

Vernon Parish 4-H



The 4-H Shooting Sports Program is an excellent tool to teach youth safety, conservation, outdoor skills and more.



Summer 4-H Camp offers 4th – 6th an opportunity to learn in hands-on activities in tracts like Outdoor Skills.



8th Graders have an opportunity to tour the Louisiana State Prison - Angola to learn about prison life.



The Vernon Parish 4-H Livestock Program has grown tremendously over the past years. This program is an excellent tool that enables youth to learn responsibility, management, nutrition and fitness and is a great way to include the entire family. We have been successful at the district and state levels and congratulate Chase Harvey of Evans who won Grand Champion Market Goat at District.



The Fort Polk 4-H Program offers many opportunities to youth from ages 5 – 19 predominately in after-school, holiday and summer programs. These youth have an opportunity to participate in hands-on lessons in photography, citizenship, creative arts, computers, and more. We have recently been notified that the Ft Polk 4-H Program will be receiving a \$10,000.00 grant to purchase necessary materials for projects, leader/staff training and recruiting/education.



Will conduct the annual Teen Mentor training for 150 + teens on Character Counts on September 15th at the Louisiana Lion's Camp to prepare them to enter 4th – 6th grade classrooms. They will be teaching monthly lessons on the 6 pillars of character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship and a 7th lesson on decision making. Many of the schools also include lessons and support programs on the buses, in the cafeterias, in P.E. classes and more. The Ft Polk youth related programs also use the materials in a variety of ways with their youth.




The Vernon Parish 4-H enrollment continues to be the highest with an enrollment of 1828 and a re-enrollment rate of 54%!




To address the loss of our Louisiana's wetlands, monthly lessons on "Coastal Creatures" were taught as a part of the club meeting program focus for the 2007 – 08 school year. Lessons on many of our coastal creatures such as birds, insects, livestock, alligators and crawfish were covered. The Vernon Parish 4-H Teen Leader Club, 4th – 6th graders at the Vernon Parish 4-H Forestry Adventure Camp, a North Polk L4 class and the Vernon Parish Optional School students also planted and transplanted Live Oak trees and Bald Cypress trees to be used in coastal erosion projects later this year.





The Vernon Parish 4-H Shooting Sports has gotten off to an excellent start. The group has met several times with some range activities. We currently have several adults trained and more with interest in teaching and coordinating activities. This past summer Josh Isgitt of Anacoco Elementary was invited back to the State 4-H Outdoors Skills competition after being named a 1st place winner in Archery at 4-H Camp. We have also been notified that we are to receive a significant grant from NRA to purchase safety and other equipment for the 4-H Shooting Sports Program.


 The Vernon Parish 4-H Teen Leader Club has a membership of close to 100 teens from across the parish who are involved in a variety of activities that include service learning/community service, leadership training, career exploration and more. This organization has been recognized for its' many efforts with March of Dimes, Cystic Fibrosis, and the Ronald McDonald House but have also worked many organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Tourism, the Cattlemen's Association, May Fest and more.


 Vernon Parish was well represented in the Horse Shows at the parish, district, state and southern regional levels at halter, showmanship, speed and performance events roping and presentation contests. Kristen Morrison and Sydney Williams of Anacoco Senior 4-H represented Vernon Parish and Louisiana at Southern Regionals in Virginia with their team demonstration where they placed 6th in the nation. Tryon Williams and Chase Haymon, also of Anacoco placed 1st at state in the Junior Team Demonstration contest.


 The Vernon Parish 4-H Woodsman Skill contest continues with much success. Not only does this event teach our teens about the old time forestry skills, it also enables youth to learn about the many careers involved in Forestry as many from the industry help train or sponsor the teams. Many from the industry also sponsor our state teams and judge the parish event. Vernon Parish came home with the Champion Trophy Saw from the Louisiana Forestry Festival in Winnfield.

 As a parish, we completed 3 major service learning projects with March of Dimes, Cystic Fibrosis and Ronald McDonald House. 4-H members collected over \$6000.00 bringing a 7 year total to over \$35,000.00 for March of Dimes. The Cystic Fibrosis Skate-a-Long and Great Strides Walk brought in over \$18,000.00 for research and we have just delivered over 780 pounds of soft drink tabs to Ronald McDonald House in Monroe where teens also visited the Pediatric Wing of the local hospital to bring stuffed animals.

 26 teens and 9 adults represented Vernon Parish at State 4-H University bringing home 13 Blue Ribbons. Rae Addison of Leesville Senior 4-H was also elected to serve a 2nd term as the Central Region Representative to the State 4-H Executive Committee. Brittany Gleason, a former Vernon Parish teacher was also recognized with the State 4-H Alumni Award.

 Completed 2 8th Grade Angola Tours with over 100 participants. Participants learn about prison life as well as the many careers involved with running a prison. In addition to touring the facility, participants listen to an actual prisoner as they tell the story of prison life. Two tours are on the schedule for this year.

 4-HElementary Demonstration Day and Junior & Senior Demonstration Day are held at the Louisiana Lion's Camp each with over 300 participants each day. Youth participate in a variety of demonstrations, speeches, interviews and illustrated talk events that test their communication skills.

 The 6th Annual 4-H Forestry Adventure Camp was held with over 100 participants. This 4th – 6th grade camp provides youth with hands-on lessons concerning Louisiana Forestry, the environment, wetlands, wildlife and fisheries, outdoor skills and other related topics. Campers also enjoyed building blue bird houses to bring home and donate to the Camp. Campers built an additional 50 houses that were donated to NRCS for communities around Vernon Parish.



Vernon Parish 4-H Teen Leaders had the opportunity to meet Governor Jindal at Senator Smith's reception. They also had the opportunity to introduce the 4-H Centennial to the Vernon Parish community.



Teens from across the parish are trained to conduct lessons on the 6 pillars of character: respect, responsibility, caring, fairness, citizenship and trustworthiness.

