The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Immigration is essentially a regulatory service organization that fosters, protects, and advances Louisiana agriculture and allied interests by legislative processes. This work is done in cooperation with the industries being served, with the United States Department of Agriculture, and with other agencies and organizations serving agriculture.

The Department stands ready to assist and cooperate in any endeavor which has as its purpose the further advancement and development of agriculture. We invite suggestions that will make the functions of the Department, and its various divisions, boards, and commissions, more effective and efficient.

W. E. ANDERSON
Commissioner, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Immigration

Louisiana's Diversified Agriculture

Louisiana's fruit and nut crops range from citrus fruits, to peaches, plums, pecans, figs and many delicious wild fruits which are also gathered in commercial quantities.

Among the state's agricultural specialties are perique tobacco, of which Louisiana is the world's only supplier, Easter lily bulbs, tung nuts, and vetiver, from which valuable industrial oils are extracted.

The rapidly growing beef cattle, dairy, swine, and poultry industries, and the important business of bee-keeping, round out generally the state's agricultural industries.

To serve this vast agricultural industry in promoting and protecting its well-being is the responsibility of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Immigration with its various departments, divisions, boards and commissions.
Cotton

Ever since the invention of the cotton gin in 1792, the production of cotton has been the principal agricultural occupation in Louisiana and the South.

The most productive cotton land in the United States is found in Louisiana, along the Mississippi, Atchafalaya, Red, and Ouachita Rivers. Too, the Louisiana farmer is nearer New Orleans, one of the world’s largest cotton markets, and one of the three cotton futures markets in the nation.

Cotton classing, carried out by the Department of Agriculture and Immigration, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, assures the cotton farmer the correct grade and staple of his cotton for marketing purposes.

Rice

Rice is the world’s most important food grain, and the southwestern plains of Louisiana offer ideal growing conditions.

Louisiana’s mild climate, abundant yearly rainfall, ample water for irrigation, and a soil particularly suited to growing rice, make this the second most important farm crop in the state, and Louisiana ranks as the leading producer of rice in the nation.

Seventy-five per cent of the Louisiana rice crop goes into bonded warehouses under supervision of the Warehouse Commission, which is responsible for stabilizing prices of this and most other agricultural commodities through the use of negotiable warehouse receipts, thereby promoting the orderly marketing of these crops.
Sugar

Louisiana's famous "Sugar Bowl" comprises only about 20 parishes in the south-central portion of the state, but this small area supplies fully 95 per cent of the nation's sugar cane.

Sugar has played a major role in the state's history. Jesuit priests first imported sugar cane from Santo Domingo in 1742. Half a century later the refining process was developed and since then sugar cane has been one of the state's most important agricultural crops.

By-products of sugar cane are now becoming almost as important as the sugar. Blackstrap molasses is used in making ethyl alcohol and livestock feeds; and bagasse, or cane fibre, is used in the manufacture of wall board, plastics and paper.

Sweet Potatoes

The delicious, golden sweet potato is becoming better known in the market places of the nation as the Louisiana Yam.

Twenty-two states produce and sell sweet potatoes, yet Louisiana is by far the national leader, and Louisiana yams claim a premium price in many markets.

This is due largely to a very progressive industry-financed advertising program administered by the Louisiana Sweet Potato Advertising and Development Commission.

In a quarter of a century, Louisiana's sweet potato industry has achieved fifth place in dollar value among the state's farm crops.
In recent years new impetus has been given to one of Louisiana's oldest industries—the raising of livestock. Today, with improved permanent pastures and improved breeds of livestock, the state is rapidly becoming one of the nation's foremost dairying and livestock centers.

The cut-over pine lands of southwest Louisiana, the river bottoms and the coastal marshes provide ideal range conditions for livestock.

Hog raising is a lucrative industry in many sections of the state, and much cut-over pine lands is devoted to the raising of sheep.

Actually, cattle raising began in Southwest Louisiana before it did in Texas, and tradition has it that the celebrated Texas longhorn steer originated in Louisiana.

