

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER



Leodrey Williams

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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Southern University

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SU Ag Center Offers to Shelter LSU Animals from Flood Waters

Southern University Ag Center

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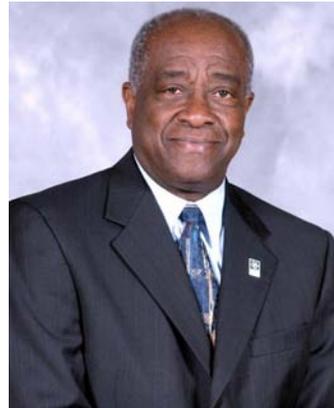
Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, an entity of the Southern University System,Leodrey Williams, Chancellor, Ronald Mason, Jr., System President, Darren Mire, Chairman, Board of Supervisors. It is issued in furtherance of the Cooperative Extension Work Act of December 1971, and the Agricultural Research Program, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. All educational programs conducted by the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center are provided to all persons regardless of race, national origin, or disability. © 2008 SU Ag Center.

In an article entitled “campus readies; events to go on” in the May 16 issue of the *Advocate*, the Southern University Agricultural Center ChancellorLeodrey Williams said that in the event of any flooding of the LSU campus, his campus facilities would help house animals from the LSU vet school, if necessary.

“We’ll try to provide as much aid as possible,” Williams said.

The Southern University main campus is stationed at a higher altitude along the river on the bluff. Ed Pratt, Southern assistant to the chancellor for media, said “the only anticipated flooding on campus is at Elton C. Harrison Drive, where the main campus connects to the student residence halls on the northern end of the campus.”

On May 14, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers started opening 17 of the 125 gates of the Morganza Spillway



Chancellor Williams

to relieve the swollen Mississippi River in Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

Twelve days later, three of those gates were closed because more water was flowing through the structure than previously expected.

As the floodgates open and close in Louisiana, farmers anxiously await the outcome of the worst flooding in decades, impacting hundreds of thousands of acres of farmlands, animals and hundreds of millions of dollars in damages.

Agriculture and Forestry Commissioner Mike Strain, D.V.M.,

said the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has guaranteed that Morganza Spillway farmers whose crops have been damaged by flooding caused by the Mississippi River will be eligible for crop insurance payments in accordance with their crop insurance policies.

This includes farmers in the larger Atchafalaya Basin area below the spillway whose crops were inundated by water after the opening of the Morganza Spillway.

Farmers who are unable to plant but purchased crop insurance will also be eligible for prevented planting payments in accordance with their policies, Strain said.

To read the full stories, please visit the *Advocate* at: <http://www.2theadvocate.com> and *Zachary Today* at: <http://www.zacharytoday.com/>

SU Ag Center Partners in National Garden Project

The USDA/National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) awarded a grant to Purdue University as the prime recipient. Purdue sub-contracted to Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center who extended sub-awards to Mississippi State University, Louisiana State University, and Alcorn State University.

The program entitled *MISS-LOU: Connecting Kids and Community, Military Families Initiative* is designed to meet the needs of military and non-military communities. This project will strengthen the partnership between 1862 and 1890 institutions. The partnership involves two 1862 institutions - Mississippi State University, and LSU, and two

1890 institutions - Alcorn State University and Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

The overall vision is to establish a comprehensive program that will educate and strengthen the lives of youth in military families by connecting them to available resources and community support on a continual basis.

Each university is using the community or victory garden concept to support out-of-school time programs for youth; specifically youth that have parents/guardians in the Military National Guard and Reserve. Participants will have the opportunity to gain knowledge and hands-on experience through the

use of innovative strategies that encourage participation. Activities will also enhance and expand family relationships, community service, character development, health and well being, and career/workforce readiness skills development. In Louisiana, local community groups in Zachary will support the mentoring component of this project; groups include the Zachary Men's Club and AARP. The SU Ag Center is hosting the 8-week summer component of the program. Tiffany Franklin serves as Project Coordinator and Stephanie Elwood as Community Gardener.

Mississippi, Louisiana Small Farmers Exchange Information

On May 23, small farmers from Mississippi and Louisiana converged in St. Helena Parish for a field day which attracted more than 20 producers.

