



*Young Farmers & Ranchers
Committee*

**HANDBOOK
2022 - 2023**

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Dear Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers:

The role of today's young farmer and rancher in Farm Bureau is a vital one. The Young Farmers and Ranchers program helps to increase the overall effectiveness of the state and parish organizations.

Farm Bureau needs young adult farmers and they need Farm Bureau. By participating in the Young Farmers and Ranchers program, you not only help to expand your opportunities in farming through participation in the world's largest general farm organization, but you also learn leadership skills and become an active member of your parish and state Farm Bureau. In addition, as you contribute your enthusiasm, ideas, abilities, and leadership, you also assist Farm Bureau to remain THE influential leader in helping to solve the many problems of the farmers.

If you, as members of a Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee, are successful in becoming involved in the mainstream of Farm Bureau activities, then all of us in Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation will benefit from this constant influx of new, well-informed Farm Bureau leadership.

I wish each of you the best in your future endeavors.

Sincerely yours,



Jim Harper
President

Dear Young Farmers and Ranchers:

As the State Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee, it gives us great pleasure to introduce this fine program to you. The Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee is needed in this state because if we don't develop leaders out of our young farmers now, they will not be ready to fulfill the leadership roles in the State Farm Bureau in the future. We have a fine Farm Bureau, but it can be made better in the future with the help of young farmers and ranchers in this state. We as young farmers are Tomorrow's Leadership Today.

This program is designed to surface new leaders to give you a part in Farm Bureau activities. It is also an educational program to better inform you on what is happening at Farm Bureau. This program will prepare you for the future and will affect you, your family, and your farming operation.

You can be whatever you want to be in farming and in Farm Bureau. We encourage you to read this booklet carefully and decide for yourself if a Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee would be helpful in your parish. The state officers, committee members, and state staff will be happy to assist you in starting a committee in your parish.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Duncan".

Robert Duncan
State Young Farmers and Ranchers
Committee Chair

Preface

Farm Bureau is a family organization. The Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee of Farm Bureau provides an excellent opportunity for young farmers to actively participate in the programs of their organization.

Farm Bureau needs young adult farmers and they need Farm Bureau. Never was this more true than today. Farm Bureau will continue its successful and influential approach to solving the many problems of farmers only as its young members are given leadership responsibilities and are encouraged to contribute their energies and abilities for overall success.

As a result of their active participation in the overall Farm Bureau program, they will experience personal growth and achieve desired aims as Farm Bureau members, farmers, and citizens. Effective and meaningful participation requires that young members become a part of Farm Bureau. This means activation and participation in membership acquisition and maintenance, legislative activities, policy development and execution, commodity promotion, marketing, political education and action, local affairs, and in many affiliated companies. It is this that a sound Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers program encourages.

Basically, then, the overriding purpose of a Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers program is to provide our young farm members with additional opportunities for becoming active members of the Farm Bureau family as **Tomorrow's Leadership Today**.

This guideline is submitted as an actual work program of the LFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee and a suggested structure and activity outlined to assist state and parish Farm Bureaus and Young Farmers and Ranchers Committees to develop effective and meaningful programs.

Structure

Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee

Purpose

The purpose of the Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers program is to promote and strengthen the entire Farm Bureau organization and provide opportunities for training and leadership experience in Farm Bureau.

General Structure

- Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers is not an organization, though it represents an organized effort. Rather, it is a program which is an integral part of the Farm Bureau organizational structure and program.
- Qualifications for participation are that a person must be a Farm Bureau member or member of a Farm Bureau family, 18-35 years of age, and partially or actively engaged in farming.
- The program is parish, state, and national in scope.

Parish Structure

- The parish Farm Bureau board of directors should encourage and have full and direct responsibility for activating and developing the Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers program in the parish.
- The parish Farm Bureau president should initially and thereafter appoint annually a Farm Bureau committee comprised of 3-10 young adults with approval of the board according to parish bylaws.
- The parish Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee should serve as the nucleus for developing and activating a parish program of work to encourage other members to participate.
- The parish president or some staff member should be administratively responsible for the Young Farmers and Ranchers program and meet and work with the Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee as needed.
- It is recommended that the parish committee chairman or some committee member serve on the parish Farm Bureau board or in an advisory or voting capacity, depending on the wishes of the board, or in accordance with parish bylaws.
- Names of members of the Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee or names of those the committee would recommend should be submitted to the parish president for appointment to all other parish program committees such as legislation, marketing, membership, etc.
- Programs of the parish Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee should be subject to approval by the parish board of directors.

State Structure

- The State LFBF Board of Directors should have full and direct responsibility for activating and developing the state Young Farmers and Ranchers program.
- It is recommended that a state Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee be comprised of 11 members: One from each of the 11 districts; 11 alternates; and 3 executive officers (chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary-treasurer).
 - a. Representatives on the state Farm Bureau Committee may be either men or women.
 - b. Members must be actively engaged in farming and must receive a substantial portion of their income from farming.
 - c. It is encouraged that in the election of the state Young Farmers and Ranchers officers that consideration be given as to state regions, commodity interests, etc.
- Committee officers will be elected at a meeting held during the LFBF state convention, subject to approval of the LFBF State Board of Directors. Each organized parish represented will have one vote.
- A state staff member should be appointed to serve as advisor to the state Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee.
- The chairman of the state Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee serves on the LFBF State Board of Directors.
- The state Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee should develop annually a program of work to assist parish Young Farmers and Ranchers Committees in their programming.

National Structure

- The state Farm Bureau program is affiliated with the American Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers and Ranchers program.
 - a. A representative of the state Farm Bureau Committee should be recommended for appointment to the American Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee upon request of the AFBF president.
 - b. Participation should be encouraged in American Farm Bureau Federation-sponsored functions, such as the AFBF National Convention and the AFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers Leadership Conference.
 - c. The American Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee should prepare annually an outline for development of programs and a suggested program of work.

