Beauregard Parish

In the "Highlands" of Southwest Louisiana

1939

Washington Avenue, DeRidder, Louisiana
Beauregard Parish Schools

The public schools of Beauregard Parish are operated on the County Unit System, that is, a parish school board of nine members, with a parish superintendent as an executive officer, form the administrative set-up for the parish.

Approximately 4,000 children are educated in eight high schools and thirteen elementary schools, all of which are approved by the State Department of Education. Sixty buses transport 2,000 children daily to the schools. Equal educational opportunities, not only for elementary but for high school students, are provided for every child within the parish.

The State Department of Education and the parish school systems of Louisiana are closely correlated. The State furnishes not only free textbooks to the children of the State but also free pencils and paper. Local school taxes have been reduced approximately fifty per cent., the State providing seventy-five per cent. of school expense.

The teachers of Beauregard Parish are well qualified, with none having less than two years training in a teachers' training institution. All high school teachers have degrees from State approved colleges and universities. Recently the standards were raised, requiring all teachers to have degrees by 1941.

The schools of Beauregard Parish are well organized and efficiently operated. The doors of our schools are open to the children of new citizens who may wish to take up residence in Beauregard Parish.

Beauregard Parish School Board

Beauregard Parish, Louisiana

This Parish, comprising an area of approximately 750,000 acres, is located in the center of the upland section of Southwest Louisiana, generally known as the "Highlands" (elevation of DeRidder, Parish seat, 208 feet).

The "Highlands" is unquestionably the choicest tract of cut-over pine land in the South.

Climate
This section boasts a most delightful climate, with extremes of neither cold nor heat. The average temperature for 1938 was approximately 67 degrees. The average temperature for the winter months ranges from 49 to 57 degrees. Lowest temperature in 1938 was 27 degrees. The summer's heat is tempered by the cool breezes from the Gulf of Mexico and the temperature seldom reaches 98 degrees. Hot winds and dust storms are unknown in the "Highlands."

The number of days with freezing weather rarely exceeds ten throughout the winter, and "cold spells" are of short duration, usually only two or three days.

The average rainfall for the past ten years has been 56 inches. For 1938 it was by months: January, 3.07; February, 4.05; March, 2.76; April, 3.47; May, 2.72; June, 3.32; July, 9.50; August, 2.64; September, 2.00; October, 2.54; November, 3.97; December, 6.67; a total of 43.71 inches, well distributed over the year.

Drainage
To those who are not familiar with conditions in the "Highlands" the rainfall might seem excessive, but the drainage is most excellent, and the better type of soils of such nature that cultivation is seldom delayed because of too much moisture, except after rains of prolonged duration. There is practically no marsh land in Beauregard Parish, and very little swamp land even along the streams, which are cool, clear, and swift.
Health Conditions

Health conditions in Louisiana as a whole are good. The death rate per thousand is lower than that of many of the states and compares favorably with all. The death rate for the "Highlands" of Southwest Louisiana is said by authorities to be the lowest in the State, and among the lowest in the United States.

Soil

The soil is not naturally as fertile as some of the river valleys, but it responds readily to careful management, and can easily be built up to high production by plowing under legume crops, many of which do well here, and by the use of barnyard manure.

Land Clearing

The land, except that along the banks of the streams, was originally covered with a dense growth of long leaf pine timber, and there is practically no undergrowth to be cleared.

The removal of the stumps, which have a long tap root and are rich in pitch, is not difficult. Either one of two methods is usually used, burning or blasting. Blasting is preferred, as some income is derived by the sale of the wood to a chemical plant for the extraction of turpentine and other by-products.

Crops

Probably in no other section of the United States can as large a variety of fruit, truck, and general farm crops be grown. It is said by many to be the premier diversified farming section of the South. Some vegetables can be grown the year round. Certainly it offers every advantage to those seeking a place to "live at home."

Feed crops are of first importance to dairymen, stockmen, and poultrymen, and can be grown in abundance in the "Highlands."

Corn, soy beans, mung beans, grain sorghums, Sudan grass, and Texas seeded ribbon cane are grown for silage. Winter grazing is provided by planting oats, rye, or rye grass in September. Vetch is sometimes planted with oats and when stock is taken off about the first of March, a good crop of hay can be harvested in May. If plowed under about the middle of April they greatly enrich the soil.

Permanent pastures are established by sowing Bermuda, carpet grass, Dallas grass, lespezea, white Dutch clover, hop clover, burr clover, and by mowing occasionally to keep down weeds.
Wool Growing Has Long Been a Profitable Industry In Beauregard Parish

Dairying and Poultry Raising

There are many substantial reasons why dairying, or dairy farming, and poultry raising should soon become the principal industries of Beauregard Parish. Beauregard is now the leading parish in poultry and egg production in Louisiana (valued at $150,000.00 in 1938).