The livestock industry is protected from diseases and parasites by the Livestock Sanitary Board and from thievery and estrayal by the Livestock Brand Commission.

The Division of Milk Testing serves to protect the best interest of the dairy industry, both from the dairyman's standpoint as well as that of the processor.
**Corn**

A crop that is common to many other states is still the fourth most important farm crop in Louisiana.

There are few farms in the state upon which corn is not planted each year. This indispensable grain thrives in all sections of Louisiana, with the alluvial lands, naturally, leading in point of per-acre production.

Most of the state’s corn crop is used for feeding purposes, one of the reasons for Louisiana’s thriving livestock industry. Cornmeal output is also substantial.

Hybrid corn is playing an important part in increasing the yield per acre on Louisiana farms. These are native strains of hybrids developed by the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station.

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**Strawberries**

One of Louisiana’s best known fruits is the strawberry.

The Louisiana berry, large, firm, and fine-flavored, is ready for market in early spring. Annually it brings millions of dollars into the state from markets scattered throughout the country.

This industry originated at Independence, Louisiana, and is the result of scientific research and development. After years of experimentation, it was found that the soil of the Louisiana area known as the Florida Parishes was best suited to the cultivation of strawberries. Over a period of years, these berries have been perfected to such an extent that they have become nationally famous—America’s favorite springtime treat.
The Division of Agricultural Chemistry is responsible for maintaining the quality of fertilizers, feeds, and insecticides sold in Louisiana. These commodities are of basic importance in agriculture. Adulteration or misrepresentation could cause serious loss to the farmer. Unfortunately, it is not possible to determine quality of such materials without chemical analysis. The division's inspectors make continuous checks on all retail and wholesale outlets in the state. Samples of each kind of feed, fertilizer, and insecticide sold in the state are chemically analyzed to insure that there is no alteration or deception.
Marketing and Inspection Services

Marketing represents a major problem in the disposal of farm products. Through the Weekly Market Bulletin, with a circulation of more than 98,000, millions of dollars of farm products and equipment are sold or exchanged annually.

Winter and early spring markets of northern and eastern cities usually feature green vegetables from the truck gardens of Louisiana.

The wide acceptance of Louisiana's truck crops and other farm products in these markets is due to the efforts of the Louisiana Market Commission and its various inspection, grading, and market news services, working in cooperation with the Production and Marketing Administration of the Federal Department of Agriculture in many instances.

Division of Entomology

The identification and suppression of plant pests and the certification of plants and farm crop seed are the duties of this division.

The division operates five portable fumigating chambers, two vacuum chambers, and a number of spray machines and dusters.

Not only must the division seek to prevent the introduction of plant pests from other states, it must also comply with the laws of other states that impose restrictions on Louisiana products on account of plant pests.

This division works closely with the Pest Control Commission, which regulates those engaged in pest control work; and with the Horticultural Commission, which regulates the activities of those engaged in horticultural pursuits.
Other Services of the Department

The Seed Commission is responsible for the certification of agricultural plants and crop seeds and the regulating of the sale of commercial seeds, working in cooperation with the Seed Laboratory and the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station. Thus, Louisiana farm people are assured of quality seed so important to the successful production of a crop.

In the Division of Weights and Measures, much progress has been made in the correction of weighing and measuring devices, resulting in tremendous savings to our Louisiana people.

The Anhydrous Ammonia Commission enforces safety regulations for the handling of anhydrous ammonia fertilizer. This is an important source of nitrogen.

Louisiana is very proud of her achievements in the development and advancement of agriculture; therefore, she is proud to present annually a show window of progress through state, district, and parish fairs and festivals sponsored by legislative appropriations which are dispensed by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Immigration.

Likewise, there is maintained a permanent exhibit at Shreveport in the State Exhibit Museum showing the agricultural and other resources of Louisiana in miniature.

In the Department of Agriculture and Immigration, in the interest of efficiency and proper accounting for expenditure of state funds, there is maintained the Division of Accounting and Personnel.

The Immigration Division disseminates information to those considering moving to the state, and aids deserving foreigners in obtaining citizenship papers.