SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY **AG CENTER'S**

SEEDS OF Success!

A Monthly Newsletter of the Southern University Ag Center, College of Ag, and Chancellor's Report

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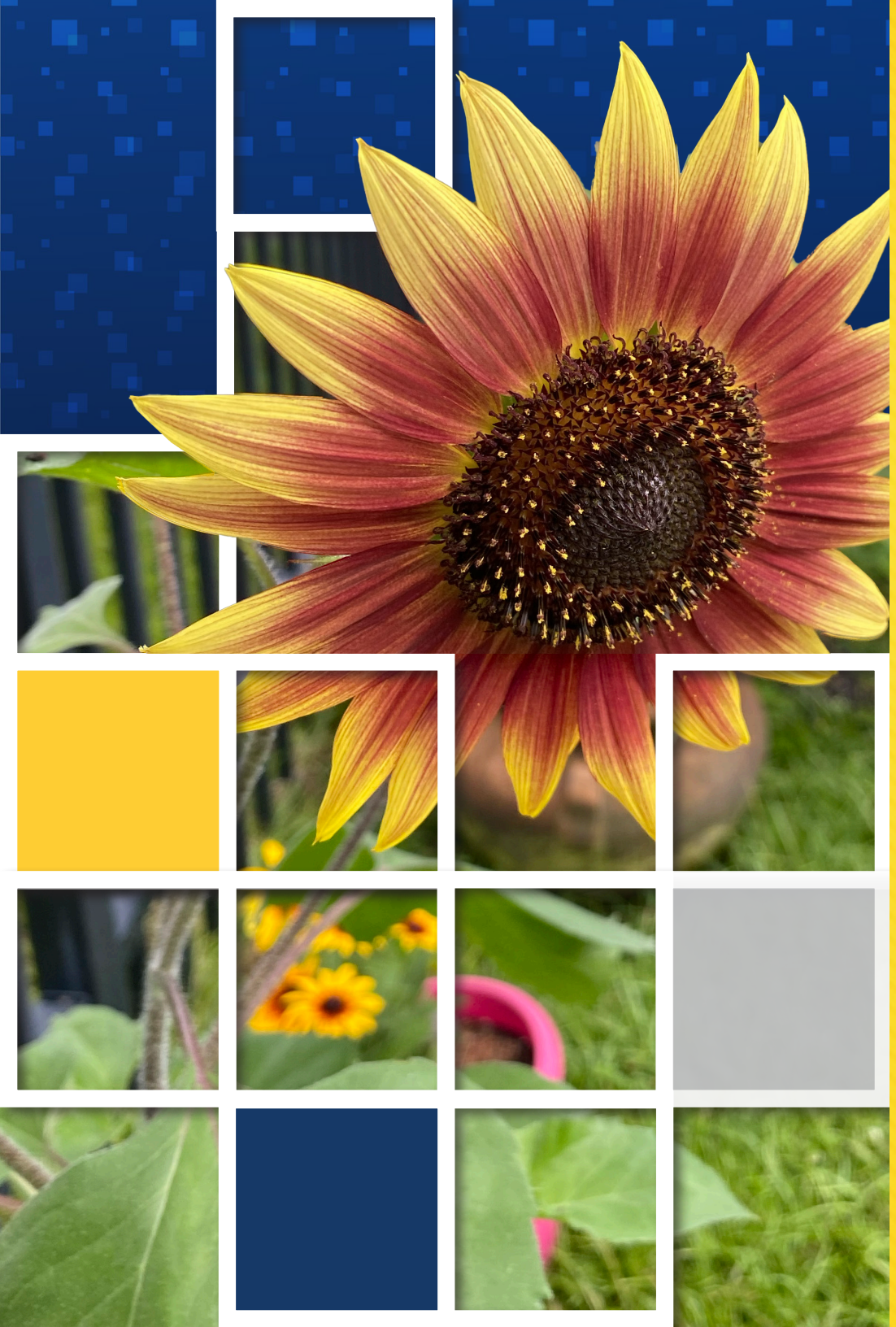
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SU Ag Center
Southern University Agricultural Research & Extension Center
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SU Ag Center Set to Host Its 82nd Annual State Livestock and Poultry Show



About the Southern University Ag Center's Livestock Show

The Southern University Ag Center's State Livestock and Poultry Show was established in 1943 as a poultry show by J.W. Fisher, Director of the College of Agriculture and Tom J. Jordan, State Cooperative Extension Agent, along with a group of statewide vocational agricultural teachers, agricultural extension workers, and community leaders.

A dairy calf project was added in the second year and the show's name was changed to the State Poultry and Dairy Show with youth exhibitors (participants) from limited-resource families.

This year, over 100 youth from across Louisiana will show around 160 animals during the event, allowing them to showcase their hard work in raising and caring for various breeds of cattle, hogs, sheep, lamb, goats, and poultry. Winners will receive cash awards, premiums, banners, ribbons, rosettes, and trophy belt buckles.

The Livestock Show cultivates the development of responsibility, dedication, decision-making, leadership, and entrepreneurship skills to the youth who prepare throughout the year for competitions, through the possession and personal care of a live animal project.