The purpose of the gathering was to exchange ideas about new technology as it relates to small truck farming, gardening, developing and expanding farms into larger businesses, forming and maintaining cooperatives, adapting the Asset Building concepts, and establishing fellowship. The goal of this initiative is to increase the wealth of southern small farmers and business owners.

Among the participants were staff of the Center for Rural and Small Business Development and other representatives from Southern University Ag Center. Other field day participants included: Winston County Self Help Cooperative (WCSHC) Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP), a group of small truck farm producers from Louisville Mississippi; St. Helena Cattle Company, Heifer Project International (HPI); Carl James Farm, LLC, and several small business owners who were interested in developing cooperatives.



Participants interact in the field

Continued on page 3

Mississippi, Louisiana Field Day

Continued from page 2

Frank Taylor, WCSHC's president stated that the objectives of the event were to: build and strengthen the capacity of collaborative partners and their efforts to join together to serve in leadership role, and bring people together who can contribute to the cooperative's goals; learn the importance of operating as unified entities in light of budget constraints in order to achieve profit and success; accomplish output to benefit the public such as farm produce, canning, finished quilting products, novelty and antique salvage items, and any other products that might generate profit. USDA, Rural Development has funded the groups in the past and they will continue to work hard to maintain the partnership.

The field day tour began at the headquarters of the St. Helena Cattle Company, Heifer Project International. Arriving at Rev. J. K. Holliday's Farms, the participants had a firsthand view of the variety of farm produce generated from eight acres of land given very intense and dedicated effort. Products included: blue berries, snap beans, okra, several different types of peas, corn, among other crops. Holliday shared with participants some pertinent information on what does and does not work in farming.

A luncheon which was served at Turner Chapel, A.M.E Church in Greensburg was sponsored by Warner Hall and the St. Helena HPI group. The Winston County Self Help Cooperative and other participant expressed their appreciation for the meal.

Next, the group stopped at Magnolia Pines, LLC Buffalo ranch which houses more than 25 heads of buffalo in St. Helena Parish. The owners, Otis Markham, Linda Sharpless and Frankie Baker, have a desire to mass-produce a better quality of meat lower in fat content than beef. This is one of two buffalo ranches in the state of Louisiana; the other ranch is located in Shreveport.

The group's last stop was at the garden of Warner Hall where participants observed one of the best looking gardens imaginable. Produce such as okra, tomatoes, melons, beans, peas, corn, and many other different kinds of crops were almost ripe for harvest. Hall is interested in forming a cooperative group and expanding to become a small business owner.



Blueberries ripe for harvest



Warner Hall in his garden

Producers, Youth Reap Huge Benefits from Goat Field Day

The Southern University Ag Center held its 6th Annual Goat Field Day on Saturday, April 30 in A.O. Williams Hall. This educational event was open to anyone currently involved in goat production as well as those who are interested in learning more about raising goats. More than 50 producers were in attendance. The Louisiana association of cooperatives made a donation with which a female kid goat was purchased for a raffle drawing. Todd Landry, Jr. of Plattenville won the prize. The ten-year old will groom the kid for upcoming shows. After that, he will breed it to generate more kids for showing.

This year's event featured presentations on integrated parasite management, including FAMACHA training, record keeping, marketing strategies, and forage-based production. Challenges and opportunities were addressed during the questions and answers session.

The day also included demonstrations and hands-on training on fecal eggs count in the wet lab, goat sausage-making, and a farmer's market set-up and sales.

Sebhatu Gebrelul, professor of animal science and Lisa Gray, research associate, coordinated the event in collaboration with LSU Vet School and LSU AgCenter.

“The hands-on demonstration including goat sausage-making and wet lab fecal egg count were rated among the highest activities by participants. Each year the field day gets better because the evaluation helps modify the curriculum to meet future participants' needs. My sincere thanks go to participants and their useful feedback,” said Gray.



Raffle winner Todd Landry, Jr. takes kid home for show grooming



Participants sample goat products

Morehouse Parish Students Take Lessons from Classroom to Garden

In Morehouse Parish, first graders at Henry V. Adams Elementary can now say they know how a garden grows. They had hands-on experience planting, watering and watching as seeds grew into vegetables.

