

Ag and Natural Resources

A Sweet Potato Advisory meeting was conducted to discuss the parish issues concerning the commodity.

Two TV and three newspaper interviews on corn harvest and storage problems were given.

Five Pesticide Handler Training sessions were conducted resulting in 252 workers being trained with 160 of them being migrant workers.

Two corn variety trials, rice verification field trial, soybean verification field trial, soybean variety trials and sweet potato RAMP field study were harvested.

Twenty-three producers attended a day long workshop sponsored by the North-South Institute and the USDA Risk Management Agency in collaboration with Southern University AgCenter. The workshop completed a farm management series which began in January. Topics covered included Farm Planning, Financial Risk Management and Farm Record Keeping, Business Templates and Tools for Efficient Farm and Financial Record Keeping, Enterprise Budgeting and Cost of Production, Cash Flow Planning & Management and Alternative Marketing.

A soil sampling demonstration was conducted for more than 15 producers at a Grassland Field Day sponsored by Heifer International, NRCS and Delta Livestock Enterprise.

Agent worked with 7 area producers from North Louisiana for the 2007-2008 Calf to Carcass program to send cattle to feed lot for feed lot evaluations.

A research project was started with Dr. Rowntree to evaluate mineral needs of beef cattle in North Louisiana.



Agent Glenn Dixon was recognized for dedicated service at the 10th Annual Southern University Community and Faith Leadership Conference.

4-H Youth Development

Several 4-H'ers were involved in summer activities. Kilbourne 4-H'ers Katelyn Coleman and Raya Hughes attended Wildwoods Wanderings environmental camp at Poverty Point and Tensas Refuge. Forest 4-H'ers Mary Cait Strong won in "Grade 6 Traditional" and Seth Strong placed 1st Alternate in "Environment" and Blue Ribbon in "Citizenship" for their 4-H portfolios in the July Records Only Contest. David Patton from Epps 4-H placed 5th in the State 4-H Beef Poster Contest.



"Live It Now, Remember It Forever" – this theme became a reality for 47 parish 4 – 6 graders, 2 teen leaders and 2 volunteer adults at 4-H camp. The state 4-H initiatives, Belonging, Independence, Generosity and Mastery were incorporated into the wide range of activities planned for the 351 youth from eight parishes.



The 4-H Horse project ended the year with 5 youth winning on district, state and multi-state levels. Dani Anderson, Forest Jr. 4-H'er, won 1st Place in Barrel Racing at the State Contest in West Monroe and Southern Regionals in Memphis.



Volunteers are utilized in all areas of 4-H. Penny Hale judged "July Records" portfolios in Baton Rouge. Club leaders April Elliott, Dena Strong, Penny Hale, Angie McAlpine, Ann Madden, Sheila Poland and Rhonda Allen enhanced their 4-H leadership skills at Volunteer Leader Forum. Billy Matthews and Richie Strong serve as project leaders for the parish Shooting Sports program, supported by recently trained Shooting Sports leaders Darrel Bray, Tom Dukes and Mandy Waits.

The 11 organized 4-H clubs began the 2007-08 club year in the parish schools in September. Monthly meetings will be held at each club to distribute the 4-H newsletter and conduct educational programs focused on Health and Nutrition.

Ten adults and 2 youth participated in the 4-H Advisory Leadership Council meeting. Discussions included recycling education, workshops, National 4-H Week, fundraising and key issues facing parish youth.

Fifteen 4-H'ers took part in the first Shooting Sports workshop this year.

Family and Consumer Sciences

Parenting classes were conducted where parents learned positive parenting practices.

Two volunteers participated in the Southern University Annual Faith-Based Leadership conference in which they increased their knowledge of leadership and community development.

Six volunteers gained knowledge as they attended youth literacy training in Baton Rouge. An action plan was developed for community use by faith-based after school, the positive action coordinators of Partners in Prevention or the AgCenter to increase literacy.

Seventeen parish youth gained job skills by participating in the Macon Economic Opportunity summer youth employment program. A closing program was conducted for these youth and their parents where the youth discussed how their job experiences affected such things as their confidence, imagination, aspirations, decision making skills, plans for the future and facing the unknown.

Twenty community stakeholders participated in the parish FCS Advisory Leadership Council. Following a summary of programs provided by the three Family & Consumer Sciences agents, the council used a group format to identify and prioritize parish issues.



As a result of recruitment meetings held at each high school for dual enrollment classes provided by Delta Community College, three college classes are in progress at the AgCenter facility involving 35 high school juniors and seniors. Because these youth are earning college and high school credit simultaneously, their tuition costs are covered by a Board of Regents grant, saving each student approximately \$300 per class.

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