



United States Department of Agriculture

Louisiana's Conservation Update

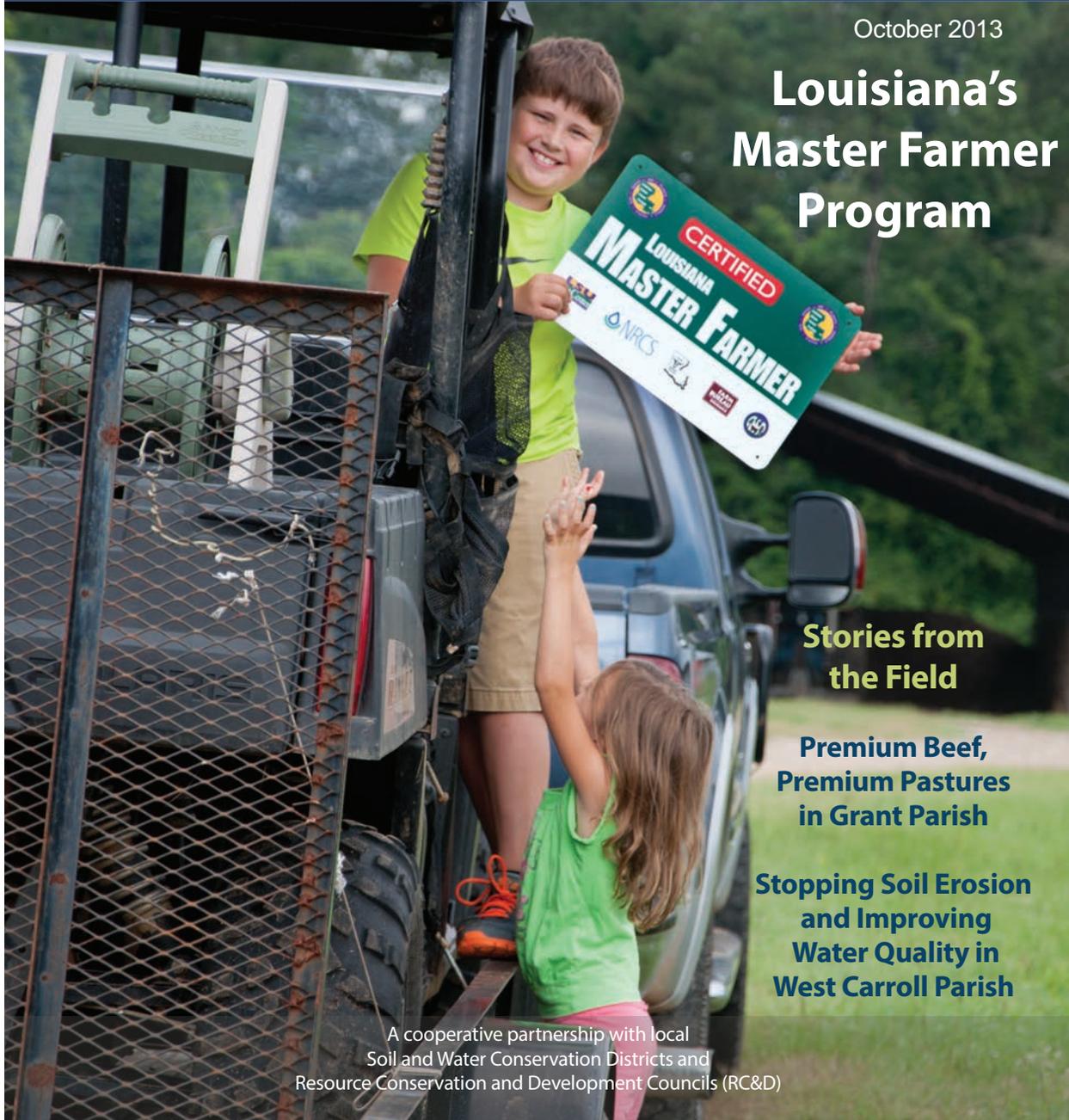
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Helping People Help the Land

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October 2013

Louisiana's Master Farmer Program



Stories from the Field

Premium Beef, Premium Pastures in Grant Parish

Stopping Soil Erosion and Improving Water Quality in West Carroll Parish

A cooperative partnership with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC&D)

Projects · Successes · Partnerships



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Call us with your questions

Visit a Master Farmer’s farm with your smartphone . . .