Organization of Parish YF&R Committees

General

In order to organize a parish young Farmers and Ranchers Committee, one must work closely with the parish Farm Bureau board of directors. The board of directors should be contacted in order to get the names of young farmers and ranchers between the ages of 18-35 who are to be invited to the meeting. After the first meeting, the parish Farm Bureau president should appoint and the board of directors should approve a Farm Bureau committee of 3-10 members of single or married men and women.

Structure

The following agenda should serve as a guide for the first meeting:

- Welcome by Farm Bureau president.
- Introduction of everyone in attendance.
- Farm Bureau staff person give a general scope of the entire Farm Bureau program.
- Show film on Farm Bureau organization.
- Elect chairman, etc.
- Group discussion on problem areas for which speakers and specialists in the chosen problem areas can be invited to discuss with group.
- Set up time for meetings, type, etc.
- Adjourn. Invite group present for a short period of socializing and recreation.

Guidelines

Remember, the success of the Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee depends on interesting activities. The following guidelines will help you achieve those goals:

- Plan your meetings well in advance.
- Design programs that appeal to the majority of the members.
- Focus on the goals of Farm Bureau and encourage participation in **all** Farm Bureau activities.
- Keep both your Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee and your parish board of directors informed about what the committees are doing.
- Provide an opportunity for group discussion.
- Encourage committee members to make suggestions and give ideas for projects.
- Make everybody welcome!

Steps to Success

1. The parish Farm Bureau board of directors should carefully consider the Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers program as recommended--its purpose, its organization, structure, the suggested project areas, and the need for it.
2. The parish Farm Bureau president should appoint a committee comprised of 3-10 young men and women, single or married, to serve as an organizing committee.
3. Following the parish Young Farmers and Ranchers organizational meeting, the Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee officers should be selected and approved by the parish board of directors.
4. The committee should plan a program of work for the year including significant projects, plans for attending important Farm Bureau functions, budget requests, etc.
5. The committee should submit a program of work to the parish Farm Bureau board of directors for approval.
6. The committee should involve other young Farm Bureau members in planned programs of work as necessary, especially in the fulfillment of project aims. As others are involved, the size of the organizing committee should not be affected.
7. The committee chairman should report progress and achievements periodically to the parish Farm Bureau board of directors.
8. It is recommended that the chairman of the committee serve on the Farm Bureau board of directors in an advisory or voting capacity. Presidents are encouraged to name young farmers to other Farm Bureau committees and to involve the entire committee in all programs of the parish Farm Bureau.
9. It is important to recognize that parish activities become most valuable when carried out as part of a parish Farm Bureau program.

Information & Public Relations

General

Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers should strive to secure both interest and respect for Farm Bureau and its programs. A public relations program offers a path by which we may achieve and maintain a desirable climate for agriculture in the whole economy.

Good public relations are a two-way street in that we must understand problems of other interest groups, as well as secure understanding of our problems.

Special Projects

- Encourage Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers to become more active in other organizations (church, civic groups, etc.) in order to broaden their contacts and understanding.
- Write letters to editors in response to articles appearing in newspapers. On the basis of factual information, both praise and criticize editors for their stands or views. We suggest you contact your state Farm Bureau to provide assistance.
- Become involved in legislative affairs by writing letters to congressmen and senators and participating in political action activities.
- Farmers have the responsibility of cultivating good relations with many groups of people in the community--some of them within the agriculture circle, others completely outside. Decide on the group you wish to cultivate better relations with and set up a meeting between a selected group of Farm Bureau members and members of this outside group. Invite them carefully and host them well. Pick them up and return them from the meeting. Make friends first. Plan the meeting with care.
- Sponsor, assist, and participate in farm-city exchanges and other joint projects with urban businessmen.
- Write news articles for the local paper and Farm Bureau publication.
- Encourage FFA interest in Farm Bureau through acquaintance day programs and/or Farm Bureau-sponsored speaking contests or other award programs. Similar programs may be held with 4-H, Boy Scouts, etc. High school career days offer excellent opportunities for Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee members to present or sponsor the story of production agriculture or agribusiness careers.

Communication

Communications and the exchange of ideas are integral parts of the Young Farmers and Ranchers program. Good relations with local news media (newspaper, radio, television, etc.) are essential in getting your message across to the public. Your area field representative can assist you in setting up a workshop with State Office personnel in charge of Farm Bureau's news media department. This will give you guidelines to help establish good public relations with your local news media.

All parish committees are encouraged to submit their activities to the secretary of the Young Farmers and Ranchers State Committee for publication.

Young Farmers and Ranchers Award Program

The highlight of the Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee is the selection of the Young Farmers and Ranchers Achievement Award, Excellence in Agriculture, Discussion Meet Winner, and Outstanding Young Farm Woman. These awards are sponsored annually by the Young Farmers and Ranchers State Committee.

The Young Farmers and Ranchers Achievement Award program begins on the parish level. Each parish Farm Bureau selects a young farmer or rancher between the ages of 18-35 to represent it. Parish winners will compete for three finalist positions. These three finalists then compete for the state Young Farmers and Ranchers Award. The state winner attends the American Farm Bureau Federation convention where he/she is a candidate for the national Young Farmers and Ranchers Award.

The Excellence in Agriculture program begins on the parish level too. Each parish Farm Bureau selects a young farmer or rancher who does not derive the majority of their income from an owned agricultural operation. Three parish winners are selected as finalists to compete for the state award. The state winner attends the American Farm Bureau Federation convention where he/she is a candidate for the national Young Farmers and Ranchers Award.

