

**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER**



Leodrey Williams

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Presented to:

Board of Supervisors

Southern University and A & M College System

"Linking Citizens of Louisiana with Opportunities for Success"

March 2012

Number 243-64

Southern University Livestock Show Very Exciting

Southern University Ag Center

Leodrey Williams
Chancellor

Adell Brown
Vice Chancellor, Finance and Administration

Kirkland Mellad
Vice Chancellor for Research

Gina E. Eubanks
Vice Chancellor for Extension

Christopher Rogers
Director of Technology Services

Editors
Bridget Udoh
Donna C. Badon

A. O. Williams Hall
P.O. Box 10010
Baton Rouge, LA 70813

Tel: (225) 771-2242

Fax: (225) 771-2861

Website:
www.suagcenter.com

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.

The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center concluded its 69th Annual Livestock Show with more than 400 participants from across the state on March 3. During the three-day event, youth from across the state had the opportunity to display winning animals contending for top prizes. Winners of state champions in various breeds of beef and dairy cattle, hogs, sheep, lamb, and goats received rosettes, banners and ribbons. The pre-school children from local schools enjoyed the all-time favor-

ite petting zoo, featuring a variety of small farm animals. Tour stops included discussions about different animals, their food sources; face-painting; the effect of agriculture on everyone's life, tobacco-free living, and healthy eating habits.

"It teaches them responsibility, and involves the whole family," said a father of two contestants.

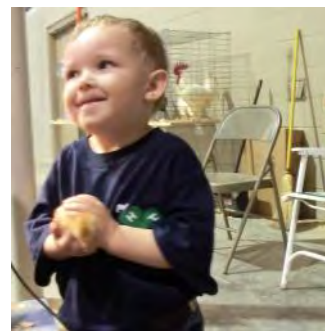
Top prize for the champion market lamb, \$4,240 went to Mackenzie Castro of Assumption Parish; Hunter Millican of East Baton

Rouge Parish claimed champion market steer at \$3,600, and Kendyl Balentine of Bossier Parish, took home \$3,500 for champion market goat.

In preparation for the 69th Annual Livestock Show, *This Week in Louisiana Agriculture* interviewed Christie Monroe, Southern University Ag Center Livestock Show Director about the upcoming 2012 Show. Watch [Farm Bureau](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azgnNG6SEr8) interview video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azgnNG6SEr8>



Pre-school children arrive



Petting zoo tourist



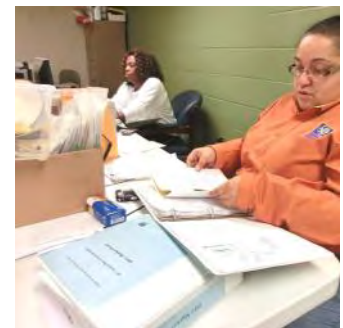
Animal grooming



Show ring



Champion market hog



Behind the scenes

Communities of Color Network Advocates Healthy Lifestyles in Alexandria

All roads led to the Sai Convention Center in Alexandria, January 27-29 for the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. District Conference. More than 150 members gathered for business meetings, professional development sessions, competitions and “brotherhood” activities. Shawntell Lewis-Harrell, the SU Ag Center Region 6 coordinator for Communities of Color (CoC) Network, welcomed participants with educational visuals accompanied with tobacco-free messages. Harrell discussed the mission of this initiative and the detrimental effects that tobacco spreads within the African-American communities, across the state.

During her visit, she spoke with key political figures in support of the efforts of CoC Network, including Alexandria Mayor, Jacques Roy, and City Council members Roosevelt Johnson, Mitzi Gibson and Ed Larvadain, III. In addition to the conference, Harrell has collaborated with the Alexandria chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. on several occasions to promote healthier, tobacco-free communities.



Alpha brothers



City council members

MISS-LOU Garden Project Continues Efforts in Orleans Parish

As the Mississippi-Louisiana project continues its gardening efforts in Orleans Parish, Stephanie Elwood, extension associate for community gardens at SU Ag Center teaches gardening classes in New Orleans. Elwood collaborates with Mrs. Nicholas’ 4th grade 4-H club at Crocker Elementary including 17 youth participants. The team is working to continue their existing garden by planting large planter boxes at the main entrance of the school. They are learning about the different parts of the plant and how to plant seeds, transplant seedlings, and different types of soil. In conjunction with Orleans

Parish, Casey Versailles, with LSU Ag 4-H youth development, teaches the basics of 4-H.

Elwood, additionally teaches gardening classes at Belle Chasse Military Base, working with children of military families. This project is an extension of the MISS-LOU project. She also teaches afterschool curriculum along with the staff at the Naval Air Station Before and After School Program. There are 15 youth participants ranging from ages 6-9 years old. The youth have already had one successful season in the garden, and are working on making the

spring another rewarding experience.