This is a QR Code. Download a free QR Code reader for your smartphone, then use your phone’s camera to read the QR Code. Scanning this QR Code will take you to a video featuring Louisiana’s Master Farmers.

Or go to . . .

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OEVIjk3sJlA&feature=c4-overview&list=UUFpKluXMNQgWp-lq73opU0A>

to view the video.

Follow us on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/LouisianaNRCS>

Follow us on Twitter: http://twitter.com/NRCS_Louisiana

On the Cover



Seth and Briley Peterson celebrate their dad’s certification as a Louisiana Master Farmer.

Below: NRCS District Conservationist Brian Wade presents Louisiana Master Farmer sign and certificate to poultry producer Joshua Peterson—with Briley and Seth Peterson. To find out more about Louisiana’s Master Farmer Program, see pages 4 and 5.



The Conservation Update is distributed monthly by mail and e-mail.

If you would like to receive monthly issues of the Conservation Update, please send your mailing address or e-mail address to:

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Notes from the State Conservationist



With the world's population growing by leaps and bounds, it becomes more and more important to protect and conserve the natural resources of our nation's farms and ranches. A group of Louisiana farmers—the Louisiana Master Farmers—are taking aggressive steps to make this happen. These farmers voluntarily elected to participate in a three-phase program to learn about resource concerns, tap into the knowledge of other farmers, and develop and implement farm-specific conservation plans on their farms. These farmers explored nutrient application, pesticide application, crop rotation, soil erosion, pasture health, wildlife habitat development, irrigation water use, stocking densities, cultural resources, and more with top researchers and educators with the LSU AgCenter and professional conservationists

with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Then, using what they learned, they worked with NRCS to develop and implement conservation plans on their farms.

The results? Louisiana's Master Farmers are more aware of what it takes to make their farms sustainable, and they are more aware of what it takes to make their farms profitable. They are using precision agriculture to control the application of nutrients, grassed waterways and field borders to filter nutrients and sediment, heavy use area protection pads to improve water quality, precision land forming to reduce erosion, crop rotation to improve soil health, and much more.

If you are interested in becoming a Master Farmer or developing a conservation plan for your farm, contact our offices.

Sarah Haymaker
State Conservationist
Louisiana



State Conservationist Kevin Norton is on detail assignment to Washington, DC, to work on Senator Debbie Stabenow's staff to help draft the language of our nation's next Farm Bill. Sarah Haymaker is serving as State Conservationist until Kevin Norton's return.

A directory of our offices is included on the last page of this publication.



Farms by Type of Organization in Louisiana

25,716 Family or Individual Farms - **4,999,169** Acres

2,395 Partnership Farms - **1,636,954** Acres

1,775 Corporation Farms - **1,301,347** Acres

220 Other Farms (cooperative, trust, institutional) - **172,505** Acres

From: 2007 Census of Agriculture, USDA
National Agricultural Statistics Service



Louisiana's Master Farmer Program

Who are Louisiana's Master Farmers?



She raises chickens. He produces cotton. She produces satsumas. He raises cattle. He produces sugar cane. She produces soybeans. He produces rice. She produces corn. She helped clear the land. He grew up on his farm. His grandfather was a conservationist. She is up before the chickens. He is harvesting into the night. He lives in your community. She goes to your church. Her children know your children. He helped you harvest your crop. She is your neighbor. He is your friend.

If you are interested in learning more about Louisiana's Master Farmer Program, contact your local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Office (see back page of this publication); Dr. Ernest Girouard, LSU AgCenter Louisiana Master Farmer Program Coordinator, (337) 788-7547; Donna S. Morgan, LSU AgCenter Assistant Area Agent, (318) 473-6521; or James Hendrix LSU AgCenter Associate Area Agent, (318) 766-3320.