Southern University is the only 1890 Land-Grant Institution that continues to hold a livestock show. For additional information about the SU Ag Center's Annual Livestock Show or to purchase meat visit, *https://www.suagcenter.com/page/livestock-poultry-program*.

Small farmers from throughout the state will gather at the Maurice A. Edmond Livestock Arena from February 27 – March 1, 2025, to compete for an opportunity to be named grand champion during the Southern University Ag Center's 82nd Annual State Livestock and Poultry Show. Several events have been planned leading up to the Annual Show. These events include the Boots and Bling Affair, a Livestock Give Day, and an Educational Expo for local students. The full list of events with dates, times, and locations is listed below:

★2025 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS★

SATURDAY
FEB. 22, 2025

"BOOTS & BLING" AFFAIR

Location: F.G. Clark Activity Center (SU Mini Dome) • Time: 7:00 PM – 12AM

The 3rd annual Boots & Bling Affair will kick off events for the 82nd Annual State Livestock and Poultry Show. J. Paul Jr. and the Zydeco Nubreedz will be the musical artists for the event. The attire is western and heavy hors d'oeuvres will be provided. Tickets are $40 for general admission floor seating and $250 per table. Purchase tickets at: ***https://foundation.sus.edu/boots-and-bling/*.**

SUNDAY
FEB. 23, 2025

LIVESTOCK APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Location: Multi-Purpose Building/Arena • Time: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

This event will honor the individuals who have made an impact on the Livestock Show.

TUESDAY
FEB. 25, 2025

LIVESTOCK GIVE DAY

Time: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

The Jaguar Nation is asked to participate in the 3rd Annual Livestock Give Day. Individuals are asked to donate $82 for the Livestock Show's 82nd anniversary. Donations can be made online at, ***https://foundation.sus.edu/geauxlivestock/*.**

WEDNESDAY
FEB. 26, 2025

THE EDUCATIONAL AG EXPO

Location: Multi-Purpose Building/Arena • Time: 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

The Expo will provide students from East Baton Rouge and surrounding parishes with the opportunity to explore over 40 agricultural stations containing displays, demonstrations, exhibits, and animals.

THURSDAY
FEB. 27, 2025

82ND ANNUAL LIVESTOCK & POULTRY SHOW

Location: Maurice A. Edmond Livestock Arena • Time: 8:00 AM – UNTIL
Check-in starts at 12:00 PM Noon

Animals are checked in on this day.

FRIDAY
FEB. 28, 2025

LIVESTOCK SHOW CONTINUES / "NIGHT WITH THE STARS" OLD FASHION DECORATING CONTEST

Location: Maurice A. Edmond Livestock Arena • Barn Opens at 8:00 AM

Livestock Show Continues • Time: 9:00 AM - UNTIL | "Night with the Stars" • Time: 6:30 PM - UNTIL

The Friday Night with the Stars Old Fashion Decorating Contest will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Maurice A. Edmond Livestock Arena. The event will allow participants to have fun with their animals one last time before the Junior Auction on Saturday morning.

SATURDAY
MAR. 1, 2025

AWARDS PROGRAM AND JUNIOR AUCTION

Location: Maurice A. Edmond Livestock Arena • Time: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Exhibitors who placed in the category of champion and showmanship will receive their awards during this program. The Junior Auction will immediately follow the awards program.

College of Ag Holds Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Event

College of Ag™

ACADEMICS







The College of Agricultural, Human and Environmental Sciences (CAHES) honored the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. through active community engagement during its “AG-tion for the Dream: A Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service” event on January 20, 2025.

Student organizations within CAHES came together to support The Walls Project’s “MLK FEST Baton Rouge 2025” event.

CAHES students participated in a painting project in the Eden Park Neighborhood of Baton Rouge. This service event showcased the students' dedication to social responsibility and leadership by participating in this impactful initiative.

Southern University College of Ag to Hold VET Explore 2025 For High School & College Students

College of Ag™

ACADEMICS

The Southern University College of Agricultural, Human and Environmental Sciences (CAHES) will host its VET Explore 2025 event on April 26, 2025 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Maurice A. Edmond Livestock Arena, 14600 Scenic Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70807.

The event is free and open to 9th - 12th graders and undergraduate college students who are interested in becoming veterinarians, however, registration is required. To register visit, ***https://bit.ly/4ipXZto***. The registration deadline is March 15, 2025.

"VET Explore is more than just an event, it's a gateway to the world of veterinary medicine," expressed Tyra Davis, D.V.M., VET Explore organizer, Assistant Professor, and Pre-Vet Program Lead for the CAHES. "As the first program of its kind in Louisiana, it provides students with a rare opportunity to gain hands-on experience, engage with professionals, and immerse themselves in the realities of animal care."

Dr. Davis also noted that the event will provide students with an opportunity to obtain experience with animals.

"For many, this may be the only chance for high school students to work with animals and explore the field before making career decisions," explained Davis. "By attending, students will not only gain invaluable knowledge but also ignite a passion for veterinary medicine, opening doors to future opportunities and shaping the next generation of animal care professionals," she added.