The Discussion Meet program also begins at the parish level with each parish selecting a young farmer and rancher between the ages of 18-35 to represent it. Parish winners then compete at the LFBF convention. The winner of the Discussion Meet will attend the American Farm Bureau convention where he/she is a candidate for the national Young Farmers and Ranchers awards.

The Outstanding Young Farm Woman award is for farming and ranching women between the ages of 18-35. Each parish selects a winner and submits her entry to the state contest. Three finalists are chosen and the state winner is chosen from these finalists.

Award of Merit

This award will be given to an organized parish Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee which has worked to promote and strengthen programs in the total Farm Bureau organization. Judging for this award will be based solely on information provided through the Parish Award Booklet detailing activities throughout the year. The Award of Merit will be given at the LFBF convention during the awards program.

Judging for Award of Merit

IV) YOUNG FARMERS AND RANCHERS

1) Did your parish have an entry in the following events in 2022 at Convention:

- YF&R Achievement Award Yes No
- Discussion Meet Yes No
- Excellence in Agriculture Yes No
- Outstanding Young Farm Woman Yes No
- Official Letter of Certification Yes No

(1 point each for a total of 5)

2) Did your parish appoint/reappoint a YF&R Committee during the 2022-2023 year?

Yes No

If yes, list the name of your chair and committee members:

(10 points)

3) Did your committee hold at least three meetings during the 2022-2023 year and report to your parish Board of Directors?

Yes No

If yes, please list the meeting dates, explain the procedure used and attach documentation (agenda, minutes, etc.)

(10 points)

4) Did at least one member of your committee participate in the 2023 LFBF YF&R Leadership Conference?

Yes No

If yes, list the names of those who attended:

(15 points)

5) Did your parish support the Harvest for All program (or the state sanctioned service project at the 2023 LFBF YF&R Leadership Conference)?

Yes No

If yes, please list type of sponsorship (i.e. monetary donation, food donation, etc.) as well as donation location and date.

(10 points)

- 6) Did at least one member of your committee attend the AFBF YF&R Leadership Conference in 2023?

Yes No

If yes, list the names of those who attended:

(10 points)

- 7) Did your parish YF&R Committee members participate in the 2023 YF&R Livestock show either through monetary donation or volunteer efforts made at the show?

Monetary Donation

Yes No

(10 points)

Volunteered at the Show

Yes No

(10 points)

- 8) Did your parish YF&R Committee members attend the 2023 LFBF YF&R State Capital day?

Yes No

If yes, please list those in attendance:

(10 points)

- 9) Did your parish YF&R Committee members participate in the promotion and sale of the 2022 LFBF YF&R Committee raffle by requesting and selling tickets from the state office?

Yes No

(10 points)

*** If your parish is participating in the Young Farmer and Rancher Committee Award of Merit, a total of 75 of the 100 possible points in the YF&R portion is required. Please include photos, documentation, etc. immediately following this section. ***

Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee Projects

All projects of Young Farmers and Ranchers Committees should be well planned and designed to promote the Farm Bureau program.

The list of projects is unending. However, all projects and programs should be of interest to both farmers and consumers.

Suggested Projects

- Agricultural field days
- Veteran's Home Project Promotion
- National "Agricultural Day"
- Safety promotions
- Visit various farms, gins, granaries, etc.
- Educational meetings (for example, legislation)
- Promote various commodities by giving out literature, performing demonstrations, etc.
- Sponsor farm equipment sales
- Invite specialists to speak to your committee on interesting topics
- Get your entire Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee together and have a family picnic
- Do something to honor your Farm Bureau board of directors
- Sponsor a cattle sale
- Sponsor a seminar on anything
- Work in your parish Farm Bureau membership drive
- Sponsor an awards program for your own Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee
- Make use of your Agricultural Extension Service for films, literature, etc.
- Keep a scrapbook of all the activities of your committee
- Work with 4-H, FCCLA, and FFA organizations
- Help with Farm Bureau youth programs (talent, queen, talk meet)
- Raise funds for Agripac
- Promote and/or raise funds for the Louisiana Farm Bureau Foundation
- Promote and/or raise funds for the American Farm Bureau Research Foundation
- Promote "Ag in the Classroom"
- Hold classes in cardiopulmonary resuscitation
- If you can't find anything else to do, pitch in and help your neighbor. He'll understand what the Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee really is!

Total Farm Bureau Program

Membership in Farm Bureau

General

The securing of new members and maintaining of the existing membership are vital to the life of Farm Bureau.

Young Farm Bureau members and dependent members can best make a contribution in this by being active in the planning and execution of Farm Bureau membership activities and becoming thoroughly acquainted with Farm Bureau--its purpose, philosophy, and programs. It is desirable that a representative of the parish Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee serve on the parish Farm Bureau Membership Committee.

Special Projects

- Sponsor a parish short course designed to acquaint Farm Bureau members and dependent members with the purpose, philosophy, and programs of Farm Bureau.
- Conduct a "survey of member interests." Information obtained can be used by parish Farm Bureaus to facilitate a program of active participation in general.
- Become acquainted with the plan of the annual parish Farm Bureau membership drive and mobilize the Young Farmers and Ranchers to assist in this effort. Young Farmers and Ranchers can specifically assist by helping prepare a list of potential members as well as work at new member solicitation.
- Develop and sponsor a "New Member Orientation Meeting" for acquainting new members acquired in the membership drive with Farm Bureau's goals, objectives, policies, programs, services, and need for the new members' active participation.

Policy Development and Execution

General

With farm numbers diminishing, the need for Farm Bureau to concentrate on developing and activating an effective legislative program becomes more imperative with each passing year. An aggressive legislative program on the local level, as well as on state and national levels, is essential in protecting the rights and securing benefits for the farming community. It is desirable that a representative of the parish Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers serve on the parish Farm Bureau policy development and legislative committees.

