

LSU AgCenter
Concordia Parish Overall Advisory Meeting
April 2, 2009
Vidalia City Hall – 5:30 p.m.

Attending: Carey Cook, *Police Jury*; Anita Ham, *4-H Parent/Volunteer*; Rebecca Cavin, *4-H'er*; Kathleen Stevens, *Sheriff's Office*; Heather Malone, *Parish Economic Director*; Liz Brooking, *Community Leader*; Joseph Parker, *Police Jury*; Vickie Jowers, *4-H Parent/Volunteer*; Jeannie Couture, *Girl Scout Area Director/Parent*; Tony Palermo, *Principal*; Jeanine Herrington, *Banker*; Willie Evans, *Clayton Town Council*; Delynn Vines, *4-H Parent/Volunteer*; Dale Denais, *Angelina Farm*; Wendall Walker, *Angelina Farm*; Ken Walker, *City/Vidalia Business Manager*.
LSU AgCenter staff: Dr. John Barnett, Dr. John Russin, Glen Daniels, Ada Palermo, Joe Bairnsfather, Crystal Barlow and Linda Tarver.

Dr. John Barnett, Central Regional Director, welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited them to enjoy the refreshments provided. Concordia is one of the 9 parishes in the Central Region. Dr. Barnett then discussed the services of the Central Region, program areas and vacant positions.

Concordia staff members were introduced: Glen Daniels, Parish Chairman and county agent; Ada Palermo, 4-H agent; Joe Bairnsfather, 4-H agent; Crystal Barlow and Linda Tarver, administrative coordinators. (Ashley Powell, FCS agent, was unable to attend due to illness.)

Each agent then gave a brief overview of their program area and activities –

Program Highlights:

- Glen Daniels discussed the ag program and emphasized the crop variety and fungicide on-farm demonstrations conducted in the parish and their importance. Data from these plots is made available to the farmers and is useful in assisting them with some of their decisions for the next farming season regarding varieties and production practices.
- Joe Bairnsfather then gave an update on the 4-H situation in the parish which included 4-H enrollment, participation in camps, service projects, community service, leadership and 4-H University. Improving communication skills was the program focus for the 19 club meetings conducted each month at the schools for this year.
- Ada Palermo gave the FCS program review (in the absence of Ashley). Ashley's FCS programs focused on healthy eating, making better food choices and encouraging exercise. Educational programs were conducted at the summer Arcade Theater; Louisiana Technical College and the summer parish library programs to both youth and adults. She is also planning to assist in the "Lead Louisiana" program scheduled to begin in Concordia for weekly meetings April 28th through May 19th.

Dr. John Russin, LSU AgCenter Associate Vice Chancellor and special guest speaker, was then introduced. He is one of several AgCenter administrators making parish visits to discuss the budget situation. Dr. Russin addressed the group concerning the proposed LSU AgCenter budget reductions and how it could affect current services. Dr. Russin then responded to a

question and answer session. Those in attendance expressed appreciation and support of the AgCenter and local staff, and concern as to their assistance in efforts to help alleviate the situation. As a suggestion - -the State Police Jury Association had recently passed a resolution of support to the AgCenter and a copy is available in the Extension Office. If any business, organization, agency, municipality, or civic group would like a copy of this resolution to use as a guide, contact the Extension Office. A contact mailing list for this is also available.

Dr. Russin also provided a publication on Agriculture, which is a major industry, not only in Concordia Parish, but statewide. The LSU AgCenter has a vital role in the agriculture industry through research and education to serve all the people in our state, and ultimately contribute to the quality of life in Louisiana. A handout was also provided which entailed the impacts of the fiscal year '09 budget cuts. All of the measures listed would directly impact most citizens in all parishes of the state.

Members were thanked for their attendance, support and any contacts on behalf of the LSU AgCenter.

Meeting adjourned.