La's Agri Future Bright; Can Replace Declining Petro Revenue

By NORMAN EFFERSON  
(Chief editor LSU Center for Agricultural Sciences)

EDITOR'S NOTE: A recognized world authority on rice marketing, the recently retired agricultural economics has made a lifetime study of world markets for farm crops, especially those of the tropics. He has served on more than 150 overseas missions in 20 countries as consultant for governments, educational institutions and non-profit foundations and has an excellent record as an accurate forecaster of agricultural developments. The following story is the continuation of the series which started on Wednesday, Feb. 4.

Recreational fishing and hunting continue to expand and are bringing in millions each year to the state economy.

University's Role

Louisiana State University has played and will continue to play a major part in these developments. The activities of the traditional College of Agriculture and more recently the reorganized Center for Agricultural Sciences and Rural Development have been the catalytic force behind most of these developments—from soybean farming to alligator growing.

There are three major parts of the Center for Agricultural Sciences and Rural Development. The 17 experimental stations and 13 experimental stations have been the catalytic force behind most of these developments—from soybean farming to alligator growing.

There are three major parts of this unit, (1) the strong Agricultural Experiment Station and undergraduate and graduate teaching base at Baton Rouge, (2) the network of 17 branch experiment stations located in all major type-of-farming partnership between state, federal and local government. These units are organized and coordinated to serve not only Louisiana agriculture, but also overall state development in the board sense.

Research Pays Off

The contributions of the Center for Agricultural Sciences and Rural Development have been a major development and varied. Crop yields in the state are up 25 to 50 percent over earlier levels due to improved varieties, better disease and insect control, new cultural practices and similar developments.

Unsolved Problems

There are still many big problem-problems to be solved. The present crop-cost squeeze has many farmers in a jam; their costs are going up faster than income.

The continuing energy shortages and rapidly increasing expenses are especially serious to agriculture because mechanized commercial operations depend on so much on petroleum products. Alternative energy sources such as sun and wind, as well as methods of reducing current energy needs, must be found.

The conflict between expanding urban populations and their desire for recreational lands and the needs of farmers for additional land to expand production so as to reduce costs must be resolved. The decline in some agricultural markets, especially horticultural crops such as fresh vegetables and fruits such as strawberries, must be arrested. The improved recreational facilities developed for all Louisiana citizens is the key to future development.

Human Capital

Many of the accomplishments are impossible to measure. How does one measure the impact of training programs on production and education programs on fish and wildlife management on the improved recreational facilities developed for all Louisiana citizens?

How does one measure the developing an improved water system in a rural or suburban community?

How does one measure the value of the thousands of phone calls answered each week, and the hundreds of thousands of phone calls answered each week, and the large volume of scientific research and education programs that improve the contributions to meet major increased needs for food and fiber. This region has additional available fertile alluvial land, level areas suitable for mechanization, water and a climate favorable for a wide variety of farm products.

The lower Mississippi delta remains the last area in the United States available for further expansion to meet major increased needs for food and fiber. This region has additional available fertile alluvial land, level areas suitable for mechanization, water and a climate favorable for a wide variety of farm products.

Available natural resources, aggressive leadership and a strong base research in education and extension can make our agriculture and forestry become the income producer and tax base needed to replace petroleum.

And it is to the best interest of urban and rural, resident and non-farmer, industrial employee and public worker to encourage programs that improve the contributions of agriculture and forestry to the Louisiana economy and to resist efforts that may retard such progress.