Develop and Activate Policy

- Assist in the organization of home discussion groups that meet throughout the year to develop and activate policy.
- Participate and assume leadership roles in policy development at all levels.
- Meet with legislators in an effort to create an atmosphere of acceptance and understanding of Farm Bureau policies. Farm Bureau Young Farmers have a vital role to play in developing mutual understanding with legislators.

Local Affairs

General

Good government and the services of good government begin at home. The development and activation of programs concerning local affairs must be participated in by local people. Thus, the importance of strong local affairs programs will have a bearing on Farm Bureau members' knowledge of and activity in issues which affect them at the local level.

Traditionally, policy development activities have been designed to encourage member discussion and action on state and national issues. It was generally assumed that local issues would automatically be given attention. By and large, this assumption has proved false. The result has been a lack of policy on local matters.

For this reason, the AFBF is placing special emphasis on the need for surfacing, discussing, and determining parish policy on such local issues as the finance, maintenance and supervision of roads; financing, curriculum, adequate facility use, transportation, and reorganization of schools; rates and administration of assessments and taxation; planning and zoning; finance; dependent aid and administration of welfare; fire, road, home, farm and public safety; parish dumps; volunteer training and road and residence marking for fire protection; finance and general administration of local government; and the whole broad scope of natural resource problems, including water sheds, dams, water rights, air and water pollution; the public use of land and water; etc.

- National committee will promote information at national leadership conference.
- It is suggested that state committee include local affairs in their local program of work in accordance with individual state policies.
- Parish Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers are encouraged to cooperate with, supplement, or initiate efforts in the field of local affairs.

Citizenship: Maintaining the American Heritage

General

In recent policy development processes, farmers throughout the land expressed great concern over the tendency of an alarming number of people in the United States to favor all sorts of socialistic measures as a means of solving problems.

We in America are born free. We will chart our own course of action. There will be no one to blame but ourselves if we do not live and die as free men and women. We can pass on our most cherished possession--the American Heritage--to our children.

Only a brave, self-reliant citizenry that believes in the free, competitive enterprise system, the importance of the individual over the state, and the right of a man to be the master of his own destiny, can assure that such a way of life will continue to flourish to the benefit of all mankind. As farmers and citizens, we should be about our business in this respect. We should carry the American dream in our hearts and a record of its concrete achievements in our minds. As individuals and as an organization, we should so live that we give light, understanding, and strength to its cause.

This concern is reflected in the official policy of the Farm Bureau. We encourage young farmers to become familiar with and help activate this resolution.

Special Projects

- Initiate a program to ensure the presence of an American flag in all classrooms and encourage that students receive instructions as to its proper use and display.
- Encourage the use of prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance at all Farm Bureau activities.
- Encourage the display of the flag both inside and outside the Farm Bureau building.
- Encourage home display of the flag on appropriate days. (Possibly obtain and sell flags at cost.)
- Initiate and sponsor parish citizenship seminars.
- Initiate school assembly programs.
- Encourage individual member involvement at every opportunity to practice meaningful citizenship responsibilities.
- Offer to assist the Women's Committee in their youth activities.

Political Education and Individual Member Action

Today, more than ever before, young farmers and ranchers must assume responsibility in the political future of our government at the local, state and national levels.

Farm Bureau has developed a political education program that is designed to encourage individual Farm Bureau members to accept basic citizenship responsibilities. It is bipartisan in character. It encourages members to participate in the party of his or her choice in support of policies and candidates that have Farm Bureau's basic beliefs.

Farm Bureau political education is designed to motivate individual members into being politically active--not just for the sake of action alone--but in support of the party of his or her choice and/or candidates who support Farm Bureau policies. Young farmers and ranchers who are members of Farm Bureau have a key role to play in this program if it is to be successful.

The following is a structure of this activity which outlines the role of the Farm Bureau organization in political education and how an individual young farmer and rancher can be politically effective.

The Farm Bureau political education program provides for establishment by the parish Farm Bureau of a committee to carry on this activity. The projects of this committee may include but not be restricted to any of the following:

- Inform members of election laws.
- Study political party structure.
- Conduct voter registration campaigns.
- Measure the candidates.
- Publish voting records.
- Inform members on public issues.

An individual young farmer and rancher can be politically effective by being a part of a separate candidate support committee that is designed to help elect a specific candidate. Some of the things that an individual young farmer and rancher can do to be politically effective in a candidate support committee are:

- Help surface potential candidates.
- Raise money for candidates.
- Organize coffee hours.
- Distribute leaflets, bumper stickers, etc.
- Discuss candidates with friends.
- Make phone calls.
- Get out the right vote.

Marketing and Commodity Activities

General

Every effort should be made to coordinate the activities of the Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee in the field of marketing with Farm Bureau activities as a whole. It is desirable that a representative of the Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee serve on the Farm Bureau Marketing Committee and respective commodity committee.

- Those responsible for the Farm Bureau Marketing Committee programs should be invited to discuss the overall Farm Bureau marketing program with the Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee.
- Seek knowledge and understanding of the goals, objectives, and operation of the many related Farm Bureau marketing service programs and organizations.

Special Projects

- Promotion of farm commodity gift certificates.
- Assume leadership in the development and execution of a parish youth program.
- Encourage research and education in the field of marketing on the parish level to develop and improve the local marketing facilities and techniques.
- Know and promote the Farm Bureau marketing program. Supplies and materials (such as display cases, posters, decals, etc.) can be ordered from the state associations.
- The AFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee will continue to provide information on marketing activities at the Young Farmers and Ranchers National Leadership Conference and to develop brochures, promotional material, and other necessary items in cooperation with the AFBF Marketing Research and Commodity Activities Division, as well as the American Agricultural Marketing Association.
- Young Farmers and Ranchers Committees should seek to develop and/or cooperate in programs involving activities of the Farm Bureau "Freedom to Market" committees.
- Encourage young farmers to participate in commodity committee activities.

