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CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Dr. Leodrey Williams

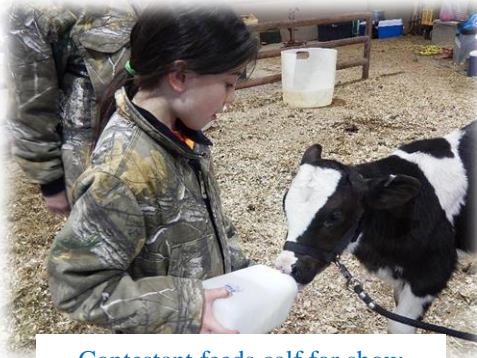
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"Linking Citizens of Louisiana with Opportunities for Success"

Southern University Ag Center Completes Successful 72nd Annual Livestock Show



Contestant feeds calf for show



Chancellor Williams, center, honored for dedication to the Show and 50 years of service in extension shown with family and friends



Contestant on show ring floor

The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center concluded its 72nd Annual Livestock Show with more than 350 participants from across the state on March 7th. During the two-day event, young farmers and ranchers from across the state had the opportunity to display animals that have been showcased or have won in-parish competitions. After the show, judges named state champions in various breeds of beef and dairy cattle, hogs, sheep, lamb, and goats. The all-time favorite mini-farm, featuring a variety of small farm animals, was held for school-age kids from the local schools. In addition, tours were provided to visitors to discuss different animals, their food sources, farming, and how agriculture affects everyone's life.

Showmanship was judged in different categories for awards. Winners received premiums, rosettes, ribbons, and banners. An award presentation for exhibitors of champion market animals was held, followed immediately by the Junior Auction Sale.

This year's show recognized Chancellor Leodrey Williams for 50 years of dedicated service to the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service and commitment to the Livestock Show.

Results from the show:

Market Champions

Grand Champion Market Steer: Adam Wilson, West Feliciana Parish (\$5,400); Reserve Champion Market Steers: DeLacey Jackson, Tangipahoa Parish;

LA Breed Champion Steer: Mashayla Dyson, Tangipahoa Parish; LA Breed Reserved Champion Steer: Maliyah Johnson, Madison Parish; Champion Market Hogs: Guy Hayes, Jeff Davis Parish; Reserve Champion Market Hogs: Lemon Cooper, Jeff Davis Parish; Champion Market Lamb: Garrett Ortego, Acadia Parish; Reserve Champion Market Lamb: Kain Champagne, St. Mary Parish; LA Breed Reserve Champion Lamb: Chelsi Theriot, Terrebonne Parish; Champion Market Goat: Gentry Silver; Reserve Champion Market Goat: Madison Green, Bossier

2015 Beef Breeding Division

Category: Brahman Influence - Bull
Champion: Caplan Young, Winn Parish
Reserve Champion: Victoria Townsend, Sabine Parish

Category: Brahman Influence - Heifer
Champion: Silver Gentry, Calcasieu
Reserve Champion: Victoria Townsend, Sabine Parish

Category: Non-Brahman Influence - Bull
Champion: Morgan Thompson, EBR Parish

Category: Non-Brahman Influence - Heifer
Champion: Regan Greene, EBR Parish
Reserve Champion: Cassie Thibodeaux, Lafourche Parish

Category: Commercial Heifer
Champion: Lora Peace, Sabine Parish
Reserve Champion: Lily Gisclair, Beauregard Parish

Category: Beef Showmanship
Champion: Caitlyn Thompson, Bossier
Reserve Champion: Matthew Williams, Natchitoches

2015 Junior Dairy Division

Registered Dairy: OVERALL SUPREME CHAMPION
Champion: Jordan Clement, Claiborne Parish

2015 Commercial Dairy Division

Commercial Dairy: OVERALL SUPERME CHAMPION
Champion: Matthew Williams, Natchitoches Parish

Category: Dairy Showmanship
Champion: Kyle Sonnier, Jeff Davis
Reserve: Camille Sonnier, Jeff Davis

2015 Market Lamb Division

Category: Lamb Showmanship
Champion: Caroline Dupree, Bossier
Reserve: Caroline Dupree, Bossier

2015 Market Goat Division

Category: Goat Showmanship
Champion: Catherine Dupree, Bossier
Reserve: Jordan Elmore, Claiborne

2015 Market Hog Division

Category: Hog Showmanship
Champion: Gabrielle Gresham, Winn Parish
Reserve: Jon Segura, Iberia Parish

Livestock show organizer, Christie Monroe, Livestock Show Program Director, can be reached at (225) 771- 4350.