Activities during the event will include:



- Vet School 101 and Jag Stars Pre-Vet/Animal Science 101 Sessions
- Hands-on demonstrations in suture techniques and blood collection
- Breed Identification and Basic Animal Husbandry
- Parasitology and Aquaculture Lab
- Mobile Veterinary Practice Tours
- Engaging Career Exploration Sessions with real-life veterinarians
- Veterinary School Admissions Officers

For additional information on VET Explore 2025 email, vetexplore_info@suagcenter.com.

Cultivating Wellness: New SNAP-Ed Programming Empowers Educators at IDEA Bridge Charter School

Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center

SNAP-Ed Nutrition Education Program





Congratulates IDEA BRIDGE CHARTER

"Cultivating Healthy Environments and Revitalizing Resources for Youth"

The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center's innovative Cultivating Healthy Environments and Revitalizing Resources for Youth (C.H.E.R.R.Y.) Pick Program recently made its 2024 debut at IDEA Bridge Charter School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Designed to break new ground in nutrition education, the program's impact extends well beyond the traditional scope of SNAP-Ed programming.

SNAP-Ed typically focuses on teaching individuals who use or are eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits about proper nutrition, gardening, and strategies to make food dollars stretch further. These lessons often include physical activity and are frequently delivered directly to K-12 students. While this approach effectively builds healthier communities, the C.H.E.R.R.Y. Pick Program takes a unique and impactful direction by targeting educators instead of students. Rather than delivering lessons directly to students, C.H.E.R.R.Y. Pick equips faculty and staff with essential knowledge about nutrition, physical activity, and gardening. By empowering the educators, the program ensures the continuation of these vital lessons long after the SNAP-Ed team has departed.

"C.H.E.R.R.Y. Pick gives schools the tools to sustain health and wellness education," said Joshua McDonald, SU Ag Center Nutrition Education Programs Coordinator and Director of the C.H.E.R.R.Y. Pick Program. "Our goal is to create a ripple effect where healthy habits extend from teachers to students and, ultimately, to the wider community."

At IDEA Bridge, the C.H.E.R.R.Y. Pick Program seamlessly integrated into the school's environment, blending nutrition workshops with practical gardening sessions and physical activity demonstrations. Faculty and staff were trained in engaging, evidence-based methods to teach students about healthy living.

"Our students are more excited than ever about health and wellness because their teachers are leading by example," expressed Danesha Shepherd, Agriculture Teacher at IDEA Bridge Charter School. "The gardening sessions have been especially impactful, helping students connect with their food and understand the importance of sustainability," she added.

The C.H.E.R.R.Y. Pick Program's hands-on approach left students eager to participate in gardening projects and embrace healthier lifestyles.

"We've seen a shift in how students view food and nutrition," stated Shepherd. "They're asking questions about what they eat and even sharing what they learn with their families. It's amazing to see how this program has sparked a genuine interest in wellness."

By fostering a culture of health and sustainability, C.H.E.R.R.Y. Pick ensures the lessons of SNAP-Ed resonate far beyond the classroom. This innovative model highlights the importance of empowering educators to be leaders in wellness education, creating a sustainable framework for healthier communities.



The success of the C.H.E.R.R.Y. Pick Program at IDEA Bridge Charter School sets a precedent for other schools across Louisiana. By shifting the focus to educators, Southern University's Ag Center has redefined how nutrition education can be delivered, making it both sustainable and impactful.

With the success of this program, the hope is that more schools will adopt this model, empowering teachers to champion health and wellness and inspiring students to make lifelong healthy choices. IDEA Bridge's success story is a testament to the transformative power of education and community-focused initiatives like C.H.E.R.R.Y. Pick.

The Bra Project: Over 80 Bras Donated to Support Local Women in Need







In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the SU Ag Center created The Bra Project in October 2024. This initiative was designed to support women in need while raising awareness of critical issues related to women's health and empowerment.

The primary goal of The Bra Project was to collect gently used and new bras for donation to the St. Vincent de Paul Shelter. By contributing these essential items, the project sought to provide comfort, dignity, and practical support to women in the shelter.

Donation boxes were strategically placed across campus in high-traffic areas, including the student union, the library, and the intermural sports center. This approach ensured that students, faculty, and staff could easily participate in the initiative and contribute to its success.

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of the Southern University community, The Bra Project successfully collected over 80 bras! These contributions directly assisted women at the St. Vincent de Paul Shelter, reinforcing the importance of community care and solidarity during challenging times.

"This project wasn't just about bras, it was about showing that our community cares and is committed to supporting one another," said Si-Arah Jones, The Bra Project co-organizer, SNAP-Ed Field Coordinator, and Nutrition Specialist at the SU Ag Center.

"We are incredibly grateful to everyone who participated and helped make this initiative a success. Small acts like this serve as powerful reminders of the compassion and strength found in our community," added Jasmin Mathews, The Bra Project co-organizer, Public Health Specialist, and Director of the Communities of Color Network at the SU Ag Center.

