

Southern University AgCenter

Callie Woodard – Parent Educator

- Y.E.S. (Youth Educational Support) Club – After School Program serves 21 families
- 17 youth and 4 volunteers from DeSoto Parish attended the Annual Expo at Southern University in Baton Rouge
- DeSoto Parish Homemaker’s Council sponsors a scholarship to a 4-H’ers who majors in FCS or Agriculture
- An organized Economic and Community Development out-reach project at Cannan Baptist Church in Stonewall
- Southern University Full Circle of Parenting is a project to provide comprehensive and culturally sensitive parenting curriculums that will serve families in selected areas of the state. Services provided to families included: Child Development, Child Guidance, Parenting Issues, Self-Esteem, Anger Management, Family Strengthening, Communication, Nutrition for Children. These topics were taught from the Building Families Strengths Curriculum. 308 families participated.

Patricia Lee -Assistant Area Agent, FCS

- Eight fifth graders from North DeSoto Middle School learn and practice 3 of the six pillars of character education.
- 50 preschoolers and their teacher from Mansfield Head Start gained knowledge on the importance of including Vitamin A in their diet.
- 30 youth from Upward Bound Ministry gained knowledge through Organ Wise Guys Healthy Heart Challenge on how to take down the fat in their diet, and the importance of a healthy lifestyle.
- Six youth from Upward Bound Ministry learned to practice good manners from the “CHARACTER COUNTS!” curriculum.
- 73 youth from Mansfield learned to “Take Charge of Your Health” the importance of eating fruits and vegetables daily, and how to recognize good sources of fiber and the function it plays in the body to insure a healthy lifestyle.
- 25 youth from Upward Bound Ministry learned through a food demonstration how to prepare a nutritious snack that is quick, easy and inexpensive.
- 75 youth from DeSoto Parish learned through “Take Charge of Your Health” lesson the steps to insure good dental health.

NORTHWEST REGION

Dr. Patrick Colyer, Regional Director

DeSoto Parish Faculty & Staff

Charles D. “Chuck” Griffin, Jr., Parish Chair/County Agent, Dairy Agent
Molly Farrar , Assistant Extension Agent (4-H Youth Development)
Rebecca Calhoun, Administrative Coordinator III
Gracie McKinney, Nutrition Educator II, EFNEP
Geraldine Henderson, Nutrition Educator II, EFNEP
Joann Samuels, Nutrition Educator II, EFNEP
Callie Woodard, Southern University, 1890 Extension Assistant, Y.E.S. & CYFAR Program
Patricia Lee, Southern University, Assistant Area Agent, Family and Consumer Sciences, DeSoto and Caddo

Regional Support Staff

Connie Aclin, Area Agent (Nutrition, EFNEP, FNP)
Denyse Cummins, Area Agent (Horticulture)
Ricky Kilpatrick, Area Agent (Forestry & Wildlife)
Karen Martin, Regional 4-H Coordinator
John Pyzner, Associate Professor (Commercial Fruits, Nuts & Vegetables)
Cindy Smith, Assistant Extension Agent (4-H/FCS)
Master Gardener Programs – 318-698-0010

Louisiana State University Agricultural Center

William B. Richardson, Chancellor
Louisiana Agricultural Research Stations
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Paul Coreil, Vice Chancellor & Director

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and



Serving DeSoto Parish Through Education Program Highlights 2007-2008

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4-H Programs – 16 Clubs – 395 Members
Molly Farrar – Assistant Extension Agent
(4-H Youth Development)