Team Think Smart Wins first Place in the 21st Annual Quiz Bowl

The SU Ag Center and the Division of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences held the 21st Annual Black History Quiz Bowl on Wednesday, February 25 at the SU Ag Center.

The competition brought together top minds on the Southern University campus and this year, the team “Think Smart” won first place. The second place went to the “Bad Company” team; “Nefertiti’s Daughters” took home 3rd place while the “Urban Foresters” placed 4th. The top four teams took home plaques and each contestant had a choice of a book from the Bowl collection.

Each team consisted of four players, one of whom served as captain. Bowl topics included a wide



variety of questions from academia to sports, books, current and past events and much more. In previous years, teams have included high school and college students in the Baton Rouge area and as far as New Orleans. Dr. Owusu Bandele, Professor Emeritus, Horticulture, has led the event for 21 years.

“It’s all about preparation, an important part of student development in terms of understanding, appreciating, and being inspired by our history throughout the world,” said Dr. Bandele.

The highlight of this competition was a rendition of Langston Hughes’ “Ballad of the Land Lord” by ten-year old Kahlila Bandele.

Southern University Ag Center Holds Beef Showmen Workshop

The Southern University Ag Center’s Livestock Show Program held a ‘Beef Showmen’ workshop for St. Helena 4-H Livestock Exhibitors on Sunday, February 8 in Greensburg, La.

The students received classroom experience and hands-on instruction on how to present their animals and themselves during a livestock show.

“This may be the first time many of these exhibitors participate in a livestock show,” said Christie

Monroe, SU Ag Center Livestock Program Manager. “I encourage the exhibitors to enjoy the moment and to breathe.”

Monroe also discussed what participants need to compete in a livestock show, what to expect during the show and how to show their animals. The exhibitors were also given the opportunity to walk their animals and receive critiques on what they did wrong, as well as participate in a mock show where they were all judged and ranked.

Cattle owners were also provided with tips to make the transition into the show's barn a little easier for their animals. Monroe pointed out that like people, animals can get stressed out. She suggested leaving a light on, placing a radio in the pen and brushing their animals' every



Christie Monroe, left, demonstrates animal stance to youth

day to help reduce the livestock's stress level.

This workshop was arranged by Angela Myles with the LSU AgCenter and Ahmad Robertson with the Southern University Ag Center.

SU Ag Center Co-Hosts Summit on the State of Louisiana Families

The Southern University Ag Center along with PICO Louisiana, the Micah Project and members of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus co-hosted a summit on the "State of Families of Color in Louisiana." The event was held on February 27 at the Southern University Ag Center.

The summit provided a venue for clergy, community organizations, elected officials and academicians to review and explore existing and alternative policy/program options for improving the current plight of families of color in Louisiana. Southern University's School of Public Policy shared the findings from a recently completed study that examined the "Effects of Childhood Obesity and other health related illnesses to mass incarceration."

According to a 2013 report from the U.S. Department of Justice, Louisiana had the highest incarceration rate of any state in the country. A 2014 article in *The Times-Picayune Newspaper* also stated, "Around 847 people per 100,000 Louisiana residents were incarcerated in Louisiana during 2013."

Summit attendees also had an opportunity to learn about some successful programs offered through the Southern University Ag Center. These programs are helping families and children meet and address the challenges encountered in today's society. Members of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus participated and will use the information gathered during the summit to formulate policy legislations. The summit brought together community leaders, clergy and concerned citizens.