The Southern University Ag Center and the organizers of The Bra Project extend their sincere gratitude to everyone who donated to the project. This initiative not only reflects the impact of collective efforts but also underscores the importance of giving back to those in need.

SU AG™ Center
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Future Leaders Take Flight: Exploring Drone Technology With the SU Ag Center



The SU Ag Center's Precision Agcademy Youth Development program has been holding engaging and impactful Drone Demo Daze for youth.

Ag Center staff members Dr. Charity Schaffer, Youth Development Extension Agent; Ryan Sugulleh, Assistant Director of the Communities of Color Network; Aryn Broussard, Assistant Area Agent for Youth Development; Robert Easly, Jr., Director of Advancement; and Dr. Raquel Ayles, Youth Development Program Leader facilitated the sessions, sharing their expertise and passion for drone technology.

Drone Demo Daze have been held on December 4, 2024 in New Orleans for students at St. Augustine High School, January 18, 2025 in Baton Rouge for students in the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Nu Gamma Omega Chapter's Youth Leadership Institute, and January 27, 2025 in Opelousas for students at Hope for Opelousas.





These hands-on educational events are designed to introduce students to the exciting world of drone technology, highlighting career opportunities, and providing practical experience with unmanned aerial systems.

Under the Ag Center's guidance, students gained valuable insights into the technical and operational aspects of drones, including navigation, safety procedures, and advanced flight features. Beyond technical skills, the students learned about the wide range of career pathways that drone pilot certification can unlock, including roles in agriculture, real estate, engineering, emergency response, and aerial photography.

A key highlight of the sessions has been the hands-on flying experience, where students are able to pilot drones and explore their functionality. For many, this was their first encounter with drone technology, sparking curiosity and enthusiasm for careers in aviation, engineering, and technology. The real-world demonstration offered a tangible connection between classroom learning and future professional opportunities, making the sessions both engaging and educational.

The Drone Demo Daze are part of the SU Ag Center's ongoing mission to empower youth through education, technology, and leadership development. By fostering interest in drone technology and aviation careers, the program aims to certify students as FAA Part 107 drone pilots to expand their career opportunities and create entrepreneurial opportunities for themselves in a rapidly evolving technological landscape.

By introducing students to emerging technologies, we are not only inspiring the next generation of drone pilots and aviation professionals but also empowering young leaders to soar to new heights in all areas of their lives.

Southern University Ag Center Launches FAA Part 107 Drone Certification Program



The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center proudly launched its inaugural FAA Part 107 small, unmanned aircraft certification course on January 25, 2025 in Opelousas, La. This pioneering initiative aims to equip Louisiana youth with the skills and credentials necessary to legally operate drones for commercial purposes, opening doors to a range of professional opportunities in emerging industries.

The program was established under the leadership of Dr. Raquel Ayles, Program Leader of the SU Ag Center's Youth Development Program, and is spearheaded by a distinguished team of FAA Part 107 certified pilots: Dr. Charity Schaffer, Youth Development Agent; Robert Easly, SU Ag Center's Director of Advancement; and Ryan Sugulleh, Assistant Director of the SU Ag Center's Communities of Color Network.

This cohort was established through a partnership with Hope for Opelousas Nonprofit Organization's Executive Director Loren Carriere and through collaboration with Heather Bob, Community and Youth Outreach Specialist at the Ag Center's Sustainable Agriculture Rural Development Institute (SARDI).

The certification program is the first initiative under Precision Agcademy, a program designed to teach precision agriculture, an innovative farming practice that utilizes technology to collect, analyze, and act on data to improve crop yields and resource management. The Precision Agcademy operates under the umbrella of the SU Ag Center's Youth Development Program.





Since the launch of the Center's Drone Demo Daze, an outreach component of the Precision Agcademy in September 2024, nearly 200 students have been engaged across multiple Louisiana parishes, including St. Helena, Tangipahoa, East Baton Rouge, Orleans, and St. Landry. Through Drone Demo Daze, the program sparks youth interest in precision agriculture and the drone certification course. Additionally, the program has had the honor of serving two military veterans.

To support this initiative, more than $30,000 has been raised through private philanthropy, and $250,000 in federal funding has been awarded through the United States Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA). These investments ensure the sustainability and growth of the program, expanding access to drone technology training for Louisiana's youth.

Expanding Career Pathways

The demand for certified drone pilots continues to rise across industries such as real estate, agriculture, emergency response, construction, and photography. By earning an FAA Part 107 certification, students will be equipped to take advantage of these opportunities, enhancing their employability and entrepreneurial potential.

