Area Dairymen, Officials Laud Artificial Breeding

By Bob Boyd
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This month marks the 20th anniversary of Louisiana's introduction of artificial breeding programs, and LaFayette parish officials hold the celebration to improve the livestock business. The event, held at the LaFayette Parish Fair, was also a gala for the programs, which have significantly increased milk production.

"Artificial breeding is a great way to increase milk production," said LaFayette Parish President John Young. "It's a cost-effective method that can boost profits.

The program was started 20 years ago when the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service and the University of Louisiana at Monroe began a pilot project. The program was expanded to include other parishes, and today, more than 200 dairy farmers in Louisiana use artificial breeding.

The program is funded by the state and federal governments, as well as by the dairy farmers themselves. The cost of artificial breeding is shared between the farmer and the government.

Young said the program has helped the dairy industry in LaFayette Parish, and he hopes it will continue to do so.

The event also featured a parade and a livestock show, with animals from around the state. The parade started at the parish fairgrounds and wound through the streets of LaFayette. The livestock show featured a variety of animals, including cows, goats, and pigs.

Young thanked the state and federal governments for their support of the program, as well as the dairy farmers who have participated. "This program has been a success because of the hard work and dedication of all involved," he said.

The event ended with a reception, where Young and other officials celebrated the 20th anniversary of the artificial breeding program.

Although the program is intended primarily for dairy farmers, it has also been used by beef farmers to improve the quality of their herds.