

Newsletter

P.O. Box 1574 Winnsboro, LA 71295 Phone: (318) 435-4488

November 2020





BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

Louisiana Delta Community College

THERE IS
ALWAYS
SOMETHING
TO BE
thankful FOR.

Business of the Month

Louisiana Delta Community College in Winnsboro is committed to providing opportunities for individuals to reach their personal goals, provide a skilled workforce for employers, and be an economic driver for the community. The campus provides access to associates degrees, technical diplomas, certificates, and high school equivalency. Courses are provided in person, online, or in hybrid formats. Some of the programs offered are: Louisiana Transfer Degree, General Studies Associates Degree, LPN to RN Bridge, LPN, Patient Care Tech, Nurse Assistant, and Welding. The campus looks forward to adding a few new programs in 2021.



Pick a Day & Pick Up a Free Gift!

THURSDAY

MONDAY November Oth

TUESDAY November

Novembe

SHOP LOCAL. EAT LOCAL. SPEND LOCAL. ENJOY LOCAL.

SUPPORT THE LOCAL BUSINESSES WHERE YOU LIVE, WORK, & PLAY.

Welcome to our new members!!

- •Southern Glam Boutique
 - Every Occasion
 - Mustang Lucy Cafe
- •Blue Tin Bay Clothing Co.









WFPChamberof Commerce 2020ChristmasParade

*WE ASK THAT YOU PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING.

*WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO WEAR A MASK

*WE ASK THAT YOU WATCH THE PARADE/FIREWORKS FROM YOUR VEHICLE, IF POSSIBLE.



DECEMBER

4TH

7:00 PM

Writing contest winners announced

The Franklin Sun teamed up with Winnsboro-Franklin Chamber of Commerce for a Farmer's Appreciation Writer's Contest. Eighth graders in Franklin Parish Schools were asked to write a 500-750 word essay about: "Why Farming Is Important To

Franklin Parish."

Winners of the essay contest were: first place - Jeffery Slade Hughes of Family Community Christian School; second place - Thatcher Peoples of Fort Necessity School; third place - Ava McManus of Gilbert School.

Winners received \$50 for first place, \$30 for second place and \$20 for third place and their story published in *The Franklin Sun*.

First place: Farmers are vital to our parish

By Jeffery Slade Eighth Grade Family Community Christian School

Farming is important to the local economy in Franklin Parish because we have many familyowned farms. When we buy local, we support these families, and they supply us with the things we need. Farmers grow the food we eat, cotton for our clothes, and timber for our houses. As they grow their crops and livestock, farmers are also taking care of natural resources on their farm such as soil, water and trees. The healthier their farms are, the better their crops and livestock will grow. As a result, their products will be better for us to buy. Farming also provides many jobs to local families. Because these jobs

are local, these people can be home with their families instead of working away from home. The jobs that they provide range from the actual farming, to processing, to transportation. There is also the farming equipment side of agriculture, such as buying and selling new and used tractors, or providing feed, supplies, and other equipment. Farming is a great way to make money in our parish. The harvesting of crop and animal enterprises help the farmer make money. Farmers are some of the most important people in our parish.

There are a variety of crops in Franklin Parish including corn, cotton, grain, rice and soybeans. Our parish also has catfish, cattle, horses and sweet potatoes. Farming is not only growing food for people and raising animals, but also it is growing other things such as flowers and nursery plants. There are plant nurseries in our parish that we benefit from. They grow flowers, tomato plants, and other vegetation for planting. Again, these are ways that we can buy locally.

In 2018, Franklin Parish was ranked ninth in Louisiana for gross farm value. The parish's major plant industry is field corn. There are 92 corn producers in Franklin Parish, planting about 72,000 acres of corn. The gross farm value is \$14,009,454. Feed grain farm value including corn, grain, and oats had a gross farm value of \$53,311,839. Corn, cotton, soybean, rice, and sweet potato farms make up most of the acres planted in the parish.

Franklin Parish also has a large animal enterprise including horses, cattle and believe it or not, deer and antelope farms. The total dollar amount for animal enterprise was around \$12,912,594. The major animal enterprise for Franklin Parish is cattle. Cattle and calves have a gross farm value of about \$7,849,152. Dairy cows have a gross farm value of about \$4,020,000. Deer and antelope have a gross farm value of about \$2,400.

Cotton and forest are two other important enterprises that our parish relies on. Cotton lint and seed have a gross farm value of about \$22,056,827. Forestry, including pine, hardwood, chip and saw timber have a gross farm value of about \$17,056,506.

Franklin Parish also has a aquaculture in the form of catfish and minnow farms. Each farm has 50 acres. Catfish farms provide about 250,000 pounds of fish at a value of \$337,500 and minnow farms provide about 17,500 pounds of minnows at a value of \$52,500. This is a total of \$390,000 into our local economy.