Stock Raising

Cattle, hog, and sheep raising are also profitable, and are developing rapidly, due to the long grazing period, and inexpensive housing required.

The "Highlands" is one of the largest sheep raising sections in the South, and both sheep and wool are marketed through a strong growers' co-operative association. The 1936 wool clip sold for 40 cents per pound, and the 1937 clip was sold several months before shearing time for 42 cents per pound, a considerable premium over the price paid in other sections. Conditions here are excellent for growing superior quality wool at low cost.

Transportation

Excellent transportation facilities
are provided by four railroads (three of them enter DeRidder) and numerous Federal, State, and Parish highways that traverse the Parish. Federal route 171, Shreveport to Lake Charles, is concrete paved and traverses the Parish north and south. DeRidder is approximately midway between Dallas and New Orleans, on the New Orleans, Dallas, Denver Highway, destined to be one of the most important highways in the South.

Some of the largest markets of the South are accessible over paved highways and within easy trucking distance: New Orleans, 235 miles; Shreveport, 130 miles; Beaumont, Texas, 90 miles; Houston, Texas, 200 miles; Dallas, Texas, 275 miles. Cash and co-operative produce markets are available.
New Orleans is the second largest poultry market in the United States. Louisiana imports $20,000,000 worth of poultry and eggs and $30,000,000 worth of dairy products per year. Louisiana can and should supply this market.

**Tung Nuts**

The prospects are very bright for a large development in the growing of Tung nuts in this section. Trees planted for experimental purposes here in 1926 began bearing at three years of age and have borne heavily every year since, with the exception of 1935, when the blooms were very light and consequently the nut crop light, due, it is thought, to the heavy crop in 1934. Several commercial plantings are in prospect for 1939 and 1940.

Tung trees, poultry, and livestock are natural affinities. The trees make excellent shade for poultry and require just enough cultivation to keep poultry yards fresh.

As no kind of livestock eats either the foliage or the nuts, stock can be kept among the trees, when trees are large enough that stock will not break them down.
Oil Prospects
The Parish is rapidly developing oil production, nineteen producing wells having already been drilled in the Bancroft area without any failures.
The Merryville section is being rapidly developed and there are excellent prospects in the Bannister section. Practically all of the Parish is under lease and drilling is under way in several locations.

Recreation
There are several "organized" rural communities, some of which own their "community" buildings. Regular meetings are held, providing recreation, entertainment, and social contact.
The Beaugard Parish Fair Association, a non-profit sharing organization, has in DeRidder the best equipped parish fair grounds in the State, and has for fourteen years conducted one of the best and most successful fairs in the State.
With its cool, clear, swift running streams in the "Highlands," and the Gulf of Mexico only 85 miles away, and accessible by good roads, this section affords outdoor recreation such as fishing, hunting, and swimming the year round.

Homestead Tax Exemption
Louisiana home owners are exempt from taxes on assessments up to $1,000. This provision operates to exempt from all taxes nearly all of the small farmers of the State.

Possibilities
Beaugard Parish and the "Highlands" offer unlimited possibilities to the investor, or those seeking homes, where ideal climate and health prevail, where fine schools, churches, modern cities, cultured people, and
the purest water, help to make it a good place to live. Prices are very reasonable on good land in small tracts. The larger tracts for grazing or colonization purposes can be bought at very attractive prices.

If you want to farm where you can "live at home," grow your own feed, have a number of "cash" crops to select from, and your choice of cash or co-operative marketing, come to Beau-regard Parish in the "Highlands" of Southwest Louisiana. Opportunity still abounds here.

DeRidder

DeRidder, the Parish seat of Beau-regard Parish (county), located on the Kansas City Southern, Santa Fe and T. & N. O. Railroads, Federal paved highway No. 171 and State highways 22 and 104, 130 miles south of Shreveport and 50 miles north of Lake Charles, is known as the "Capital" of the Southwest Louisiana "Highlands," (elevation 208 feet) is a modern city with a cosmopolitan population of 5,000 progressive people.

DeRidder has a commission form of government administered by three Commissioners, one of whom is ex-officio Mayor; an efficient school system with two fine brick buildings, and an enrollment of 1,200 pupils; eight churches; the most beautiful court house and jail in the State; an up-to-date sewerage and water works system; a supply of naturally pure water; two strong banks; hard-surfaced streets and cement sidewalks; ample electricity and natural gas at reasonable rates for all uses; modern steam laundry, bakery, modern Coca-Cola bottling plant, ice cream factory, flooring mill, two creosoting plants, pickle plant, ice plant, cotton gin, mattress factory, machine shop, power plant, wholesale houses.

For further information write to the
DE RIDDER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
DE RIDDER, LOUISIANA