Crocker Elem. School Garden

SU Ag Center Sponsors Jetson Garden Certification Program

Instructors from the SU Ag Center who specialize in teaching incarcerated populations offer a hands-on gardening trade course twice a week to Jetson's "Fast Track" youth. The "Fast Track" program targets youth who are incarcerated for 90 days or less.

Instructional materials include the "Community Garden Curriculum" that was recently published by the Ag Center, which consists of 14 lessons. Due to the continuous cycle of the Fast Track youth, and to ensure that youth have tangible evidence of enrolling in the gardening trade course, each participant receives a certificate of completion for every three lessons they complete. These certificates are used as court evidence of progress and for job search after release.

The Jetson correctional facility, which serves as an alternative school, has a very supportive staff as well as excellent guards.

The program recently held its first "Certificate Ceremony" in which the Jetson administrators along with Dr. Gina Eubanks, Vice Chancellor of Extension, were on hand to congratulate these young men on their accomplishments.

The gardening classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday. Jetson provides a greenhouse for this course, which has been filled with late fall and early spring plants by the students who are always eager to get into the field. Presently, there is a container garden of three-gallon pots for the youth to watch their plants grow. They have also constructed an herb spiral and have tilled a 30 x 30' area in preparation for planting.

The SU Ag Center team is currently soliciting funding to make raised beds. Members of the team are, Christie Monroe, Project Coordinator and livestock specialist, Stephanie Elwood, Extension Associate-Community Gardens, and Tiffany Franklin, project coordinator.



Seed trays at Jetson greenhouse

Black History Quiz Bowl Resounding Success

Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center hosted its 18th Annual Black History Quiz Bowl, February 23 at A. O. Williams Hall. Timbuktu Academy team won the championship of the 2012 Black History Quiz Bowl. Last year, Capitol High School took home the prize.

SU Ag Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consum-

er Sciences jointly organize the event involving stiff competition among high school and college students under the leadership of Dr. Owusu Bandele, professor emeritus, horticulture.

"It was a great competition; it is all in the preparation," said an elated Bandele at the end of several rounds of contests.



Timbuktu Academy with Dr. Bandele

FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Publications



Dr. Renita W. Marshall, Assistant Professor of Animal Science, wrote a commentary in the *Journal of Extension*, entitled “The Impact of the Extension Service on Minority-Owned Small Farm Operations.”

Her comments focused on the need for Extension professionals to facilitate interactions between limited resource minority farmers and USDA agencies.

“Reaching and serving minority populations will require greater consideration in the future. However, this mission can only be accomplished when Extension makes a commitment to provide better coordination and administration of internal and external outreach programs. There is a necessity for Extension professionals to facilitate interactions between limited re-

source minority farmers and USDA agencies. This will in turn promote opportunities for these farmers to participate in various programs sponsored by eligible USDA and other participating agencies. The creation of minority outreach programs by Extension clearly demonstrates a commitment to this mission. Yet there is so much more to be done.”

The full article is available online at <http://www.joe.org/joe/2012february/comm1.php>

FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Publications contd.



Mr. Curtis Chisley, Livestock and Meat Specialist, collaborated on a meat goat study that was published in the *Journal of Animal Science*. The October 2011 article is entitled, “Carcass yield traits of kids from a complete diallel of Boer, Kiko, and Spanish meat goat breeds semi-intensively managed on humid subtropical pasture.” The collaboration included researchers from Southern University, Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Baton Rouge, LA;

Tennessee State University, Institute of Agricultural and Environmental Research, Nashville; USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, Lakewood, CO; Fort Valley State University, Small Ruminant Research and Extension Center, Fort Valley, GA; and Alabama A&M University, Cooperative Extension System, Huntsville, AL.

The study involved the harvest of 275 young male goats of Boer, Kiko, and Spanish meat goats at 7 months of age (4 months after weaning) to evaluate genetic effects on carcass yield.

The study found that the breed of the sire (father) did not affect live, carcass, and primal weights. However, breed of the dam (mother) was a consistently significant source of variation for carcass weight traits. Kiko dams produced kids with heavier live, carcass, and primal weights than Boer dams.

Weights from Spanish dams were intermediate of Boer and Kiko with the significance of differences varying by trait.

The results emphasized the importance of comparative breed evaluations to provide industry with reliable information on carcass yield among goat genotypes.

This evaluation was based on a 2008 publication that Mr. Chisley co-authored. The manual developed to guide evaluation in the meat goat industry is entitled “Meat Goat Selection, Carcass Evaluation & Fabrication Guide.”

For the full article, please visit <http://jas.fass.org/content/90/3/709>

FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES contd.

Sarah Sims, extension agent, Madison Parish, conducted a cabbage harvest workshop at Tallulah Elementary School (TES) in February. Approximately 150 students from Pre-K, 2nd, and 3rd grade classes attended workshop to learn how to plant and transplant cabbage. Participants had an opportunity to see the winter vegetables grown in the school garden, and were amazed at the different vegetables ready for harvest. The garden is currently filled with cabbage, collards, Brussels sprouts, kale mustards, turnips, broccoli, and cauliflower.