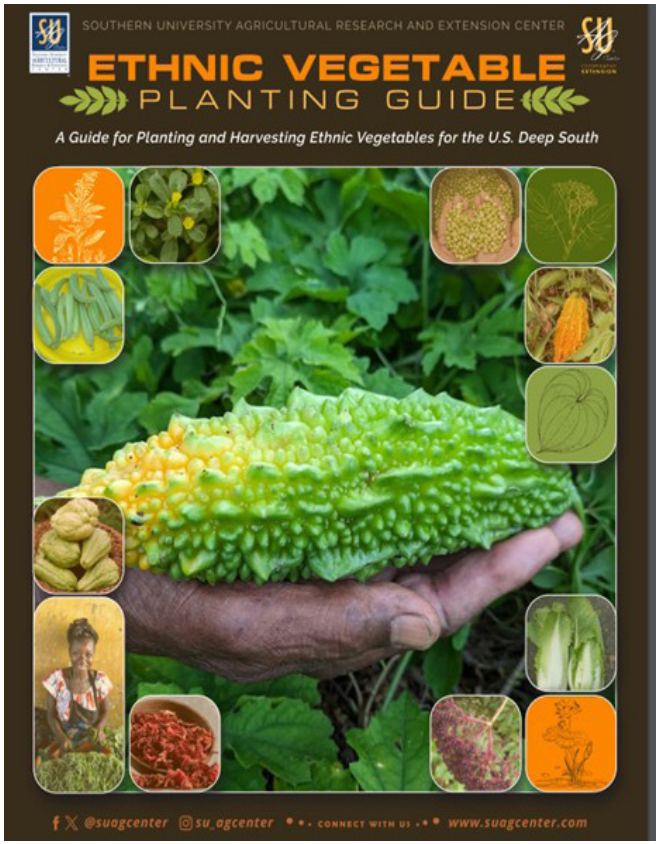
The SU Ag Center looks forward to expanding the impact of this program, reaching more youth across the state and empowering them with the skills needed to thrive in a technology-driven world.

For additional information on the FAA Part 107 Drone Certification Program or to inquire about enrollment, please contact, Dr. Schaffer at charity_schaffer@suagcenter.com or call 225-222-4136.

SU Ag Center Launches Groundbreaking "Ethnic Vegetable Planting Guide" With Support From SARE

SU Ag Center™
Cooperative Extension

The Southern University Ag Center has developed an "*Ethnic Vegetable Planting Guide*."



This first-of-its-kind guide, which is available in print and digitally on the Ag Center's website, features a diverse range of ethnic vegetables, detailing optimal planting and harvesting times, unique cultural facts, and preparation techniques for the produce. Given Louisiana's subtropical climate, many tropical fruits and vegetables thrive when planted at the appropriate times.

For decades, the SU Ag Center has been at the forefront of research and education on cultivating and promoting ethnic vegetables in Louisiana. Examples of featured crops include Hibiscus roselle (Hibiscus sabdariffa), Molokhia (Corchorus olitorius), Kenaf (Hibiscus cannabinus), Sweet Potato Greens (Ipomoea batatas), Amaranth (Amaranthus), and a variety of other globally consumed fruits and vegetables.

The creation of this comprehensive print and digital resource will enhance knowledge dissemination across Louisiana, empowering home gardeners, urban farmers, and small-scale growers across the country to successfully cultivate, market, and enjoy these crops.

The "Ethnic Vegetable Planting Guide" was produced with funding from the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program and authored by Stephanie M. Elwood, Horticulture Specialist at the SU Ag Center and Mila Berhane, Senior Research Associate at the SU Ag Center, with valuable contributions from Terra Polite and Mitchell Provensal.



MILA BERHANE



STEPHANIE M. ELWOOD



MITCHELL PROVENSAL



TERRA POLITE

SU Ag Center's Staff Teaches Nutrition & Animal Care to Students at LaSalle Elementary School

Integrated:

College of Ag

ACADEMICS

SU Ag Center COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

SU Ag Center RESEARCH





Southern University Ag Center employees Chrishana Littlejohn-Thomas, SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educator; Dr. Dana Pollard, Assistant Professor of Animal Science and Researcher; and Felton DeRouen, III, Research Associate; participated in the LaSalle Elementary School's Fall Fest on November 15, 2024.

Thomas led Pre-K-5th grade students in nutrition education on the importance of healthy eating and physical activity. Dr. Pollard and DeRouen discussed animal products and animal husbandry with the students. They brought a Nigerian Dwarf goat, chicks, and a rabbit for the students to hold and pet.

This event was a great way to introduce agriculture to students at a young age.



Center of Excellence at the Southern Ag Center Partners On $500,000 USDA Grant to Improve Food Safety Training



The Center of Excellence for Nutrition, Health, Wellness, and Quality of Life (COE) at the Southern University Ag Center is part of a collaborative effort recently awarded nearly $500,000 in funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture's (USDA-NIFA) Food Safety Outreach Program (FSOP). The Southern University Ag Center received $70,000 of this funding to play a key role in outreach and training delivery.

The initiative, which involves the LSU AgCenter, Southern University Ag Center, and Florida A&M University, aims to provide enhanced food safety training for farm workers and underserved farmers. It focuses on innovative and interactive learning techniques.

This joint project, titled "On-Farm Food Safety Training for Farm Workers and Underserved Farmers Covering FSMA PSR and GAPs Requirements," moves away from traditional slideshow-based methods, adopting hands-on activities, posters, and flipcharts to deliver short, on-farm lessons. These cover topics like Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), worker health and hygiene, sanitation, risk assessment, and compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule (PSR).

