

## Agriculture & Natural Resources

10 new beef cattle farms became operational in Northeast Louisiana with the help of Heifer International and the efforts of agent Glenn Dixon's work with Parishes for Farm Prosperity, Inc. The group includes members from East Carroll, West Carroll, Morehouse and Richland parishes. On June 1, 2007, 10 farm families took possession of 50 Angus heifers and 2 registered Angus bulls from 2 local producers, thus contributing to the local economy. Members of the group have received over 40 hours of education in cattle production and risk management in an effort to *link these new farm operations to opportunities for success*.

Conducted a freeze branding demonstration for 15 new cattle producers.

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

Agent Glenn Dixon is working with local coaches, custodians and other school officials on an athletic field management program. He has organized volunteers and provides recommendations for weed control, fertility, irrigation and tillage. Coaches and custodians are learning how to produce and manage high quality turf on a very limited budget. The field renovation is projected to be complete August 25 and will provide the Lake Providence Senior High football team with a safe playing surface for the 2007 season.

165 East Carroll parish youth and adults learned basic storm and home fire safety. Youth can recognize when conditions are favorable for storms and demonstrated that they know what to do in case of tornadoes, hurricanes and severe thunderstorms. Youth and adults also learned how to properly exit

burning buildings while protecting themselves and their families from smoke inhalation and carbon monoxide poisoning.

More than 3,000 visitors attended the Louisiana Soul Food and Heritage Festival in Lake Providence this June. The festival is sponsored by the East Carroll Cultural Tourism Initiative, the State of Louisiana and other local and regional businesses. Agent Glenn Dixon serves on the board of the East Carroll Cultural Tourism Initiative and is the Logistics Committee Chair. The AgCenter continues to provide capacity building opportunities to this and other local organizations in East and West Carroll parishes.

16 youth attended the SU Ag Center Expo and participated in exciting seminars, exhibits, tours, demonstrations and a presentation with Dr. Egeenee Daniels, a veterinarian at the University of North Texas who has worked with NASA.

Asian Soybean Rust (ASR), a disease of soybean which can be devastating under certain growing conditions, has been identified in the state again this year. As a means of being proactive, ASR Sentinel Plots are positioned across the state with one being on the farm of Tap Parker. This sentinel plot will give early warning to parish producers if ASR shows up in the parish. All producers of the parish have access to this plot and information collected.

Several LSU AgCenter demonstration fields have been implemented in the parish for the upcoming growing season and are available to all producers in the parish as learning tools. These include: corn and soybean variety trials, soybean and rice verification fields, cotton Flex Trial, Dayflower Herbicide Trial and corn borer trials.

A fungicide workshop was held on the Jamie Howington farm with approximately 13 producers and Ag industry personnel attending. Special attention

was given to spray tip selection, GPA, fungicide selection and timing. Dr. Boyd Padgett and Donna Lee were responsible for the program.

Timing cotton growth regulators can be daunting with the large number of varieties with different maturity dates available today. With this in mind, a cotton workshop was held with approximately 22 producers and Ag industry personnel attending learning when and how to apply PGR's from Dr. Sandy Stewart. Dr. Ralph Bagwell included a session on cotton insect control while Dr. David Lanclos was available to discuss Asian Soybean Rust.

## Family & Consumer Sciences – EFNEP and FFNEWS

3,300 clients increased their knowledge of handling and storage of eggs after reading the newspaper article on egg safety. 250 EFNEP youth and adults received fact sheets that increased their knowledge on egg safety and made aware of proper handling and storage of boiled eggs.

Conducted two migrant parenting workshops for Even Start Family Literacy Program in which six parents increased their skills in parenting practices.

Conducted one nutrition education program with Sharon Wilder in which 60 youth and adults increased their knowledge of My Pyramid.

Conducted four training sessions for the 36 youth who attended the Annual Youth Expo to compete and gain knowledge in life skills. Two competitions were entered and two awards were received – a nine year old received 1<sup>st</sup> place in Public Speaking and the Quiz Bowl team of six won 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Conducted 30 parenting sessions in which 110 parents increased parent practice and financial management skills.

Hosted a Better Health for the Delta agency forum in which 50 agencies gained knowledge and increased awareness of resources available from each other.

The nutrition educators and Agent Carolyn Robinson conducted a farm safety day camp workshop in which 160 youth and adults increased their knowledge of reading labels to rethink the sugar content in their drink.

### 4-H Youth Development

742 4-H'ers became more knowledgeable on counting their calories by learning how to figure their Basal Metabolic Rate (BMR), which is the amount of calories your body burns while at rest.

45 4-H'ers and leaders participated in the first 4-H Lock-In where they became more aware of the need to donate their time and money to help find a cure for cancer.

140 5<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day Camp and became more knowledgeable of safety issues at home and on a farm and the use of hand and riding machinery.

2 4-H'ers attended ATV training and learned safety issues, parts identification and how to properly ride an ATV.

4 4-H'ers attended automotive training and learned safety issues, parts identification and how to properly drive an automobile.

4 4-H'ers attended Consumer Foods Judging training and became more knowledgeable of nutritional values, dietary guidelines, cost per serving and quality standard of foods. These participants also strengthened their team building skills.

3 4-H'ers attend Consumer Decision Making training and learned more about marketplace skills and comparing decisions on goods and services and they also strengthened their team building skills.

17 4-H'ers attended 4-H University where they competed in different contests and learned more information about team building, nutrition, ATV's, automobiles, goods and services and entertainment skills. 6 4-H'ers were blue ribbon winners in their respective contest.

#### East Carroll Parish Staff

Glenn Dixon	Associate Area Agent (ANR) – SU
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Sharon Wilder	Nutrition Educator - FFNEWS
Lori McLain	Administrative Coordinator 2
Sherry Smith	Administrative Coordinator 3
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**Louisiana State University Agricultural Center** – William B. Richardson, Chancellor; **Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station** – David J. Boethel, Assoc. Vice Chancellor and Assoc. Director; **Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service** – Paul D. Coreil, Vice Chancellor and Director

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## E. Carroll Parish

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## Cooperative Extension Service

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