Once the harvest is complete, the spring garden will begin. Plans are underway for the spring school garden that will engage excited 3rd through 6th graders. Currently, 95 students have received cabbage plants from Bonnie Farms for the 3rd grade cabbage program.

Sims also taught at the Delta Head Start parenting nutrition classes focusing on dental hygiene with 65 participants. The theme for the event was: Dental Health-Snack Smart for Healthy Teeth!" She provided training for 225 Childcare providers at Delta Community Association on the new USDA "Choose MyPlate."



TES students learn about gardening and eating right at workshop

Participants learned how to use MyPlate to create a healthy diet; they learned the relationship between healthy eating and daily exercise. They also learned that it is necessary to eat healthy food from all five food groups daily in order to grow healthy and strong.

Sims taught the same lesson to approximately 300 students participating in the Ag Alley 2012 Lesson and Demonstration event.

More than 25 residents of the new housing community, Tallulah Estate participated in the monthly Family Resource Management and Nutrition training on budgeting. Sims taught the new USDA "Choose MyPlate" during this event.

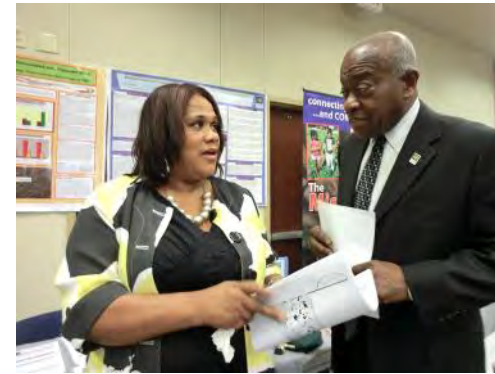
The youth from Madison Parish were well prepared and represented at the SU Ag Center Annual Livestock Show. Participants worked hard, and were excited about the event.

Ashley Jackson showed her Reserve Champion LA Breed Market Steer, which weighed in at 1130 lbs. and attracted \$3,000.



FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES contd.

SU Ag Center Celebrates Founders' Day



FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES contd.

Congratulations to our Founders' Day Honorees from the Southern University Ag Center, who were recognized for their dedicated years of service and hard work at Southern University and A&M College System on March 8.



Back row, l-r: Abdollahi, and Marshall. Front row l-r: Berhane, Badon, Qi, and Rogers.

Celebrating these distinct milestones were Terrance Marshall, Extension Agent, East Baton Rouge Parish, 30 Years of Service; and Dr. Kamran Abdollahi, Professor, Urban Forestry;

Yadong Qi, Professor, Urban Forestry; Donna Badon, Creative Specialist; Mila Berhane, Senior Research Associate; and Christopher Rogers, Director of Technology Services; 20 Years of Service.

Dr. Gina E. Eubanks, Vice Chancellor for extension, Zanetta Augustine, research associate and Emily King, outreach specialist, represented the SU Ag Center at the sixth annual Farm Day Forum held in Youngsville, LA, February 23. The purpose of the event was to review fiscal policies that will support local farmers. Representative Bob Goodlatte of Virginia, Vice Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, served as the keynote speaker, providing valua-

ble perspective and insight on this year's Farm Bill. Also discussed was the implementation of the new trade agreements, and the challenges that the agriculture industry faces in getting its products to foreign markets.



L-R: Dr. Gina E. Eubanks, Vice Chancellor for Extension; A.J. Sabine, Farm Bureau; and Senator Albert Guillory, District 24.

Representatives from the SU Ag Center had a brainstorming meeting with the newly elected State Representative Katrina Jackson, District 16 at District headquarters in Monroe for agriculture-related discussion.



Photo shows, l-r: Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin, Agriculture Specialist; Odis Hill, Extension Agent, East Morehouse and Union Parishes; Katri-

na Jackson, State Representative; Dr. Leodrey Williams, Chancellor, SU Ag Center; Dr. Adell Brown, Vice Chancellor for Research; Sarah Sims, Extension Agent, Madison Parish; Dr. Gina E. Eubanks, Vice Chancellor for Extension; and Glenn Dixon, Extension Agent, East & West Carroll Parishes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 28–31: Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Training Institute, North Carolina A&T State University, Greensboro, North Carolina. For more information, please contact Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-2242.

April 10: Annual Procurement Conference. For more information, contact Gloria London at 225-771-2242

April 14: Rabbit show, SU Ag Center Arena, Baker, Louisiana. For more information, contact Christie Monroe at 225-771-2242

April 18 – 20: Small Farmer Farm to School Tour, Florida A&M University, Marianna, FL. Contact Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-3532 for more detail

May 3-4: Louisiana Fisherman/Oysterman Gulf Visit and Tour, Gulf of Mexico. Contact Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-3532 for more detail