

**LSU AgCenter Ag Faculty Council Meeting – Mike Salassi - LAES Update**  
**3/22/2024 – 212 Efferson**

- 1) Selected Positions:
  - Sugarcane Quantitative Geneticist, Sugar Research Station – currently advertised
  - Ornamentals Plant Trials Coordinator, Hammond Research Station – currently advertised
  - Precision ag positions – search committee evaluating applicants
- 2) Meeting with Shimadzu Equipment 2/23
  - M. Salassi, A. Schade, M.P. Hayes, P. Carter
  - Advanced lab equipment (spectrometers, etc.)
  - Partnerships with universities, i.e., GA, travel, etc. funding
- 3) Leased Tractors
  - Contract with Sunshine Equipment started March 1 – Lease term for 12 months
- 4) Meeting with Sunshine Equipment 3/7
  - M. Salassi, D. Stephenson, K. Guidry, G. Gentry
  - John Deere See & Spray sprayer will be sent to Dean Lee Research Station for evaluation
- 5) Legislative equipment funds (\$11 million)
  - All purchase approvals have been sent – holding for Red River irrigation system
- 6) FY24 Community Project Funding – Ag Conservation through Precision and Digital Ag Technologies
  - \$5 million request for precision ag research/extension (\$3.8 mil in equipment)
  - Selected for funding at \$1 million – working to develop proposal through NRCS
- 7) Gourrier Greenhouse
  - AgCenter Facility Services is continuing work to prepare for growth chambers
- 8) Faculty Survey of Aquatics Research & Extension – Identify areas of strength and need
  - Aquaculture facility at Central Station – summer 2025
  - Need to identify aquatic research strengths/needs – including crawfish
- 9) 2022 Soybean & Feed Grain Projects
  - 2022 project accounts must be zeroed out by 3/31/2024 end date
- 10) Paraquat lawsuits/subpoenas received by LSU AgCenter over past few weeks
  - LSU Agcenter - 7-8 subpoenas/ lawsuits received, also received by other state exp stations
  - Request for research/education/training material – 1964-71 or 1964-present
  - One lawsuit names LSU Ag Center as a defendant
  - Received early March with early April submission deadline
  - Hamp is working to get extension on submission date
  - AgCenter will develop one set of materials in response to all subpoenas