The total amount of money that farming brings to Franklin Parish's economy (2018) \$155,173,229. This amount of money is a tremendous impact to our economy. Add to that the amount of laborers and other agricultural workers associated with agriculture in any way and their salaries, and more money is poured into the economy. Some of the workers associated with the farming industry are LSU Ag

Center and Experiment Station employees, 4-H leaders, private pesticide workers and trainers and annual Sheriff's Safety Day personnel.

In conclusion, farmers are people who go beyond the call of duty to deliver their crops. They work hard never knowing what their year will bring, or what the weather conditions may be. The crops may get too much rain or not enough rain and the crops will have to be constantly checked on for insects and pests They put their heart and soul into their crops. A farmer doesn't need big trophies for his hard work. They only need the things required to grow crops: fertilizers seeds, and equipment to plant and harvest the crops. Farmers are vital to our parish.

Second place: Farmers are happy, humble, kind

By Thatcher Peoples Eight Grader Fort Necessity School

Farming is important to Franklin Parish for many reasons. It provides jobs. Farming brings money into the community. Some families have been farming for generations. While farming may not be important in many places, in Franklin Parish it is a part of life. Farming is more than just tractors and fields. It is important in ways we don't usually think about.

Franklin Parish was founded in 1843 (LSU AgCenter). It is located in northeast Louisiana. We are a small community. Every year in April we have a festival, The Catfish Festival. Catfish is one of the many things that we farm. Haring Catfish is in Wisner, Louisiana and their catfish is shipped all over the United States. The Haring's have raised catfish in Franklin Parish for three generations. If you look at all the catfish ponds on Google Maps, they look like clusters of tiny lakes.

Catfish is not the only thing raised in Franklin Parish. Farmers also raise crops like corn, soybeans, cotton, and hay. The soil here is very rich because we live in the Delta. This make growing these crops very easy. Sediments from iver floods is what makes the soil rich. We also have weather that helps farmers. We have long growing seasons and short winters. Soil and weather aren't the only things needed to grow good crops, it also takes hard work.

Farming provides many jobs for Franklin Parish. The farmer is responsible for buying seeds, buying fuel, selling his crops, buying fertilizer, buying herbicide, buying pesticide, and farming equipment. Other jobs on the farm include seasonal workers, welders, mechanics,

truck drivers, and equipment operators. Many businesses also depend on these local farms. The cotton gins process the cotton to get the lint and the seeds. The lint is processed and sent to textile mills. The seed are processed and used for cattle feed. Corn is harvested and stored at the grain elevators. It is then sent out with trucks and barges. With all of these jobs and local employees, the money tends to stay in the parish.

Winnsboro State Bank, Franklin State Bank, Caldwell Bank and Trust, First South Farm Credit and several other banks finance the local farms every year. Banking jobs include tellers, loan officers, and document processors. Farming affects every business in Franklin Parish in some way. From the grocery store cashiers to the bank presidents, they all depend on the farmers.

The farmers of Franklin Parish have so many people that depend on them. It must be very stressful to take care of an entire community. They give of themselves for others. The farmers work long hours all year long and, even though they are tired, they always

smile and they're always humble. They deserve credit for doing so much more than just farming.

Farming is a part of all our lives here in Franklin Parish. You don't have to be in the farming business to be affected by it. Every job and every business here is touched by farming in some way. Family farms get passed down and the tradition continues. The crop may change each year, but the farmer stays the same. Happy, humble and kind. That is why farming is so important to Franklin Parish.

Third place: Farmers work tirelessly for community

By Ava McManus Eighth Grade Gilbert School

Farming is important to Franklin Parish because it is one of our top industries here and it is a big part in our economy. People have been farming in Louisiana for a long time and farming is the main reason that people moved here. They found out what rich farmland we have and knew that they could generate income and establish life from the crops they grew. Just in Franklin Parish, we have about 6,000 acres of farmland. Our farmers work day and night to produce crops for our community and benefit families upstream as well. Farmers have to wake up at sunrise, and they don't stop working in the fields until it's dark. In Franklin Parish, our farmers produce corn, cotton, rice and beans. The farmer's general process is plowing the fields, planting the seeds, and fertilization of the crops, as needed. When the crops are ready, they are harvested and delivered to the necessary plants for further processing.

Farmers also struggle with weather. Hurricanes hinder the harvesting of crops. If the fields get flooded with rain, the crops could be damaged and so the farmers have to make sure the crops are still good afterwards. Or if we go

through a drought, the crops would not get enough water, and so our farmers have to have to a good irrigation system.

Cotton is grown here in our parish. Through the years, cotton has become scarce, and we don't plant as much of it now as we did in the past. Our climate has changed so much through the years, and it makes it harder to rely on a good cotton crop. Other factors contributing less cotton in our area are low commodity prices and high production costs. America now relies on other countries to grow cotton more they used to.

