Facing bleak prices for rice and soybeans, many Acadiana farmers have turned to raising eight-legged livestock: crawfish. USL will again offer the popular Crawfish Farm Management course that has helped many enter the crawfish business.

Once considered a risky, hit-or-miss operation, crawfish farming has taken its place as a major Louisiana agricultural enterprise, largely through university-sponsored research and education.

Don Gooch, director of the USL Crawfish Research Center, will instruct the course. Topics covered include pond site selection, pond construction, flood dates, harvesting, trap making, forage management, crawfish population dynamics, marketing and recent crawfish research. Participants will visit the USL crawfish pond at Cade.

The class costs $80 and will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30-9:30 p.m., March 15 through April 7. For more information, contact the USL animal science department at (318) 231-6647. Participants can register on the first night of the class, in Lee Hall on the USL campus, or they can preregister through the USL University College, (318) 231-6827.