The program provides a range of resources, including risk assessment tools, standard operating procedure templates, fact sheets, and recordkeeping logs. These tools help growers identify potential food safety hazards, evaluate current practices, and strengthen areas that need improvement. Onsite audits will also be conducted to support the implementation of robust food safety practices.

Achyut Adhikari, an LSU AgCenter food safety specialist and principal investigator for the grant, emphasized the project's transformative impact. "This grant allows us to bridge critical knowledge gaps among farmworkers and underserved farmers, equipping them with the tools and resources needed to meet regulatory and market-driven food safety requirements and ensure the integrity of our food system," he said.

The project also supports bilingual training to accommodate the number of Spanish-speaking farmers and farmworkers in Louisiana and Florida. This inclusivity ensures broader access to the training and resources needed to strengthen food safety practices across diverse farming communities. Additionally, the program bolsters the food safety capacity of two minority institutions, Southern University and Florida A&M, by leveraging the LSU AgCenter's resources.

"This funding enables us to create a more inclusive and practical approach to food safety training, especially for growers who are often overlooked in conventional programs," Adhikari added. "By providing hands-on training and tailored resources, we aim to enhance understanding of critical food safety practices, ensuring compliance with regulations and protecting public health."

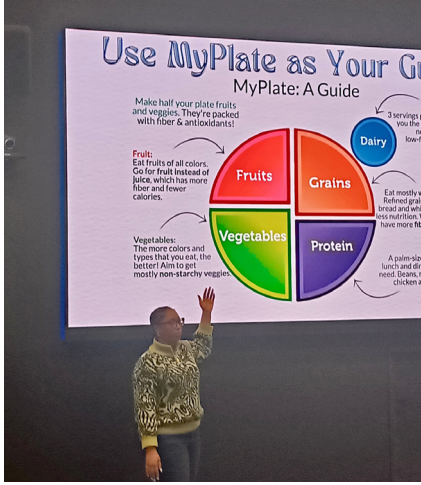
For more information about the project and upcoming training opportunities, contact Kiyana Kelly at kiyana_kelly@suagcenter.com or Brittany Howard at brittany_howard@suagcenter.com.

Information from the article, Research team awarded grant to better train farm workers on food safety, handling, written by V. Todd Miller, was used in the development of this press release.

COE Staff Holds Workshops During Southern University's Spring 2025 Faculty Convocation











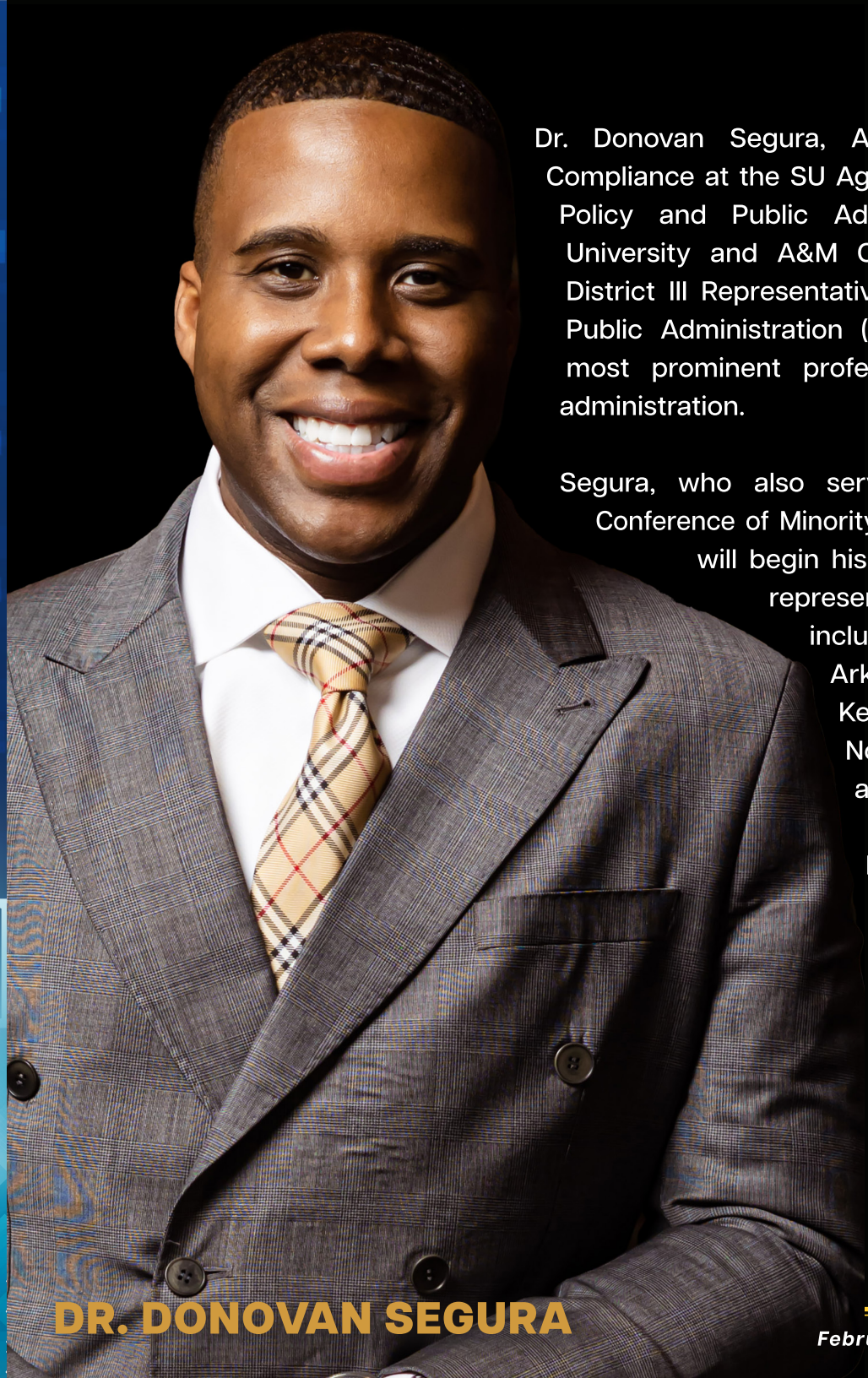
The Center of Excellence for Nutrition, Health, Wellness, and Quality of Life (COE) at the SU Ag Center held the workshop, Elevating Faculty Wellness through Nutrition, Health, Wellness and Quality of Life on January 8 and 9, 2025, as a part of the Southern University Baton Rouge campus' Spring 2025 Faculty Convocation.