The Center for Rural and Small Business Development Attends Strike Force Initiative

The Center for Rural and Small Business Development joined USDA/NRCS "Strike Force" initiative representatives on January 27 to visit St. Helena, Tangipahoa, and Washington Parishes. The "Strike Force" team led by Dexter Snapp was established to inform the more than 54 small

business owners, small truck farmers, gardeners, ranchers, and cattlemen who were eager to hear about the NRCS/Rural Development program benefits available to them. Strike Force agencies included: Natural Resources Conservation Services, Rural Development, Farm Service Agency, and the

Center for Rural and Small Business Development at Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

US Dept. of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack directed the agency to seek out, develop, and assign initiatives for Rural America that are available to rural communities and individuals by merely completing the application process. Over the past five years, the Obama Administration and USDA have worked to foster economic and community development in rural America.

USDA Rural Development State Director, Clearance Hawkins's message also has a mission of improving the quality of life in rural America as good proof that change will eventually come. USDA, Rural Development has made a difference in rural towns and cities throughout Louisiana.

On February 12, Business Development Specialist Eual Hall was invited to represent the Center for Rural and Small Business in another USDA/NRCS Strike Force meeting in Natchitoches, Louisiana where at least 18 potential and existing small business owners, small farmers and gardeners, and others were present.



Dexter Snapp, right, addresses Strike Force attendees

USDA/NRCS Dexter Snapp and other representatives began the meeting by discussing many of the USDA, Rural Development programs and benefits to participants. Strike Force agencies included: Natural Resources Conservation Services, Rural Development, and Farm Service Agency.

The Center for Rural and Small Business Development continues to partner and collaborate with USDA/NRCS in its initiatives to deliver services under Secretary Tom Vilsack to the underserved and disadvantaged rural American citizens.

Ag Center Offers Free Microsoft Office Excel Training in Tallulah

On February 19, 2015 representatives from the SU College of Business, SU Ag Center and the Center for Rural and Small Business Development collaborated to provide free Microsoft Office Excel spreadsheet training to Small Business owners. Record-keeping training services were available to more 16 small business owners and individuals in Tallulah at the LSU/SU Ag Center Parish Office at 114 North



Dr. Brown assists Excel trainees

Cedar St. Participants learned how to use excel spreadsheets to track their monthly income and expenses, perform simple record-keeping tasks, develop cash flow and profit and loss statements, develop formulas, and data entry. SU Ag Center's Dr. Adell Brown, Exec. Vice Chancellor and vice chancellor for Research

assisted participants in performing appropriate steps navigate through the excel spreadsheets.

Also assisting participants perform basic functions were Business Development Specialist, Eual Hall, and Christopher Rogers, Director of Technology.

Staff from the SU College of Business answered questions about the future training of Excel, Entrepreneurship, Quick Books, Target Markets,

Contract Procurement, Supply Chain Management, and Project Management.

The city of Tallulah, LA has more than its share of less than desirable economic problems. The outcome of the first Microsoft Office Excel training class was important to the participants. It reduced some of the fears and intimidations about spreadsheet, and gathering and inputting data that can be used to make financial decisions that affect the livelihood of a family or business.

Orleans Parish Provides 4-H Cloverbuds Program

The Cloverbuds program was conducted by Krystal Sugulleh, Asst. Area Agent, at Craig Elementary in New Orleans, with two 3rd grade classes. The program was a six-month enrichment program.

Students participated in Character Education activities, Bullying prevention activities, and National 4-H week. The 45 youth participant s also gave examples of the Six Pillars of Character while engaging in public speaking activities. The Cloverbuds kids chose leaders of their club for each class. Students portrayed leadership skills by calling to

order each Cloverbud meeting. The last activity was a Mardi Gras 4-H Mask Contest. There were 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners from each class. The first

place winners each received a prize, taking home SU Ag Center bags, Frisbees, and notebooks.

The primary goal of the 4-H Cloverbuds program is to promote children's healthy development—

mentally, physically, socially, and emotionally. The program provides an excellent opportunity for children to reach their highest potential because early life experiences affect future development. The Cloverbuds program is developmentally age-

appropriate, allowing for, and encouraging creativity and play.



