

Ag and Natural Resources

A Master Farmer Field Day was held at Edgar Raymond's farm. Included on the program was a soil testing presentation by the parish agents.

The Louisiana County Agricultural Agents Association Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference was held at the AgCenter, June 3-6. Presentations and local educational tours were conducted for 75 county agents and guests.

A Corn Drying and Storage Workshop was conducted through distance education from the West Carroll site to approximately 85 Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi producers.

Soybean, cotton, sweet potato and tomato variety demonstrations trials and rice, sweet potato and soybean verification fields were planted. Tomato varieties were evaluated for yield, taste and appearance. Weekly site visits to rice, soybean and sweet potato verification fields continue through the summer.

A freeze-branding demonstration was held for 15 new cattle producers.

Fifteen beginning farmers learned how to develop balance sheets and income statements for their farm business.

Sixteen youth attended the SU AgCenter Expo and participated in seminars, exhibits, tours, and demonstrations, including a presentation with Dr. Egeene Daniels, a veterinarian at the University of North Texas who has worked with NASA.

GIS (Global Information System) technology has been used in corn demonstration plots to measure acreage and plot these demo areas on field maps.

4-H Youth Development

Twenty-two 4-H Jr. Leaders attended Farm Safety Counselor Training where they learned strategies for supervising 5th graders at Farm Safety Day Camp. Twenty youth completed the learning experience by participating as counselors at the safety camp.

Project completion plays an important role in 4-H. West Carroll 4-H'ers were encouraged to complete projects by either submitting project portfolios or competing at Demonstration Day. As a result, 39% (139/356) of the junior club members and 31% (38/124) of the senior members completed projects and were invited to the 2007 4-H Awards Day.

Kilbourne High School graduating senior Caleb Strickland won the \$1,425 4-H Scott Scholarship for West Carroll Parish.



A total of 15 Sr. 4-H'ers attended 4-H University on the LSU Campus with 10 competing in ATV, Compact Tractor, Consumer Decision Making, Family Nutrition Program Illustrated Talk, & Forestry contests and 5 attending Clover College workshops. Whitney Anderson, Renea Creech, David Patton, Seth Strong and Dustin Waits won Blue Ribbons and Cheriea Freeland and Alisha Jordan became certified camp counselors.

The District Horse Show was held at the Ike Hamilton Expo Center. Five West Carroll 4-H'ers participated, with all qualifying for the state contest.

Family and Consumer Sciences



The 11th Annual West Carroll Farm Safety Day Camp school enrichment program for all 169 parish 5th graders provided ten 20 minute sessions of safety training in electricity, environment, fire/weather, first aid, firearm, gas, grain, seatbelt, small power tools and tractor. Sixty-two adults and 20 youth volunteered over 434 hours to provide the camp. A new station was Environmental Safety taught by the parish recycling center on the value of recycling. On written camp evaluations, all campers reported a positive change they will make or safe action that they learned as a result of the camp.

A special presentation was made at the June 2007 School Board Meeting to recognize the 24 high school youth who took part in dual enrollment opportunities provided by Delta Community College at the AgCenter facilities. The total of 48 classes taken by these students resulted in 3-15 hours of college credits being completed before graduating from high school. With approximately 80% qualifying for tuition exemption, over \$13,000 in tuition fees and 2,100 hours in travel time and costs were saved because the students were able to take the classes at the AgCenter through distance learning technology.

Through the use of mock job interviews for workforce development, 4 Kilbourne High School Business English students gained experience in applying and interviewing for jobs. The teacher, a former 4-H'er, used his experiences in competing at Short Course (now 4-H U) in the Personal Development Contest to provide this training for his students. Other workforce development training was conducted at the Macon Economic Opportunity summer youth employment program orientation meeting. Seventeen youth and their parents participated in activities promoting teamwork and improved job skills.



Body Fat and weight calculations, My Pyramid food plans and other educational materials were distributed by Family and Consumer Sciences agents at the West Carroll Health Fair sponsored by the Council on Aging, White Oak Apartments, and LSU/SU AgCenter. Approximately 75 adults received information on healthy living at the 16 stations provided.

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