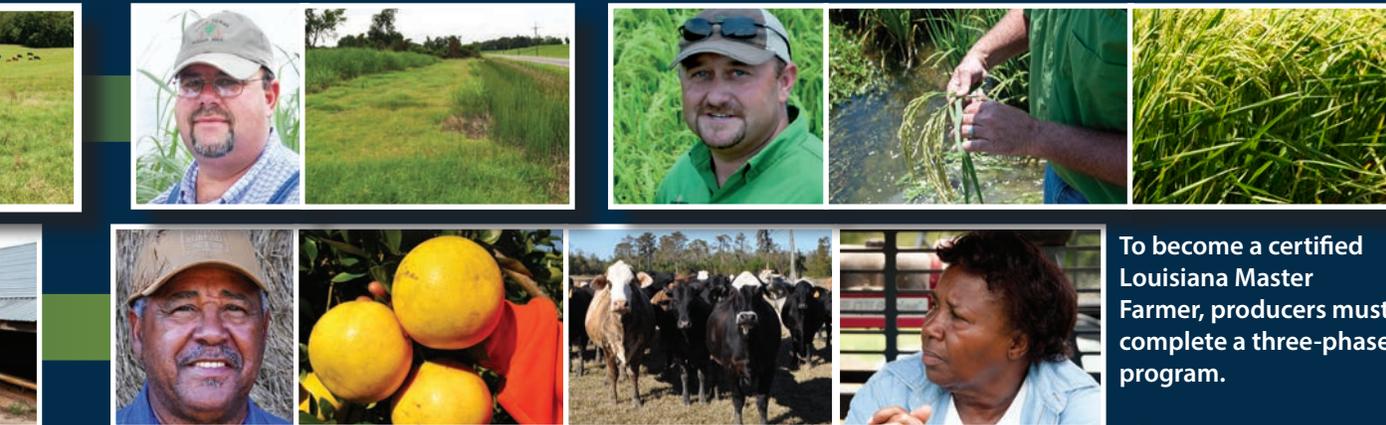


What makes these farmers "Master Farmers?" They are forward-thinking conservationists who recognize that farming is more than just making a crop. It is caring for the land and improving farm operations by using farming techniques that protect the natural resources on their farm—and in your community.

They completed the classroom, demonstration farm, and conservation planning/implementation phases of the Louisiana Master Farmer Program.

And the Louisiana Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry certified them as Louisiana Master Farmers.

Why is this important? It is predicted that by the year 2050, global population will reach 9 billion worldwide. Today, world population is 7.1 billion people. In the next 36 years, agriculture production will have to meet the food and fiber needs of over 2 billion additional people.



To become a certified Louisiana Master Farmer, producers must complete a three-phase program.

Phase I: Awareness

Classroom instruction on environmental stewardship. Topics include the Clean Water Act, national and state water quality standards, best management practices, conservation programs, and spill prevention control and counter measures.

Phase II: Demonstration

Conservation-based field day where specific best management practices are demonstrated and discussed. These field days may include pasture walks, soil quality workshops, or other commodity-specific demonstrations.

Phase III: Implementation

Farm-specific Resource Management System level conservation plan. Prospective Master Farmers work with their local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to develop and implement a plan to address resource concerns on their farm.



The Louisiana Master Farmer Program began in 2001 as a way for farmers to learn up-to-date, research-based conservation practices in a comprehensive manner. It is a partnership of five agricultural entities – the LSU AgCenter, Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, Louisiana Cattlemen’s Association, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF), which has the authority by law through the Commissioner of Agriculture to approve the certification.



Once a farmer is certified by Louisiana’s Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry as a Louisiana Master Farmer, that farmer is recognized as a premier steward of the land, a leader in the farming community, a conservationist, and a credible source of information for other farmers. A certified Master

Farmer is presumed to be in compliance with environmental standards by regulatory agencies and receives priority points for Environmental Quality Incentives Program funding when applying for funding to install additional conservation practices.

Louisiana’s Master Farmers are voluntarily addressing natural resource challenges on their farms by implementing conservation systems to protect farm resources and ensure natural resource and production sustainability.

Louisiana’s Master Farmers Conservationists

Around the State

Sep 27

National Hunting and Fishing Day:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) participated in National Hunting and Fishing Day at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Woodworth Outdoor Education Center on Saturday, September 27, 2013. Over 2,600 people attended the event this year. Visitors to the NRCS booth learned about wetlands and some of the animals found in the wetlands.

Oct 2

FFA Area III Forestry Career Development Event:

The Evangeline Soil and Water Conservation District hosted the FFA Area III Forestry Career Development Event on October 2, 2013. Twenty-one teams from 13 schools participated this year. This year's winners were Kinder High School Blue, 1st Place; Fairview High School Blue, 2nd Place; Elizabeth High School Blue, 3rd Place; Mamou High School Gold, 4th Place; and Fairview High School Gold, 5th Place.