Youth enjoying Mardi Gras Mask Contest

Ag Center Faculty Participate in LEAD21

Dr. Kenyetta Smith, Extension Specialist/Community and Economic Development; Dr. Renita Marshall, Associate Professor, Animal Science; and Dr. Andra Johnson, Associate Professor, Urban Forestry, attended the final session

of USDA LEAD21 in Washington DC February 22-27. This included the culminating activity for the nine-month commitment to learning to become stronger leaders in land-grant institutions and receiving a completion certificate on the last day.

LEAD21 is a National Leadership Program for the Land-grant System intended to meet the future needs for leadership development of faculty, specialists, program and team leaders, research station and center directors, district and regional directors, department heads and chairs, and others in land grant universities' colleges of agricultural,

environmental, and human sciences and USDA/NIFA.

The primary purpose of LEAD21 is to develop leaders in land-grant institutions and their strategic partners who link research, academics, and extension in order to lead more effectively in an increasingly complex environment, either in their current position or as they aspire to other positions.

SU Ag Center Introduces Micro Greens to Lab School

The “Eradicating Food Deserts through School Gardens” project funded by USDA/NIFA at Southern University Ag Center has enabled Extension Associate Stephanie Elwood to teach weekly environmental stewardship and empowerment classes at three local schools. Each school has a garden on its campus and the garden is the main focus of the lessons. At the Southern University Laboratory School, Mrs. Carter-Robinsons’ 7th grade class has been selected to complete this program. The 7th grade class started their micro-

greens two weeks prior to the date they would be able to actually consume them in the classroom.

The micro-greens included, sugar snap pea shoots

and a braising greens mix (mustard greens, red mustard, pac choi etc.). Students made fresh salads out of cucumber and carrots and garnished the salads with their elegant micro-greens. The micro-greens teach the students that healthy foods can be grown anywhere and in a quick, fun way. For more information contact Program Coordinator Tiffany Franklin at

225-771-2775 or tiffany_franklin@suagcenter.com



Research Scientist Presents at GAP Workshop

Dr. Fatemeh Malekian, professor of Food Science and Nutrition at the SU Ag Center, taught the Worker Health, Hygiene and Sanitary Facilities section of the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Workshop. During the week of February 10-13, fresh produce growers learned ways to reduce food safety risks on their farms at a series of workshops held in several Louisiana parishes by the LSU AgCenter. The GAP and Good Handling practices workshops consisted of 5

sections: Regulatory perspectives on GAP and audit from an auditor's eye, Water use, Manure Management, harvesting, storage, transportation and animal control, and the Worker Health, Hygiene and Sanitary Facilities.

Malekian addressed different types of hazards, and ways to eliminate or reduce them, as well as existing state and federal regulations and the agencies available to farmers along with their contact information. Some of the agencies were Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) title 21, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), etc. Employee safety and food borne illnesses were discussed in detail relative to proper hand-washing, sanitary conditions in the bathroom and toilet facilities, portable bathrooms, sewage disposal and proper methods of training workers. The lesson ended with a demonstration of the hand-washing practices training method. Participants were divided into two groups for the practical session, with a portable hand washing station in place. One group washed their hands properly for at least 20 seconds, and the other group washed their hands as

they wash every day. Both groups used a glow germ chemical on their hands and viewed their hands under a light projected on the wall to see where the germs were located before washing. After washing, they looked at their hands under the light again to see how proper hand washing decreases the amount of germs. The outcome was that the group that washed their hands for at least 20 seconds had a reduced amount of germ count than the other group. There were a lot of interest and amazement after this exercise.



Dr. Malekian, left, demonstrates hand-washing

This workshop series were organized by Dr. Achyut Adhikari, Assistant Professor-Extension Food Safety Specialist, LSU AgCenter, for farmers to establish their future GAP program certification. Adhikari said 48 million or one in six Americans get sick from foodborne illnesses every year.

“A huge thank you for all your help and support for the GAPs workshops. I really appreciate all of the hard work you all put into making it such a success. The feedback we received from attendees was extremely positive. Together we have served more than 100 producers, growers and extension agents around Louisiana,” said Dr. Adhikari.