As First-grade teachers, Terri Carson and Ora Watson began teaching about living and non-living things, they decided to let the children actually see how the plant cycle works.

“We planted watermelons, sunflowers, corn, tomatoes, cantaloupe, and cucumbers,” Carson said. “We’ve got two tomatoes that have popped up and several blooms. I’ve explained to the children that the blooms will become vegetables.”

Odis Hill, extension agent with the Southern University Ag Center, received a call from the school saying they wanted a garden. Thus, on April 13, Hill went out and helped them design and plant one.

“The children were really excited about the different kinds of seeds,” Hill said. “Some they were familiar with, and some they weren’t.

They really enjoyed getting their hands in the soil and planting them.”

In addition to the Ag Center, other area businesses who contributed to the garden were Bastrop Wal-Mart, Bastrop Feed and Seed Yak Produce in Union Parish.

Student Delbert Langston was amazed by his first experience with planting vegetables.

“It’s beautiful,” Langston said. “It was fun to put the seeds in the dirt and water it.”

Although the children won’t be able to see the garden in full bloom with May 25 being their last day of attendance, Carson has hope that the garden will still have a few vegetables in it through September.

“Our janitor, Burpo, will be watering and caring for the garden this summer,” Carson said. “He’s been helping us with it and he watches it very closely. When I get my new group of first graders next year, we’ll begin a new garden with them.”



Adams Elementary students plant a vegetable garden

The article entitled “Lessons move from classroom to garden” was covered by the Bastrop Daily Enterprise on May 20. Full story available at:

www.bastropenterprise.com

Faculty, staff activities, accomplishments

SU Ag Center to Partner with Scenic Alternative School

A group of 15 students toured the facilities of Southern University Ag Center on May 26 with hopes of future collaborative work. These students along with some correctional officers came from Scenic Alternative School, Jettison Youth Correctional Facility (JCY).

At 8:00 am, the group arrived at the SU Ag Center research station in Baker where they observed the beef and goat operation, including the forage plots. Later, they visited the green house complex as well as the Circle Garden project on the grounds of Southern University, Baton Rouge. Next, they toured the poultry unit, and then went to lunch. They finished the day with a nutrition and taste-testing session, tour of the SU Ag Center facility and a riding tour of the SUBR campus.

The goal of the visit was for JCY to

Sarah Sims, extension aide, Madison Parish conducted emergency preparedness for 375 youth in the Madison Parish School System on May 6. Students who participated in farm safety day learned how to prepare for a disaster.

The adult parish-wide emergency preparedness event attracted approximately 1,300 concerned citizens to the community center to receive emergency preparedness information and training on May

partner with SU Ag Center and learn how to raise plants and animals as a means of developing leadership skills and healthy eating habits among the youth.

Girard J. Melancon sent an email to Christie Monroe after the visit stating: "Mrs. Monroe, Our hats go off to you! Your team has done a great job demonstrating all the great work SU Ag is doing in Baton Rouge. Our youth left inspired and ready to move forward with our partnership. Again, thank you for being so willing to partner with us and assisting us to take our youth to the next level."

Future planning meetings include the development of a curriculum for classroom instruction and experiential learning in areas of interest to the youth. A potential certification component is also in the discussion stage.

12. Participants received information on the Mississippi River flood stage and conditions of the levee.

Sims also held a school garden strawberry harvest with 3rd graders. Students said that the berries they grew were "the best tasting strawberries compared to store bought berries."

She coordinated youth tree-planting in the first phase of the school landscape project. Youth planted a total of 40 cypress, 10



Students tour the green house



Monroe, right explains egg formation



School garden strawberry harvest

oak, 15 crepe myrtle and 10 magnolia trees.

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER

Dawn Mellion-Patin, PhD, agricultural specialist organized a Beef Cattle & Citrus Field Day on Saturday, May 28, at 5A Farm of Algy and Mary Irvin in Thibodaux, Louisiana that attracted more than 50 participants. Agents from different agencies including the LSU AgCenter, SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education) and the NRCS were in attendance. Some of the speakers included Dr. Chris Robichaux,

SU Ag Center, SARE Co-State Coordinator; Stuart Gardner, NRCS, Rangeland Management Specialist; Dr. Fatemeh Malekian, SU Ag Center-Nutrition Specialist; Dr. David Himelrick, LSU AgCenter/Fruit Crops and Randolph Joseph, Area Conservationist, NRCS.