Oct 10

Invitational FFA Land Judging Career Development Event:

The Acadiana Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council, Louisiana's Area IV Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL) hosted an Invitational FFA Land Judging Career Development Event at the ULL Cade Farm on October 10, 2013. Participating this year were 123 students from 17 schools. This year's winners were Springfield High School, 1st Place; Crowley High School, 2nd Place; and Assumption High School, 3rd Place.

Premium Pastures, Premium Beef In Grant Parish

Grass-fed beef is a specialty market for beef where the cows are raised and fed primarily on grass and not grain. This specialty market brings a premium, but the cows require more forage and an intense grazing system. John Butterfield has a grass-fed beef operation in Grant Parish, but he recognized his operation had a lot of room for improvement.

In order to completely raise cattle to butchering size, he needed smaller pastures so he could better manage what and when the cattle ate. Subdividing his large pastures into smaller pastures led to the need for water in each pasture and a way to prevent mud holes and erosion in the areas that would be used intensely by the cows.



Working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Mr. Butterfield developed a plan for an entire rotational grazing system. NRCS designed fences, watering facilities, heavy use area protection, and pipelines as well as developed a prescription for planting legumes.



After three years of planning and implementation, Mr. Butterfield now has a farm that he intensely grazes to produce the highest quantity and quality of grass-fed beef for his acreage—while protecting and improving the farm's natural resources.

Submitted by: Dana Shuff, NRCS District Conservationist, Colfax Field Office

Helping People Help the Land

Stories from the Field

Stopping Soil Erosion and Improving Water Quality in West Carroll Parish

Charles Edgar Raymond runs cattle on approximately 580 acres of Riverosa Farm in West Carroll Parish. He had some major gully erosion occurring in one of his fields that borders the Boeuf River. Sediment was leaving this field and depositing into the Boeuf River causing major soil erosion and decreasing water quality. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) spoke with Mr. Raymond about the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and explained how NRCS could provide financial and technical assistance to help him address his resource concerns. After discussing alternatives with NRCS, Riverosa Farms elected to install a grade stabilization structure to address their resource concerns.

The grade stabilization structure was installed to NRCS standards and specifications, and it has greatly reduced the gully erosion that occurred in Mr. Raymond's fields and improved water quality in the Boeuf River.



Since the installation of the grade stabilization structure, Riverosa Farm has continued to participate in EQIP to address farm resource concerns. Mr. Raymond installed conservation practices to improve animal health by interseeding white clover and planting hybrid Bermuda grass into his pastures. The white clover was also planted to establish cool season forages and improve plant diversity.

In addition, Mr. Raymond is planning to install heavy use area protection pads to improve animal health and reduce soil erosion.



Submitted by: Jody P. Frederick, NRCS District Conservationist, Oak Grove Field Office

Upcoming Events

Nov 1–Dec 2 NRCS Summer Intern Vacancy Announcement Opens Nov 1

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Louisiana will advertise Summer 2014 student vacancies November 1–December 2, 2013, on usajobs.gov. To be eligible, students must have completed

their freshman year of college by the summer of 2014. Preferred fields of study include: agronomy, engineering, soil science, plant science, and biological science. To apply, go to usajobs.gov, click on "Students and Recent Graduates," then click on "Find Internships." Once that page opens, it will show federal government internship vacancies from across the country. On the left side of your screen the search can be refined to show only

NRCS student vacancies. Scroll through them until you find the vacancy announcements for the student positions in Louisiana.