During the workshops, Kiyana Kelly, COE Director and Brittany Howard, COE Program Coordinator and Servsafe Instructor, discussed the importance of meal planning, provided meal prepping tips, ways to make a recipe healthier, smart shopping tips, how to read nutrition fact labels, settings Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-Bound (SMART) goals, and information on ways to stay physically active at work.

After the workshop, each participant received a food container and samples of turkey chili and peach cobbler chia pudding.

Faculty & Staff Highlight

Dr. Donovan Segura Has Been Elected as the Representative of ASPA's Third District



DR. DONOVAN SEGURA

Dr. Donovan Segura, Associate Vice Chancellor for Compliance at the SU Ag Center and Professor of Public Policy and Public Administration at the Southern University and A&M College, has been elected the District III Representative of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) Board, the largest and most prominent professional association for public administration.

Segura, who also serves as the President of the Conference of Minority Public Administrators (COMPA), will begin his three-year term as District III's representative in April. The district includes ASPA members in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

He will be the only African American male serving on the ASPA Board.

Segura earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science, a Master of Arts in Social Science, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy Administration, all from Southern University.

Faculty & Staff Highlight

Dr. Raquel Ayles Has Been Appointed to the Board of Directors of the New Schools For Baton Rouge

Dr. Raquel Square Ayles, Youth Development Program Leader at the SU Ag Center, has been appointed to the Board of Directors at New Schools for Baton Rouge (NSBR), a non-profit dedicated to elevating the standard of public education throughout Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Founded in 2012, NSBR collaborates with local leaders, educators, and national educational partners to guarantee that all children in Baton Rouge have access to outstanding schools, irrespective of their location.



DR. RAQUEL AYLES

NSBR's initiatives focus on:

- School Development and Support: Establishing and maintaining high-quality educational institutions.
- Community Engagement: Fostering strong relationships with local stakeholders to support educational goals.
- Talent Acquisition and Development: Recruiting and nurturing educational professionals.
- Collaboration for Systemic Improvement: Working with various entities to enhance the educational system comprehensively.
- Focus on Student Outcomes: Prioritizing the academic and social success of students.

These targeted strategies aim to expedite improvements in education and offer every family in Baton Rouge the choice of a top-tier public school.

Before her involvement with NSBR, Dr. Ayles held several significant roles in K-12 education, such as the Regional Director and Superintendent for Charter Schools USA in Louisiana, Chief Academic Officer at Algiers Charter School Association, and Principal in both East Baton Rouge and West Feliciana Parishes.

Ayles earned a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education, a Master of Education in Administration and Supervision, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy, all from Southern University. She has also received a prestigious certification in school turnaround from Xavier University, through a program developed by the Louisiana Department of Education.

Faculty & Staff Highlight

Alexis Motley Receives the 2025 Y. Jean Whitley Flame Award

Alexis Motley, Director of the Dietetic Internship Program and Instructor in the College of Agricultural, Human and Environmental Sciences (CAHES), has been recognized as one of the 2025 Y. Jean Whitley Flame Award recipients by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.'s Baton Rouge Sigma Alumnae Chapter.

Established in 2022, the Y. Jean Whitley Flame Award honors individuals who exemplify leadership, community service, generosity, and a commitment to uplifting others. Each year, the Sorority selects five individuals or organizations that have made a significant impact in the Baton Rouge community. Motley received the award on February 2, 2025 during the Sorority's annual Flame Awards All White Jazz Brunch.

