

LCES Update – Faculty Council March 2024

Plans continue to come together for the first Extension Summit to be held November 12-14, 2024. The theme for the event is *“Empowering Extension Excellence.”* The committee met this week to form sub-committees and discuss plans. Sub-committee chairs will be engaging our faculty for input as this professional development experience continues to come together.

Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR)

Five regional ANR coordinator positions were filled December 1, 2023. These individuals are working closely with the ANR Program Leader and regional directors. They are coordinating professional development, onboarding and mentoring for ANR agents in each region.

The LSU AgCenter recently hosted the 4th annual Precision Agriculture Summit. The event targets the agricultural industry and brings together academia and industry partners. Additionally, we recently hired a Precision Agriculture Specialist, that will begin work on July 1. We are also advertising for a cluster hire of precision agriculture faculty that will focus on high throughput phenotyping, variable rate technology and crop and environmental modeling. All new hires will have an extension appointment.

The area poultry agent position in the northwest region was recently filled. Will Strickland will begin work on August 1.

The Vegetable specialist and Soil Science positions are still in motion. The committees have met to discuss candidates.

A horticultural weed science specialist position will be advertised soon. This position will be majority extension and domiciled at the Hammond Research Station.

The statewide Cotton, Corn and Grain Sorghum position was recently filled with anticipated start date of June 1.

Field days are planned for the spring and summer throughout the state focusing on agronomic crop production, beef cattle and horticulture.

Nutrition and Community Health (formerly FCS)

The LSU AgCenter LCES Family and Consumer Sciences Program recently underwent a name change. The new name is Nutrition and Community Health. The name change more accurately reflects the scope and direction of programming focused in the family and consumer sciences area in the AgCenter. Nutrition and Community Health programs include SNAP-ED, EFNEP, Flavors of Health or general nutrition, CDC, high obesity directed programs. All programs support healthy communities and improving the health and wellness of Louisiana’s citizens.

Over the past two years, the LSU Ag Center Healthy Communities program has guided small communities through the application process while working with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to make funding projects possible. As a result, 11 communities with populations under 5,000 received over \$13 million for pedestrian improvements thanks to changes in the state's [Transportation Alternatives Program \(TAP\)](#).

NCH has a new partnership with Rouses, a Louisiana based supermarket. NCH agents will conduct cooking demonstrations in six parishes. The goal of the demonstrations is to increase knowledge and confidence of patrons to purchase, plan and prepare healthful meals for a healthier lifestyle. The agents will demonstrate recipes from the LSU AgCenter’s Geaux Shop Healthy and Build a Healthy Meals videos.

4-H Youth Development

Louisiana 4-H ended the 2022-2023 4-H year on July 31st with 91,127 youth engaged in Extension youth delivered opportunities. More than 10,520 volunteers assisted in the delivery of programs to the youth.

The LSU AgCenter and Louisiana 4-H Foundation hired a new 4-H Foundation Executive Director on February 15, 2024. Mr. Jon Carr has joined the

foundation as the lead storyteller and fundraiser of the 4-H program. Jon comes to the AgCenter from the LSU Foundation and while he personally was not involved in 4-H, his wife was a very active 4-H member receiving the highest honors awarded in Louisiana 4-H.

Livestock show season recently culminated with the LSU AgCenter State Livestock Show. 1,520 participants showed 4,234 animals, including 1,989 breeding animals, 774 market animals, 218 pens of broilers and 811 exhibition birds. After competing at the parish and district levels, youth from across Louisiana reached the pinnacle of success statewide.

The Winn Parish Consumer Decision Making Team represented Louisiana 4-H at the National FCS competition in San Antonio and won Reserve National Champion.

Louisiana 4-H has announced an International Travel opportunity to Ireland in 2025. We have realized a great response thus far with over 900 participants engaging in informational meetings thus far.

Ag magic on campus wraps up this weekend. Over 6,000 youth will experience this event. Annually, over 35,000 youth are touched with our Ag Awareness events across the state.