The field day consisted of demonstrations/workshops on Successful Livestock Practices, Grazing Land

Conservation, Health Benefits of Citrus and Pasture, Citrus grafting and Hay Management. There was a ranch tour in the afternoon of the Irvin Ranch with four pasture stops.

Slide show images and a photo gallery are available at:

http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/our_offices/parishes/Rapides/Features/Crops_Livestock/Beef-Cattle--Citrus-Field-Day.htm

Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin Selected for Excellence Award

The Association of Extension Administrators (AEA) has selected Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin for the 1890 Excellence in Extension Award in the area of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The letter

announcing the selection for the award reads:

“On behalf of the Association of Extension Administrators (AEA), I would like to congratulate you on this outstanding accomplishment.

As an award recipient, AEA will recognize you with a \$500.00 check and plaque at the 2011 summer meeting on June 20-24, in St. Louis.”

Upcoming Events

June 7: Training on Family Stress, JET, Baton Rouge. For more information, contact: Delores Johnson, parent educator, (225) 771-2242 ext. 237

June 14: Training on Family Stress, JET, Baton Rouge. For more information, contact: Delores Johnson, parent educator, (225) 771-2242 ext. 237

June 16-18: Family & Youth Exposition, Southern University Ag Center, Ashford O. Williams Hall. For more information, contact: Wanda Burke (225)-771-2242

June 21: Training on Family Stress, JET, Baton Rouge. For more information, contact: Delores Johnson, parent educator, (225) 771-2242 ext. 237

June 25: Beef Cattle Field Day at Southern University Ag Center, A.O. Williams Hall. For more information, contact Renita Marshall at (225)771-2242.

June 28: Training on Family Stress, JET, Baton Rouge. For more information, contact: Delores Johnson, parent educator, (225) 771-2242 ext. 237



Association of Extension Administrators

April 26, 2011

CERTIFIED RETURN RECEIPT

Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin
Associate Specialist-Agriculture
Southern University
Ashford O. Williams Hall
P. O. Box 10010
Baton Rouge, LA 70813

Dear Dr. Mellion-Patin:

I am pleased to announce you have been selected as the 2011 1890 Excellence in Extension Award winner in the area of Agriculture and Natural Resources. On behalf of the Association of Extension Administrators (AEA), I would like to congratulate you on this outstanding accomplishment.

As an award recipient, AEA will recognize you with a \$500.00 check and plaque at the 2011 summer meeting on June 20-24, 2011, in St. Louis, MO. A block of rooms has been reserved under the name of Association of Extension Administrators at the Hyatt Regency Hotel at the Arch, 315 Chestnut Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63102. To make your reservations, please call the Hyatt at 1-888-421-1442 before May 23.

We encourage you to update the application package that you entered into the 1890 Excellence in Extension Award Program and submit it for consideration in the ECOP Excellence in Extension Award Program for the 1890 Regional Award. Please note the deadline for the ECOP submission is June 1, 2011. It is the desire of the Association to increase the number of 1890 submissions to the ECOP award program.

Again, congratulations.

Sincerely,

Delbert Foster
1890 Excellence in Extension Award, Chair

cc: Dr. Gina Eubanks
Dr. M. Ray McKinney
Dr. Celia Stovall
Dr. L. Washington Lyons

Lincoln University (MO)
1866

Alcorn State University (MS)
1871

South Carolina State University
1872

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
1873

Alabama A&M University
1875

Prairie View A&M University (TX)
1876

Southern University and A&M College
(LA) 1880

Tuskegee University (AL)
1881

Virginia State University
1882

Kentucky State University
1886

University of Maryland Eastern Shore
1886

Florida A&M University
1887

Delaware State University
1891

North Carolina A&T State University
1891

West Virginia State University
1891

Fort Valley State University (GA)
1895

Langston University (OK)
1897

Tennessee State University
1912

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