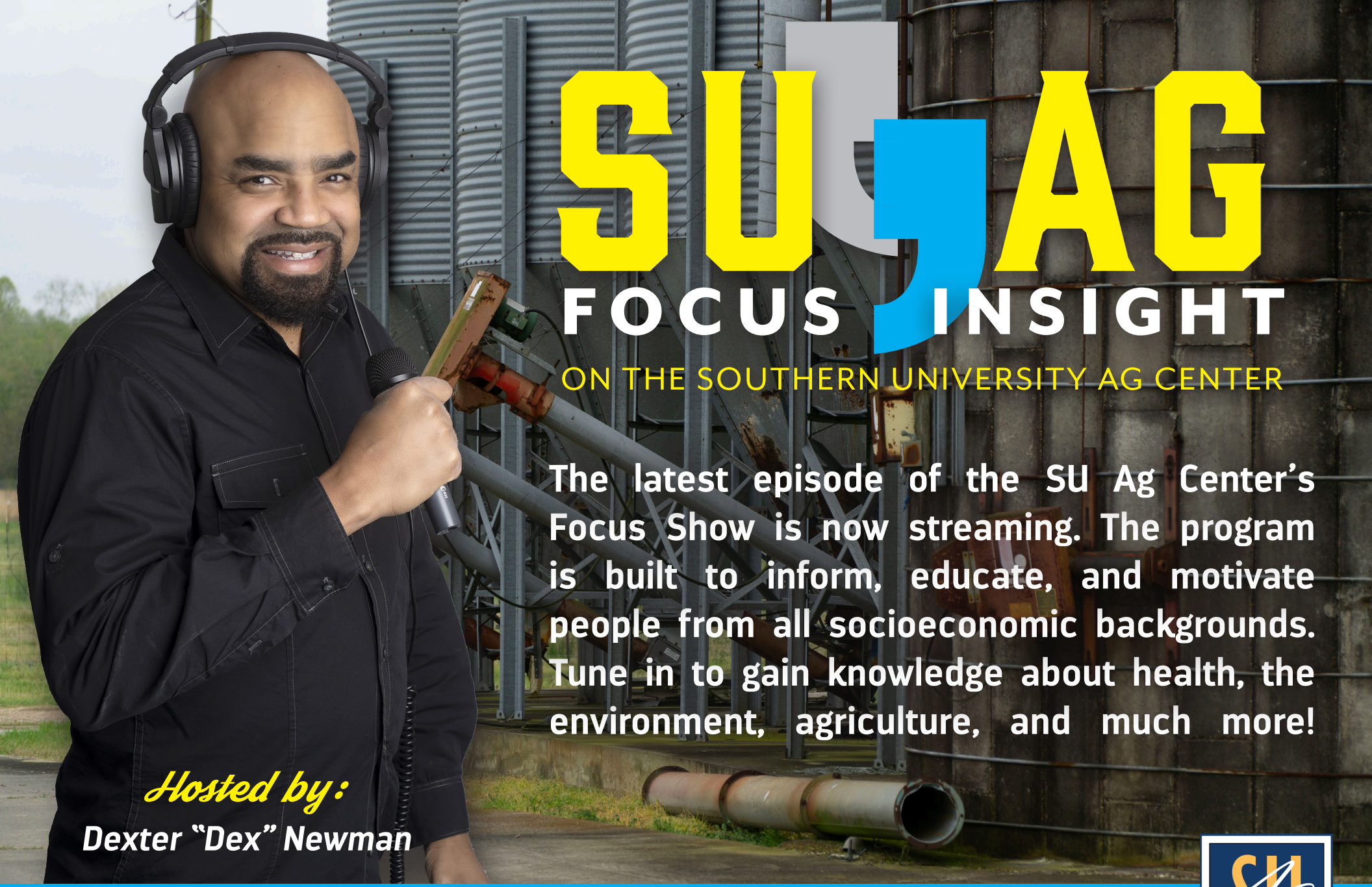


ALEXIS MOTLEY

Motley brings a wealth of experience in diabetes education, community and school gardens, and military/government nutrition. She has been actively involved with the Louisiana Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the Baton Rouge Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, contributing her expertise through volunteer work and committee service.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in Human Nutrition from Southern University and a Master of Science in Food, Nutrition, and Wellness Studies from McNeese State University, where she also completed her Dietetic Internship. In addition to her professional achievements, Motley was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant Engineer Officer in the United States Army, demonstrating her leadership both in military service and in the field of nutrition.

Her dedication to advancing nutrition education and her commitment to community service embodies the spirit of the Y. Jean Whitley Flame Award.



SU AG FOCUS INSIGHT

ON THE SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AG CENTER

The latest episode of the SU Ag Center's Focus Show is now streaming. The program is built to inform, educate, and motivate people from all socioeconomic backgrounds. Tune in to gain knowledge about health, the environment, agriculture, and much more!

Hosted by:
Dexter "Dex" Newman

TUNE IN TO THE FOCUS SHOW AT:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QdSPcKvKDRE

SU AG Center
Southern University Agricultural Research & Extension Center
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AG

P.O. Box 10010
Baton Rouge, LA 70813

(225) 771-2242

www.suagcenter.com

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