

## Franklin Parish Staff

### Agents:

***Ginger Boutwell***

*Extension Agent,  
FCS*

***Laura Bradley***

*Assistant Extension  
Agent,  
4-H Youth  
Development*

***Carol Pinnell-Alison***

*County Agent and  
Parish Chair*

### Classified Staff:

***Terry Wade***

*Nutrition  
Educator 2*

***Kathleen Burnett***

*Administrative  
Coordinator 3*

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Financial literacy is being taught to 136 Head Start children through a program called “Money on the Book shelf” where stories such as “Shopping with Mom” and “My First Job” are read to the children and then discussed. The children also begin to learn to recognize a penny, nickel, and a dime.

“Who gets Grandma’s Yellow Pie Plate”, a program on non-titled property transfer was presented to 13 members of the Southern Home and Garden Club.

One parent completed the 6 series of lessons in the Parents Preparing for Success Program this quarter.

One child care provider class entitled “Creating Partnership with Parents” was taught this quarter.

The AgCenter’s Family Resource Management team gave a presentation on its “SAIL: Saving and Investing for Life” curriculum at the Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education Annual Conference in Garden Grove, CA.

A segment on ways to reduce holiday stress was presented on KNOE TV.

“Holidays Unwrapped”, a program covering a variety of topics related to the holiday season was presented to a group in Tensas Parish.

# Franklin Parish Quarterly Report

October – December 2008



**6562 Main Street  
Courthouse Building  
Winnsboro, LA 71295  
Phone (318)435-7551  
Fax (318)435-8216  
[franklin@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:franklin@agcenter.lsu.edu)**

## Agriculture and Natural Resources-ANR

2008 was a challenging year for area agricultural producers. Commodity prices were higher than normal but input costs especially fuel and fertilizer increased substantially reducing the probability for profit. The increase in the cost of feed impacted our catfish and livestock producers.

The weather had a drastic effect on our community. We experienced two weather extremes within a few months. June and July were extremely hot and dry. Then late August and September followed with two hurricanes and over 19 inches of rain resulting in unprecedented flooding.

Cotton, sweet potato and pecan yields were impacted the most by the hurricanes. Our parish average cotton yield was only 562 pounds per acre compared to 1063 pounds per acre in 2007. Sweet potato yield was 200 bushels per acre - half of last year's yield. Pecan yields were drastically reduced to 200 pounds from 1200 pounds per acre last year.

The nine parishes of northeast Louisiana planted 73 percent of the corn, 60 percent of the cotton, 24 percent of the grain sorghum, 15 percent of the rice, 43 percent of the soybean and 53 percent of the wheat acres in the state. Franklin Parish planted 13 percent of the corn, 8 percent of the cotton, 4 percent of the soybean and 12 percent of wheat acres in the state.

Training was held in December for twenty nine private pesticide applicators to renew their applicator cards. Applicator cards are renewed every three years. Dr. Boyd Padgett, Dr. Bill Williams and Carol Pinnell-Alison presented information to the applicators on plant disease and weed identification and control, WPS

Handler requirements, and safety related topics for applying pesticides.



## 4-H Youth Development



Nineteen 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grade 4-H members participated in a Pumpkin Workshop where they learned how to decorate pumpkins.



Seven Junior Leaders attended a field trip to the Corn Maize in Alexandria, LA in October



Nineteen youth entered 31 dishes in the Holiday Foods Festival Cookery Contest. Commodity categories were egg, pecan, rice sweet potato, beef, chicken, catfish and corn.

The Junior Leader Club started their Service Learning Project for the year at Plantation Manor Nursing Home. The youth teach character education lessons to kindergarten through second graders enrolled in the program, as well as play bingo with the residents.

## Family and Consumer Science



The FCS agent helped present two “E-Business: Build or Buy?” workshops to 30 participants in Ruston and Winnsboro. This workshop is designed to help clients decide if a presence on the web is what their business needs.