Leadership Development

General

Young farmers today are taking an active part in Farm Bureau leadership and will be much more responsible for the direction and aims of Farm Bureau in the future. Yet, no one can develop another's leadership abilities. This is a job that each individual must do for himself and a job that is accomplished most effectively by actual experience in leading.

The Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers program offers opportunities to stimulate this development, indirectly through its many areas of specific project work at the parish and state levels, and directly in the major statement projects such as:

- Statewide Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Leadership Conference
 - Purpose - To provide opportunities for Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers to acquire information, learn new techniques, and strengthen beliefs for personal growth and constructive participation in Farm Bureau.

- Farm Bureau Discussion Meet
 - Purpose - To provide an opportunity for Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers to develop the ability of verbal expression and to acquire a greater command of basic discussion skills.

 - Nature of the Activity - It is the spoken exchange of ideas and information in an effort to understand or solve a problem.

 - Topic - To be announced annually following Young Farmers and Ranchers Leadership Conference.

 - Contest - Each parish is urged to sponsor a parish Discussion Meet. (See Discussion Meet manual for specific qualifications.)

- Other state committee selected programs designed to develop personal growth and understanding of Farm Bureau.

Safety Program

The death rate from farming accidents is third only to mining and construction. Beyond the grief and suffering generated by farm accidents, which cannot be expressed in monetary terms, the national cost of such accidents, including insurance costs, is currently running at the staggering rate of \$2 billion annually.

The danger of farm accidents is such that state and federal legislation and regulations dealing with farm safety and home safety have been promulgated and more such actions are proposed. Such actions involve, among other things, worker's compensation, child labor laws, occupational safety regulations, highway laws dealing with farm machinery, work rules, and liability regulations. However, it is generally far more desirable to prevent accidents through voluntary action rather than through legislative measures.

Many state Farm Bureaus and affiliated companies have safety programs. These programs are grouped into five areas of emphasis:

1. Teenage Safety Seminars

Several states have conducted successful seminars for teenagers in a multi-phase program lasting from 2-5 days. These seminars--planned, coordinated, and hosted by state Young Farmers and Ranchers Committees in cooperation with state Farm Bureau Safety Departments--have accomplished much in preventative safety education. You are encouraged to develop this special interest project in your parish. Further information on successful programs can be obtained by writing the following state Farm Bureaus: Kansas, Oklahoma, Mississippi, California, and Florida.

2. Traffic

Driver improvement programs, stopping demonstrations, seat belts, Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) emblems, railroad crossing programs, clearing corners (such as cutting weeds).

3. Home

Women's programs including surveys, first aid, poster contests for youth, etc.

4. Recreation

Swimming, boating, and hunting safety in cooperation with youth groups and bicycle safety programs.

5. Occupational

In areas related to worker's compensation, hazardous occupation order, occupational safety and health, engineering Tractor Overturn Protection and Prevention (TOPP).

YF&R Committees at the state and parish levels can play a most important role in conducting informational and educational meetings for Farm Bureau members regarding regulations of the Occupational Safety and Health Act. Such meetings, coupled with on-site tours and using state Farm Bureau safety staff and officials connected with OSHA, can assist in accident prevention.

Safety programs require action at the parish level. Contact your state Farm Bureau Safety Director for advice and counsel.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)

The Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation Safety Department offers a CPR program to the Farm Bureau membership that is aimed at saving lives. The CPR course is designed for use in a sudden death emergency--heart attack, electrocution, suffocation, drowning, asphyxiation, choking, poisoning, drug overdose, car accidents, etc.

More than 650,000 people in the U.S. die annually from cardiac arrest. Nearly 350,000 of these deaths occur away from medical assistance. CPR, if administered by trained bystanders, could prevent many needless deaths.

CPR is a basic life support measure to be used until professional medical attention can be given to the victim. Basically, your responsibility is to keep the victim alive by mouth-to-mouth breathing, combined with chest compressions in a sequence so as to force oxygenated blood into the heart and through the arteries to the brain. Time is of utmost importance because a person has approximately 4 to 6 minutes to live without air before irreversible brain damage occurs. Therefore, when administering CPR, **you** are the lungs and heartbeat of the victim.

CPR given within the first minute of cardiac arrest will yield a 60 to 80 percent recovery rate; given within 4 minutes of cardiac arrest will yield a 20 to 30 percent recovery; given within 7 minutes of cardiac arrest will yield an 8 percent recovery with probable brain damage.

Why is a CPR course necessary? Because it teaches you how to perform CPR safely and effectively. Attention to detail is vital. Poor technique is likely to result in bone fractures or lung and liver damage. Incorrect procedure might not revive the victim. This is a comprehensive course lasting 3-1/2 to 4 hours; there is a maximum 12 students per class. The course is taught by Safety Department personnel who are certified by the American Heart Association to teach CPR.

How is the CPR course taught?

- First, you are given introductory information pertaining to CPR, the heart, and risk factors associated with cardiac arrest. This is given in combination with a lecture, handouts, and a film.
- After the introductory information, you practice on training manikins (adult, junior, and infant-sized dolls equipped with breathing and heartbeat devices) under the guidance of the teacher to ensure accuracy and efficiency in performing all steps.

CPR has proven effective in saving lives and could be a factor in preventing many needless cardiac deaths that occur each year.

If you are interested in taking a CPR course, contact your parish Farm Bureau office or the Safety Department in the State Office.

State Young Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee

Articles of Operation

Article I - Name

Name of this committee will be the Louisiana Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee.

Article II - Purpose

- I. Promote and strengthen the entire Farm Bureau organization.
- II. Provide opportunity for training and leadership experience in Farm Bureau.