Contact Our Offices

Visit our web site at:
www.la.nrcs.usda.gov

Parish	Field Office	Soil and Water Conservation District	Address	Telephone
Acadia	Crowley	Acadia SWCD	157 Cherokee Drive, Suite C, Crowley, LA 70526	(337) 783-5823, ext. 3
Allen	Oberlin	Allen SWCD	309 North 1st Street, Suite 1, Oberlin, LA 70655	(337) 639-4850, ext. 3
Ascension	Donaldsonville	Lower Delta SWCD and New River SWCD	2438 Highway 1 South, Donaldsonville, LA 70346	(225) 473-7638, ext. 3
Assumption	Donaldsonville	Lower Delta SWCD	2438 Highway 1 South, Donaldsonville, LA 70346	(225) 473-7638, ext. 3
Avoyelles	Marksville	Avoyelles SWCD	629 Tunica Drive West, Marksville, LA 71351	(318) 253-9445, ext. 3
Beauregard	DeRidder	Calcasieu SWCD	597 Mahlon Street, Suite B, DeRidder, LA 70634	(337) 463-8555, ext. 3
Bienville	Minden	Saline SWCD	216B Broadway, Minden, LA 71055	(318) 377-3950, ext. 3
Bossier	Benton	Bodcau SWCD	200 Burt Boulevard, Suite 101, Benton, LA 71006-4901	(318) 965-2185, ext. 3
Caddo	Shreveport	Caddo SWCD	1402 Hawn Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71107	(318) 676-3461, ext. 3
Calcasieu	Lake Charles	Gulf Coast SWCD	5417 Gerstner Memorial Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70601	(337) 474-1583, ext. 3
Caldwell	Columbia	Boeuf and Dugdemona SWCD	7128 Highway 165 South, Suite 2, Columbia, LA 71418	(318) 649-2651, ext. 3
Cameron	Lake Charles	Gulf Coast SWCD	5417 Gerstner Memorial Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70601	(337) 474-1583, ext. 3
Catahoula	Jonesville	Catahoula SWCD	3545 4th Street, Jonesville, LA 71343	(318) 339-4239, ext. 3
Claiborne	Minden	D'Arbonne SWCD	216B Broadway, Minden, LA 71055	(318) 377-3950, ext. 3
Concordia	Ferriday	Tensas-Concordia SWCD	8331 Highway 84, Ferriday, LA 71334	(318) 757-2455, ext. 3
DeSoto	Mansfield	DeSoto SWCD	211 Washington Avenue, Mansfield, LA 71052	(318) 872-4949, ext. 3
East Baton Rouge	Denham Springs	Capital SWCD	907 Florida Boulevard, SW, Denham Springs, LA 70726	(225) 664-1430, ext. 3
East Carroll	Lake Providence	East Carroll SWCD	406 Lake Street, Suite C, Lake Providence, LA 71254	(318) 559-2604, ext. 3
East Feliciana	Clinton	Feliciana SWCD	9752 Plank Road South, Clinton, LA 70722	(225) 683-5496, ext. 3
Evangeline	Ville Platte	Evangeline SWCD	205 Court Street, Ville Platte, LA 70586	(337) 363-6602, ext. 3
Franklin	Winnsboro	Northeast SWCD	616 Riser Road, Winnsboro, LA 71295	(318) 435-6743, ext. 3
Grant	Colfax	Grant SWCD	510 Main Street, Colfax, LA 71417	(318) 627-9903, ext. 3
Iberia	New Iberia	Iberia SWCD	2617 Northside Road, Suite 600, New Iberia, LA 70563	(337) 369-6623, ext. 3
Iberville	Addis	Lower Delta SWCD	7747 Highway 1 South, Addis, LA 70710	(225) 687-2184, ext. 3
Jackson	Ruston	Dugdemona SWCD	1412 Celebrity Drive, Ruston, LA 71270	(318) 255-3136, ext. 3
Jefferson	New Orleans	Crescent SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
Jefferson Davis	Jennings	Jefferson Davis SWCD	2003 Port Drive, Jennings, LA 70546	(337) 824-0975, ext. 3
Lafayette	Lafayette	Lafayette SWCD	905 Jefferson Street, Suite 310, Lafayette, LA 70501-7913	(337) 262-6601, ext. 3
Lafourche	Thibodaux	Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD	143 Laura Drive, Thibodaux, LA 70301	(985) 447-3871, ext. 3
LaSalle	Jonesville	LaSalle SWCD	3545 4th Street, Jonesville, LA 71343	(318) 339-4239, ext. 3
Lincoln	Ruston	D'Arbonne SWCD	1412 Celebrity Drive, Ruston, LA 71270	(318) 255-3136, ext. 3
