corporation, will provide a master plan for economic development, growth, and stability Graduates of the LSU AgCenter *CLED* Group are serving on the discovery and assessment part of the workshop.