Article III - Membership

- I. Must be a Farm Bureau member or member of a Farm Bureau family.
- II. Must be from 18-35 years of age inclusive at the time of his or her selection as a member of the Committee.

Article IV - Selection of Members for Advisory Committee

- I. Eleven members, one alternate from each of the 11 districts, and the Executive Committee will be elected during the annual meeting of the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation state convention, subject to approval of the LFBF State Board of Directors.
- II. Must meet the following requirements for eligibility:
 - a. Farm Bureau member or a member of a Farm Bureau family.
 - b. Must be between the ages of 18-35 inclusive at the time of his or her selection as a member of the Committee.
 - c. Must be willing to give time for state committee meetings.
- III. The Louisiana Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee will be a couples committee, with each couple having one vote.
- IV. Members must be **ACTIVELY** engaged in farming and must receive a substantial portion of their income from farming.

Article V - Term of Membership on State Advisory Committee

- I. Each District Director shall hold office for a term of two years.
- II. District Directors from Districts I, III, V, VII, IX, and XI shall be elected at annual meetings in odd-numbered years. Elections for Districts II, IV, VI, VIII, and X shall be held at annual meetings in even-numbered years.
- III. Only parishes with an organized Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee will be allowed to

vote in district caucus for their District Director.

- IV. A member of the Committee can succeed himself.

Article VI - Duties of the State Advisory Committee

- I. Promote the total Farm Bureau program.
- II. Establish and implement needed policies affecting agriculture.
- III. Work with parish presidents in the organization and promotion of active parish Young Farmers and Ranchers Committees.
- IV. Conduct an annual Young Farmers and Ranchers Awards Program.

Article VII - Officers

- I. The officers for the State Advisory Committee will be the chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary-treasurer.
- II. These officers shall hold office for a one-year term.
- III. An officer can succeed himself; however, with a term limit of two consecutive years.
- IV. The State YF&R officers must be full-time farmers.
- V. Officers will be elected at an annual meeting held during the LFBF state convention, subject to approval of the LFBF State Board of Directors.
- VI. Each organized parish represented will have one vote for the election of executive officers.
- VII. Only parishes with an organized Young Farmers Committee will be allowed to vote in election of executive officers.
- VIII. The age criteria of officers shall be the same as those of membership in **Article III** of these bylaws.

Article VIII - Meetings of the Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee will meet regularly each quarter or by call of the chairman of the committee.

Article IX - Duties of the Committee Chairman

- I. The chairman of the Louisiana Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee will preside over all Young Farmers and Ranchers meetings.
- II. The chairman will serve on the Louisiana Farm Bureau State Board of Directors.
- III. Monetary expenditures for programs will be brought to the LFBF Board of Directors for

approval.

Article X - Duties of the Committee Vice-Chairman

- I. The vice-chairman of the Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee will assume all the duties of the chairman in the absence of the chairman.
- II. The vice-chairman will serve as an ex officio member of the State Ag in the Classroom Committee.

Article XI - Duties of the Secretary-Treasurer

- I. The secretary-treasurer of the Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee will keep the minutes at all committee meetings.
- II. The secretary-treasurer will take a roll of all who are in attendance.
- III. The secretary-treasurer will make a financial report at each committee meeting.

Article XII - Quorum

Five eligible, voting members will constitute a quorum.

Article XIII - Vacancies

- I. A member who misses two meetings in succession, unless excused, will be removed from the Committee.
- II. Excuses must be submitted to the committee chairman and approved or rejected by the entire Committee.
- III. Excuses must be submitted within one week following meeting in question.
- IV. Upon removal of a member from the State Committee, the district alternate will be notified of his Committee appointment.

Article XIV - Voting

No member of the Committee will be allowed to vote by proxy.

Article XV - National Committee

The Louisiana Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee will submit a nominee to the AFBF National Young Farmer Committee, subject to the approval of the LFBF State Board of Directors. The nominee must be a member of the State Young Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee at the time he or she is selected.

Article XVI - Amendment of Articles

- I. These articles may be amended, altered, or repealed by action of the State Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee, provided that such action is approved by a two-thirds vote of the entire Committee. Any changes in the articles affected by action of the Committee shall be subject to approval by the LFBF State Board of Directors. The proposed change and notice of the change shall be sent out to the Committee 30 days prior to the Committee meeting.
- II. The LFBF State Board of Directors shall have the authority to amend, alter, or repeal any portion of the Young Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee articles.

State Office Contacts

For questions or more information on the YF&R Committee activities contact:

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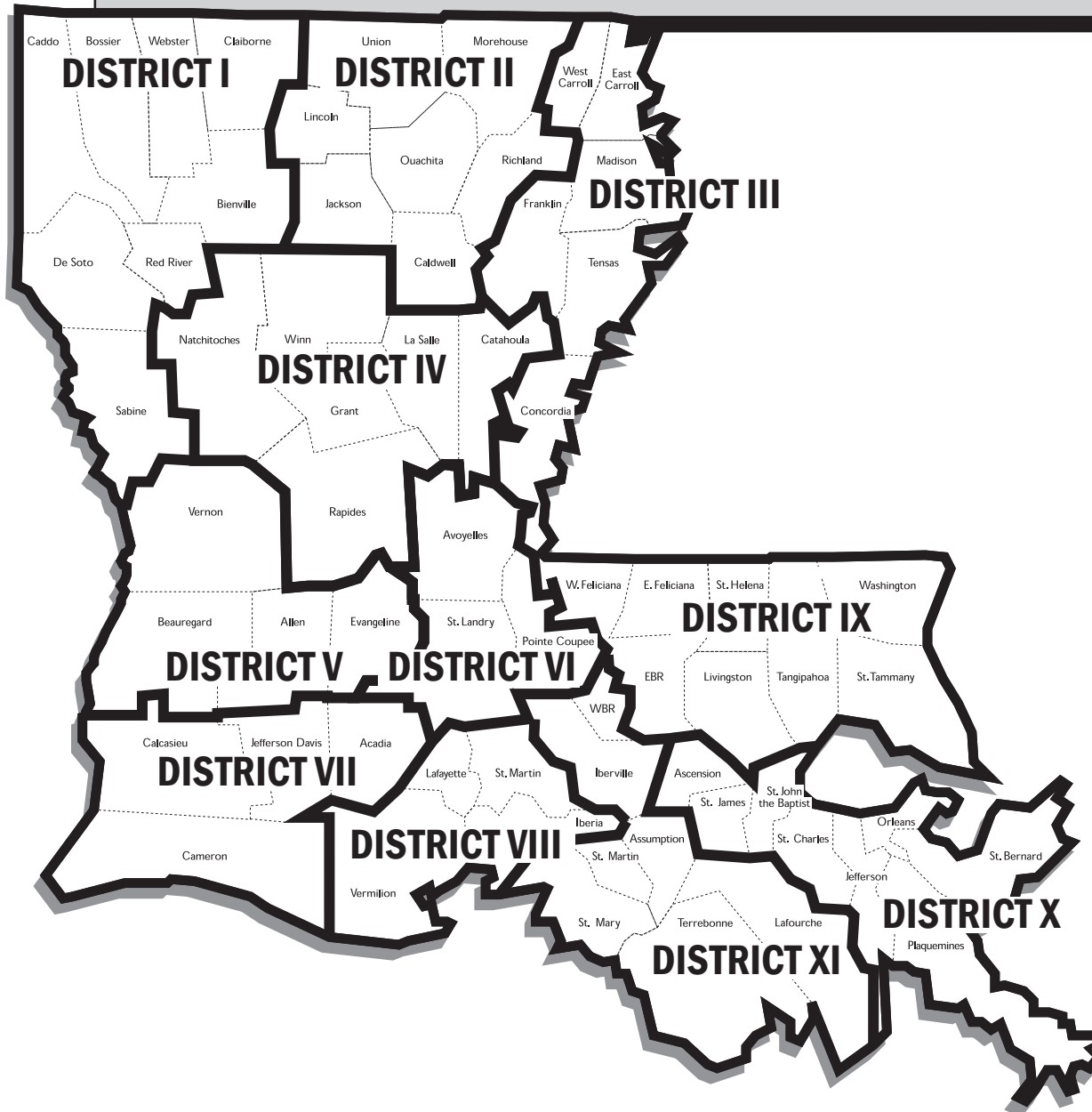
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LOUISIANA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Jim Harper

First Vice-President

Marty Wooldridge

Second Vice-President

Scott Wiggers

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District VI

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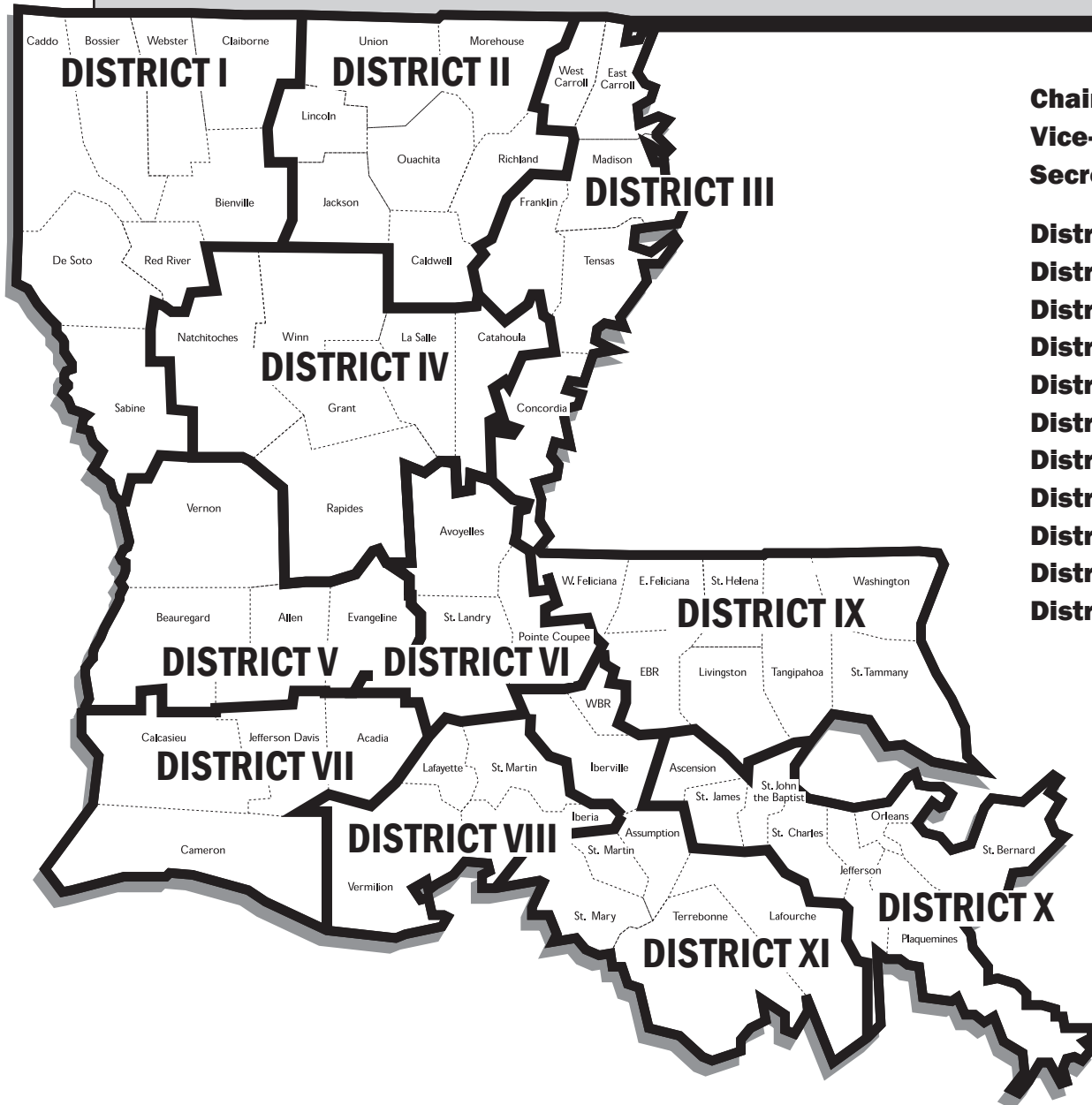
State Women's Committee Chairman