- Four youth participated in 4-H Challenge Camp and one youth participated in Jr. Leadership Conference. They gained knowledge of team work, communication and decision making skills and character education.
- Two youth participated in Youth Co-op Camp. They gained knowledge of teamwork, communication and decision making skills and character education as well as how a corporation works.
- Six youth participated in “Sewing for Fun II” beginner sewing class. They gained knowledge about the basic parts of a sewing machine, types of fabric, and hand sewing. Youth demonstrated project mastery by completing four sewing projects.
- Four youth participated at parish and area cookery contests. Knowledge was gained in food safety and nutrition.
- 60 youth in the 4th – 6th grades will attend 4-H summer camp at Camp Grant Walker along with agents, volunteers and Jr. Leaders.
- Over 395 youth and leaders continue to learn and practice the Six Pillars of Character in lessons at monthly 4-H Club meetings in DeSoto Parish. They also gained knowledge about healthy lifestyles at the meetings.
- 12 youth will represent DeSoto Parish at the 2008 4-H University in Baton Rouge.
- 35 youth participated at the Parish Fair and State Fair and 20 youth participated in the spring livestock shows. They gained knowledge in animal health care, management and nutrition and showmanship in the areas of Beef, Dairy, Goat and Swine through their livestock projects.
- DeSoto Parish 4-H'er, Haley Parker, won the LSU Spring Livestock Show Dairy Judging Contest for her age division and had the highest overall score. Clint Caldwell won Grand Champion Commercial heifer at the Southern University Livestock Show.
- Five youth and one volunteer are attending 4-H Day at the Capitol in Baton Rouge. Youth will meet with their local representatives and tour the State Capitol Building.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Economical impact

Gross farm Value

Forestry - \$37,150,409

Beef - \$10,604,314

Dairy - \$10,400,526

Poultry - \$8,241,188

Blueberries - \$1,399,888

(We also assist homeowners with lawn, garden, trees, pest problems, etc.)

Chuck Griffin – County Agent

- Two DeSoto Parish FFA Dairy Judging Teams (eight members) placed in the top ten at the State Dairy Judging Contest by gaining knowledge of Dairy Animal Selection by attending judging clinics, workshops and contest conducted by the LSU AgCenter.
- 34 area farmers gain knowledge of safe application of farm chemicals by attending pesticide re-certification meetings. Three employees learn how to safely handle pesticides by attending a worker protection standard meeting.
- 20 beef producers gain knowledge in beef cattle nutrition by attending five seminars at the Red River Station Distance learning site. Knowledge was gained in Assessing Cattle Nutrition needs; reducing store feed needs, weaned calf development, commodity feeds and applied nutrition tools.
- 47 farmers and home owners received 229 soil sample recommendations after gaining knowledge of the importance of applying the correct amount of fertilizer to maximize yield without hurting the environment.
- Five farmers in DeSoto parish gain knowledge on best management practices, and environmental stewardship by completing phase 1 or phase 2 of the Master Farmer program. Several have implemented some of the best management practices on their farm.
- Over 55 Recreational Pond owners gained knowledge of managing a farm pond by attending

a seminar at the DeSoto Parish Office and through farm visits and phone calls.

- 96 residents of DeSoto Parish learned about food plots and the new Deer Tagging regulations by attending a seminar on Deer Management at the DeSoto Extension Office.
- Over 600 residents of DeSoto Parish gained knowledge on mineral leases by attending a seminar at the DeSoto Parish Extension Office.
- Over 80% of DeSoto Parish Dairymen obtained knowledge by coping with high fertilizer prices and corn prices and proper animal waste management by attending the Northwest Louisiana Dairy Day. 12 producers received a quality milk award by implementing research based methods of reducing somatic cell counts and bacteria counts on their farms.
- Numerous home owner questions are answered. Questions on lawns, gardens, pest problems, fish pond problems, etc.

Family and Consumer Science

150 EFNEP Homemakers

Served by three Certified Nutrition Educators

Gracie McKinney, Geraldine Henderson & Joann Samuels

- As a result of 3 nutrition educators recruiting and training 150 Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) homemakers, 90% indicated a positive change within any food group and 30% increase fruit intake.
- As a result of teaching a series of nutrition lessons to 140 sixth graders and teachers, 90% gained knowledge in food safety, cleanliness, choosing a variety of foods and healthy snacks.
- Certified Nutrition Aids meet monthly at local Grocery Store and give out nutrition education information to DeSoto Parish Residence.
- Over 50 people attended Hats Off to Nutrition gaining knowledge on food safety and nutrition.
- Answered numerous telephone calls related to nutrition and food safety.
- Conducted a 4 day sewing workshop. Youth learned how to use a sewing machine, they made pot holders, laundry bags, pillows and made an apron.
- A food preservation workshop was conducted where youth learned how to prepare food safely. Youth learned to freeze vegetables and make jelly.