The following are some links to the news that covered the workshops:

http://www.lsuagcenter.com/news_archive/2015/February/headline_news/Fresh-produce-safety-featured-at-AgCenter-workshops.htm

<http://www.arklatexhomepage.com/story/d/story/ag-center-workshops-feature-fresh-produce-safety/19569/XCm4PBx27U-W5z5SLBRtwQ>

<http://www.myarklamiss.com/story/d/story/fresh-produce-safety-featured-at-agcenter-workshop/27520/aMdJYEHPcE2eSgtwdM0JQA>

Also, Dr. Malekian and Dr. Adhikari will collaborate with the LSU AgCenter and others in an externally funded grant project.

“Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Louisiana Farm Bureau,

Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry DHH, Produce Safety Alliance, LA Fruits and Vegetable Growers Association and Louisiana Pecan Growers are collaborators and Dr. Achyut Adhikari as project director,” Malekian said.

SU Ag Center Hosts “Growing Farm Profits” Workshop for Farmers

The Southern University Ag Center’s Agricultural and Natural Resources Programs offered an intensive, two-day training session Feb. 23 and Feb. 24. The workshop, “Growing Farm Profits,” was geared toward diversifying horticultural producers by helping farmers make smarter decisions to improve their profits.



Ms. Polishuk presenting information to participants

Ellen Polishuk and Jim Munsch, outstanding farmers with decades of experience, walked farmers through the steps for improving farm profits by providing real-farm examples to ensure farmers go home with a clear understanding of recordkeeping and practical solutions to help increase their profits.

The sessions consisted of: Managing your farm as a business; Using the Veggie Compass: A whole farm profit management tool; Using individual crop budgets; Budgeting for machinery/equipment; Discovering prices, setting prices, and managing labor costs.

This training attracted more than 30 participants to the SU Ag Center and each participant received farmer-friendly resource tools.

The workshop was organized by Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin, Agriculture Specialist and Zanetta Augustine,

Extension Associate. This course was offered with funding from the USDA Southern Risk Management in partnership with the SU Ag Center ANR Programs and the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (SSAWG).

SU Ag Center Produces 2014 National 4-H Youth Science Day Video

A video of the Southern University Ag Center's 2014 National 4-H Youth Science Day has been posted to the Center's [YouTube](#) page. The video documents the events which took place on October 8, 2014 in the Southern University Seymour Gym. Nearly 100 students in 5th-9th grades from Southern University Laboratory and Park

Ridge Magnet Schools demonstrate the aerodynamic design of their self-propelled rockets.

The theme for the event was “Rockets to the Rescue,” and the experiment challenged youth to use aerospace engineering to design a rocket that could deliver food to victims of a natural disaster.

Students also donated non-perishable food items to the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank as part of their experiment. Click [here](#) to view.

Faculty and Staff Accomplishments and Activities

Patricia Lee, Assistant Area Agent, Desoto & Caddo parishes, conducted a workshop entitled “Can You Repeat that Please?” Approximately 30 seniors from the Council on Aging in Caddo Parish attended the workshop and gained knowledge on the importance of keeping a Journal of their personal health history. The purpose of such recordkeeping is to make information available for use in case of emergency room visits, travel out of town or emergency evacuation. Each senior received a personalized journal to place information and share with family members. The Workshop took place at the Martin Luther King Center in Caddo Parish on February 6.



Ms. Lee interacts with participants

Eual Hall, Business Development Specialist, on January 21 directed Ms. Lucy Smith on how to complete the process of starting a non-profit organization, and other requirements for moving the business to a successful pathway step by step. Ms. Smith has completed all registration forms, developed a board that is functional in managing the business and hired staff personnel.



Mr. Hall assists client, one-on-one

Upcoming Events

April 9: Annual Procurement conference, Southern University Smith Brown Memorial Union, on the Baton Rouge campus. Contact Gloria London at 225-771-2242.

April 18: Small Ruminant Field Day at the Maurice A. Edmonds Livestock Arena in Baker. Contact: Sebhatu Gebrelul at (225) 771-3841, sebhatu_gebrelul@suagcenter.com; or James Miller (225) 578-9652, jmille1@lsu.edu