Michele Simoneaux

State YF&R Committee Chairman

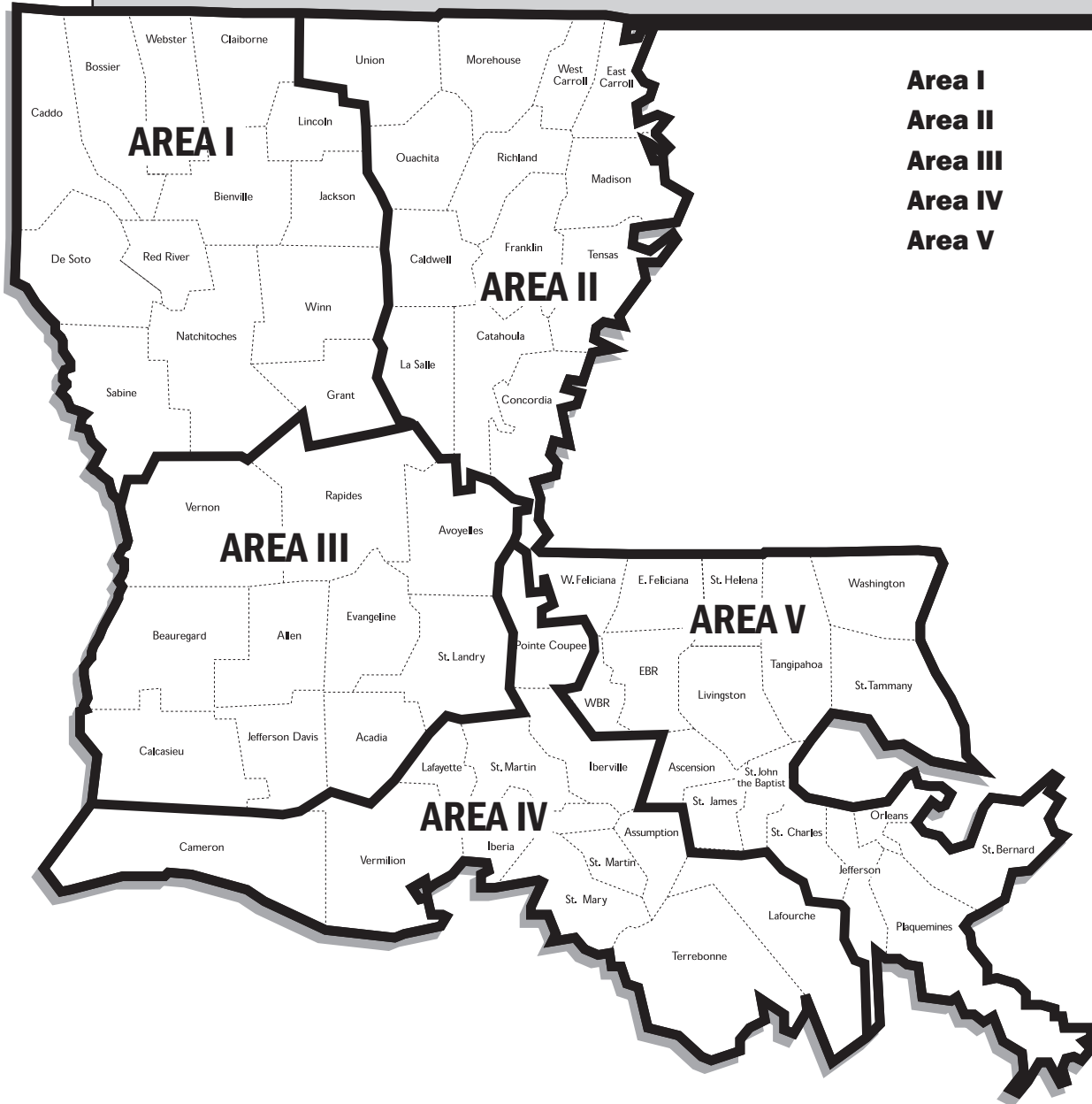
Robert Duncan

LOUISIANA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION YF&R COMMITTEE



Chair	Robert & Rachel Duncan
Vice-Chair	Kody & Melanie Beavers
Secretary/Treasurer	Aaron & Jamie Lee
District I	Johnnithan & Megan Cook
District II	Coleman & Sara Grace Thomas
District III	Jacob Ezell
District IV	David & Kurtlyn Kerry
District V	Vacant
District VI	Nicholas & Courtney Gerace
District VII	Ryan Danos
District VIII	Philip & Chelsie Domingues
District IX	Jacob Hodges
District X	Frankie & Mallory Sotile
District XI	Tristan Foret

LOUISIANA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION AREA FIELD SERVICE DIRECTORS



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Area III	Raquel Landry	337.515.0747
Area IV	Mandie Zaunbrecher	337.452.9196
Area V	Scott Bickham	225.938.3628