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Overview

The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center's (SUAREC) Small Farm Institute (SFI) is housed within the Cooperative Extension Program's Agriculture and Natural Resource (ANR) Unit. The Cooperative Extension Program operates in 34 parishes across the state of Louisiana. These parishes are comprised of small limited-resource and underserved farmers and landowners. SFI's goal is to educate, provide technical assistance and outreach while fostering sustainability among Louisiana's small farm communities.

Mission Statement

The Small Farm Institute's mission is to serve new and beginning, underserved, women, and veteran farmers in Louisiana; through outreach, education, demonstrations, and technical innovations to manage risk and make sound decisions for a successful agricultural business.

Objectives

- To assist small new, beginning, women, and veteran farmers and landowners in achieving the small farm dream.
- To educate and provide information on emerging agriculture trends and science based practices.
- To assist farmers in generating and maintaining an income that supports their families and communities.
- To serve as an incubator of small farms information for Louisiana.
- To provide materials for bilingual farmers and personnel.

Small Farmer Definition

A small farmer is defined as one that grows and sells between \$1,000 and \$250,000 per year in agricultural products. These farmers could include:

- Growers working with plants in greenhouses.
- Ethnic minority farmers.
- Farmers with limited resources.
- Hobby farmers, retirement farmers, lifestyle farmers.
- Farmers who sell directly to consumers.
- Through farmers' markets, CSA's, and other marketing channels that are not a part of the traditional, wholesale distribution chain.
- Farmers who do not monocrop, including those who grow vegetables or fruits while also raising livestock.

Emerging Topics & Trends

- A. Livestock Operations – (Cow/Calf/Sheep/Goat/Poultry)
- B. Vegetable/Hemp Production
- C. Forestry/Tree Management (Fruit, Nut, Timber)
- D. Seafood/ Crawfish Production
- E. On-Farm Readiness
- F. Certifications
- G. Initiatives
- H. Technology
- I. Equestrian
- J. Continuing Education Programs
 - i. Enhancing Capacity of Louisiana Small Farms and Businesses
 - ii. Small Farm Academy
 - iii. Wisteria Alliance- Women in Agriculture Program

Target Areas

Statewide



Contact Us

For more information, contact:

Zanetta Augustine, M.S.
Program Leader/Assistant Specialist, ANR

P.O. Box 10010
Baton Rouge, LA 70813
Office: (225) 771-2591
zanetta_augustine@suagcenter.com
www.suagcenter.com

Brian Keith Phillips, Ph.D.
Associate Small Farm Specialist, ANR

P.O. Box 10010
Baton Rouge, LA 70813
Office: (225) 771-3532
brian_phillips@suagcenter.com
www.suagcenter.com

f @suagcenter
su_agcenter

www.suagcenter.com