Our farming equipment has

affected how we work on the fields and has changed the way we do things. Before we had combines and cotton pickers, you had to go out in the fields, and hand-pick the crops. Families used to be large in number because they would need workers to pick the crops. Now that we have equipment, it takes less time to pick the crops, and less time to fertilize the crops than it did before. We also have crop dusters now that fly over the field and fertilizer them or spray them, so that pests or other animals do not eat them. Our farmers use many different types of fertilizers as well. We usually use chicken fertilizer, cow

fertilizers, and every now and then, they will use horse fertilizer.

Franklin Parish is also known for its cows and horses. We have many fields used just for cattle, and they are mainly used for beef. The LSU AgCenter puts on many cow shows a year. Many people auction off their steers at these shows for income.

On March16, our governor, John Bel Edwards, issued a stay at home order due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This caused many interruptions in the farming industry. Due to this pandemic, some farmers got sick and were unable to work in the fields. March is when they fertilize the crops.

and some farmers were still planting crops. It was very difficult for their owners to find enough workers during this time which made it hard to produce their crops. During August, hurricane season began which caused flooding. Our farmers worked tirelessly and had endless nights to pick all the crops before we got more rain.

In conclusion, farming is vital to our economy here in Franklin Parish. Our farmers work very hard day and night and are appreciated very much by people here. We thank you so much for doing what you do and are so thankful for having people like you in Franklin Parish.

Congratulations to our Farmers Appreciation Essay Contest winners!!!





Second place Thatcher Peoples Fort Necessity School

(Ada Sparks, Thatcher Peoples, Chris Roberts)



First place
Slade Hughes
Family Community
Christian School

(Mandy Moroni, Slade Hughes, and Lisa Kiper)



Third place Ava McManus <u>Gilbert School</u>

(Mandy Moroni, David Smith, Ava McManus, Lisa Kiper)

BUSINESS BUZZ... LET THE CHAMBER WORK FOR YOU...

Every month we mail our newsletter, which includes information regarding upcoming events and Business of the Month. We would absolutely love to have more of <u>YOUR</u> news to include in our letter. If you have something exciting going on at your business and would like to share it to be included it in our newsletter in the <u>Business Buzz</u>, please contact Mandy Moroni at the Chamber office or via Email <u>wfpchamber@gmail.com</u>. She mails the newsletter at the beginning of each month, so please try to get your news to her at least one week in advance. We also have a calendar of events on our website and are very active on our Facebook page, so let us know if you have anything to add.



Are the fall outdoors calling you?

We can help make your fall adventures happen!
Stop by and discuss your loan needs or set up a savings account for your hunting wish list with someone local who hears you, knows banking and knows you — right here in your neck of the woods.

To learn more and get started, call and ask how.

We have the Loans and Accounts you need.





TAG, TITLE & NOTARY OF NORTHEAST LOUISIANA

Notary Service
Title Transfers
Registration Renewals
New Issue Plates
ATV Transfers
Duplicate/Lost Title
& much more!



4276 Front Street, Winnsboro, La 71295

Kaye Cupp - Notary Denise Ellington - Accountant



Call us today to schedule a showing, or to confirm date availability.

We cant wait to see you!

We cant wait to see you! 318-334-4076

Sawmill Venue

"Give thanks not just on Thanksgiving Day, but every day of your life. Appreciate and never take for granted all that you have." Catherine Pulsifer



P.O. Box 69, Winnsboro, Louisiana 71295 (phone 318-435-3781)

The Old Post Office Museum is making plans for this year's Christmas exhibit, "Oh Christmas Tree!" and we're looking forward to your participation. This would be excellent visibility for your business during everybody's favorite time of year and would provide an opportunity for you to contribute to our museum, certainly one of the most popular attractions in Franklin Parish. Here's how:

Sponsor a Christmas tree for \$250. The museum will supply the tree and placement and you take care of the rest! That includes decorations, lights, skirting and approximately 5 gift-wrapped empty boxes to go under the tree. You choose the theme and name it and we will provide appropriate signage, including your sponsorship. Each tree is 7 – 9 feet tall, which leaves you plenty of room to be creative. Everyone who comes to see the exhibit will be asked to vote on their favorite tree. The "People's Choice Award" will be announced just before Christmas and the winner's name placed on the permanent plaque in the Old Post Office Museum. You will have from 9 a.m. Tuesday, November 10, until 5 p.m. Monday, November 30, to decorate so that we can be ready for The Christmas Parade on Friday, December 4 (If you need to come on a weekend or after hours, we can accommodate).

OR.

Donate to the Old Post Office Museum to go toward expenses with all of the holiday splendor surrounding the trees. There are wreaths, garlands, and all sorts of Yuletide decor that go into creating our Christmas wonderland. Your business or organization will be recognized as an important part of what makes it all happen.

Please consider being part of the splendor of the "Oh Christmas Tree" exhibit at the Old Post Office Museum this year. Please call me at 435-3781 or 805-8774 with any questions.

Kay LaFrance-Knight, Old Post Office Museum



2020 Board of Directors

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PO BOX 1574 WINNSBORO, LA 71295