Livingston	Denham Springs	Capital SWCD	907 Florida Boulevard, SW, Denham Springs, LA 70726	(225) 664-1430, ext. 3
Madison	Tallulah	Madison SWCD	1900 Crothers Drive, Tallulah, LA 71282	(318) 574-4158, ext. 3
Morehouse	Bastrop	Morehouse SWCD	9604 Marlatt Street, Bastrop, LA 71220	(318) 283-7626, ext. 3
Natchitoches	Natchitoches	Natchitoches SWCD	6949 Louisiana Highway 1 Bypass, Natchitoches, LA 71457	(318) 357-8366, ext. 3
Orleans	New Orleans	Crescent SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
Quachita	Monroe	D'Arbonne/Boeuf River SWCD	2410 Old Sterling Road, Suite B, Monroe, LA 71203-2668	(318) 343-4467, ext. 3
Plaquemines	New Orleans	Plaquemines SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
Pointe Coupee	New Roads	Upper Delta SWCD	180 East Main Street, New Roads, LA 70760	(225) 638-7746, ext. 3
Rapides	Alexandria	Rapides SWCD	3734 Government Street, Building C, Alexandria, LA 71303	(318) 473-7856, ext. 3
Red River	Coushatta	Red River SWCD	1311 Ringgold Avenue, Coushatta, LA 71019	(318) 932-4352, ext. 3
Richland	Rayville	Boeuf River SWCD	141 Industrial Loop, Rayville, LA 71269	(318) 728-4451, ext. 3
Sabine	Many	Sabine SWCD	570 Highway 171 By Pass, Many, LA 71449	(318) 256-3491
St. Bernard	New Orleans	Crescent SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
St. Charles	New Orleans	Crescent SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
St. Helena	Amite	Tangipahoa-St. Helena SWCD	805 West Oak Street, Suite 1, Amite, LA 70422-2820	(985) 748-8751, ext. 3
St. James	Donaldsonville	Lower Delta SWCD and New River SWCD	2438 Highway 1 South, Donaldsonville, LA 70346	(225) 473-7638, ext. 3
St. John	New Orleans	Crescent SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
St. Landry	Opelousas	St. Landry SWCD	5832 I-49 North Service Road, Opelousas, LA 70570	(337) 942-2530, ext. 3
St. Martin	Lafayette	St. Martin SWCD	905 Jefferson Street, Suite 310, Lafayette, LA 70501-7913	(337) 262-6601, ext. 3
St. Mary	Franklin	St. Mary SWCD	500 Main Street, Franklin, LA 70538	(337) 828-1461, ext. 3
St. Tammany	Franklinton	Bogue Chitto-Pearl River SWCD	1111 Washington Street, Franklinton, LA 70438	(985) 839-5688, ext. 3
Tangipahoa	Amite	Tangipahoa-St. Helena SWCD	805 West Oak Street, Suite 1, Amite, LA 70422-2820	(985) 748-8751, ext. 3
Tensas	St. Joseph	Tensas-Concordia SWCD	1223 Plank Road, St. Joseph, LA 71366	(318) 766-3502, ext. 3
Terrebonne	Thibodaux	Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD	143 Laura Drive, Thibodaux, LA 70301	(985) 447-3871, ext. 3
Union	Farmerville	D'Arbonne SWCD	501 Glory Road, Farmerville, LA 71241	(318) 368-8021
Vermilion	Abbeville	Vermilion SWCD	3221 Veterans Memorial Drive, Suite H, Abbeville, LA 70510	(337) 893-5664, ext. 3
Vernon	Leesville	Calcasieu SWCD	205 North 5th Street, Leesville, LA 71446	(337) 239-2193
Washington	Franklinton	Bogue Chitto-Pearl River SWCD	1111 Washington Street, Franklinton, LA 70438	(985) 839-5688, ext. 3
Webster	Minden	Dorcheat SWCD	216B Broadway, Minden, LA 71055	(318) 377-3950, ext. 3
West Baton Rouge	Addis	Upper Delta SWCD	7747 Highway 1, South, Addis, LA 70710	(225) 687-2184, ext. 3
West Carroll	Oak Grove	West Carroll SWCD	208 South Constitution Street, Oak Grove, LA 71263	(318) 428-9303, ext. 3
West Feliciana	Clinton	Feliciana SWCD	9752 Plank Road South, Clinton, LA 70722	(225) 683-5496, ext. 3
Winn	Natchitoches	Dugdemona SWCD	6949 Louisiana Highway 1 Bypass, Natchitoches, LA 71457	(318) 357-8366, ext. 3

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