SLOW FOOD, SCHOOL GARDENS, AND SUSTAINABILITY: USING COOPERATIVE EXTENSION DOCUMENTS TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY AND INSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVES
COMMUNITY-BASED AGRICULTURAL INITIATIVES

- Slow Food Baton Rouge
- School Gardens
- Community Gardens
- Community Planning to encourage fitness
- City Citrus Baton Rouge
- Farm 2 Table Movement
- Farmer’s Markets
- Locavorism
- Grown your own food
- Keep your own chickens
There’s an information source that already has most, if not all, of the answers
- A people/expert source
  - A research source for all levels of literacy and knowledge
In every parish
In each of the 5 major regions of the state
And comes to us from our 2 land grant Universities:

- LSU
- SOUTHERN
WHAT IS IT????

Cooperative Extension!!!!
Part of the mission of the Land Grant Universities established with the Morrill Act of 1862
- Established to educate citizens in agriculture, engineering, sciences, military science, and the mechanical arts, “without excluding ... classical studies”
- There are 106 in the nation
- We have 2!
- MIT is a land grant!!!
- U Cal Berkeley, also a land grant!!!
- Alabama – NOT A LAND GRANT (hee). Auburn is one of the great state of Alabama’s land grant, along with Tuskegee.

Land-grant institutions "extend" their resources, solving public issues with college or university resources through non-formal, non-credit program

Smith Lever Act of 1914 established Extension
WHAT IS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION?

- Programs are designed, delivered, and administered through the LSU AgCenter and its parish and regional offices
  - Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service
- Programs are funded through the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)
Even though the Smith Lever Act established Cooperative Extension at the land grants in 1914, bringing research and information to the people has a long history in Louisiana.

With the establishment of the Agricultural Research Stations in the 1890s (first was the Sugar Research Station, originally located at Audubon Park in New Orleans), researchers were charged with bringing their knowledge to the people.

This was done at Farmer’s Institutes across the state.

Professors at LSU and the Research Stations would donate their time during the summers to teach at state fairs and other organized events.
In the early 1900s, Seaman Knapp at LSU formed various farming clubs to promote research findings and to distribute seeds strains of corn, wheat, sugar, etc., to the people of the state.

This “demonstration” style method that Knapp developed would become the standard for delivering information to the public.

Knapp’s demonstration organizations set the stage for the development of Smith Lever, and became the model upon which Cooperative Extension programs in the US were built.
EARLY EXTENSION EFFORTS
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SCOPE OF COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

- 4-H
- Agriculture
- Leadership Development
- Natural Resources
- Family and Consumer Sciences
- Community and Economic Development
SCOPE OF COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

- Pest management
- Rural development – broadband access
- Coast and environment
- Home gardening
- Home food businesses
- Early childhood education
- Family nutrition
- Public health programs and services
- Conservation
- Personal finance
Cooperative Extension directly applies the research conducted at the University to current public issues and needs.

For example:
- GMO’s, seeds, and their use
- Upward trend in establishment of Farmers Markets and the people who want to sell their canned goods at Farmers Markets
- Public health programs
SO?

- Biofuels
- Disaster preparedness and recovery
- Sustainability
- Education – 4-H
- Food supply and health – HUGE. See this [link](http://www.nola.com/news/baton-rouge/index.ssf/2013/02/baton_rouge_healthy_eating_spo.html)
So Extension touches many parts of the community, and many parts of our lives. Unfortunately, Extension documents, like government documents, are a woefully untapped resource.
1 of 2 major divisions within the LSU AgCenter
  • The other is the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station


Extension staff are in every parish in the state
  • There are also regional extension staff
EXTENSION DOCUMENTS

- Are created by every extension office in the nation
- Are published at the state level
- Audience includes
  - Farmers
  - Agricultural marketers and businesses
  - Homemakers
  - Homeowners
  - Gardeners
  - Agricultural organizations
Like grey literature, they tend to be poorly indexed and to have limited geographic distribution for print-only materials.

Many current items are available online, but after a time disappear from websites due to server space issues and site redesigns.

Why this is a concern: Extension programs and their publications are funded by the federal government. Like government documents, they need to be made freely available to the public.
EXAMPLES OF EXTENSION DOCUMENTS

- Canning Green Beans

- Louisiana Vegetable Planning Guide

- Hunting and Fishing Around Bears
EXAMPLES OF EXTENSION DOCUMENTS

- **Selecting Your Show Pig**

- **Agritourism Best Management Practices**

- **Preparing Your Business for Disaster**
  - [http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/family_home/hazards_and_threats/are_you_ready/Prepare-Your-Business-for-Disaster.htm](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/family_home/hazards_and_threats/are_you_ready/Prepare-Your-Business-for-Disaster.htm)
WHERE TO START LOOKING

- For Louisiana, the LSU AgCenter website
- LSU Libraries Catalog – Search Terms
  - ‘Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service’
  - ‘Louisiana State University Agricultural Center’
  - Many items will have an S544.3 L7 A2 call number
  - Some items will display the URL link to the Ag Center website
  - By no means comprehensive! Many items published by the AgCenter are not in the LSU Libraries holdings
WHERE TO START LOOKING

- **Special Collections**
  - Limit to Library: Special Collections
  - You want to search both Middleton and Special Collections
    - Some items are only at Special Collections, some are only at Middleton

- **WorldCat**
  - Shows La Cooperative Extension Service materials held in other libraries, but not at LSU
    - PDF is available on AgCenter website
    - State Library & Nicholls list the item in their holdings
WHERE TO START LOOKING

- State Library Site
  - Many AgCenter publications are sent to the State Library because they are considered state documents
FOR NON LOUISIANA MATERIALS

- Worldcat.org
- AgNIC
  - http://www.agnic.org/
  - The Agriculture Network Information Center (AgNIC) is a voluntary alliance of members based on the concept of “centers of excellence”. The member institutions are dedicated to enhancing collective information and services among the members and their partners for all those seeking agricultural information over the Internet.
  - Each participating institution serves as a Center of Excellence for specifics topics in Agriculture
  - AgNic Swine page: http://www.lib.iastate.edu/services1/ref/agnic/aboutpage.html
FOR NON LOUISIANA MATERIALS

- NAL/AGRICOLA
  - For materials published before 1997
- eXtension
  - [http://www.extension.org/](http://www.extension.org/)
  - eXtension is an interactive learning environment delivering the best, most researched knowledge from the best land-grant university minds across America. eXtension connects knowledge consumers with knowledge providers - experts who know their subject matter inside out.