

**Senate Agriculture Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2010
Requests Submitted by Senator Mary Landrieu of Louisiana on May 15, 2009**

Project Name	Grant Recipient and Location	Brief Project Description	Funding Request for FY2010
Baton Rouge ARS Laboratory – Honey Bee Genome Research Funding	U.S.D.A. Agriculture Research Service Laboratory, Baton Rouge, LA	Recently, U.S. honeybee populations have been devastated by a yet to be understood condition known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). Without research on CCD and other long-term threats to bees, there is a serious risk that the U.S. bee supply will not be sufficient to ensure pollination of 90 different fruit and vegetable crops. Those crops account for more than \$20 billion in U.S. agricultural output.	\$250,000
Construction of Laboratories, Greenhouses, and Other Necessary Facilities (U.S. Agricultural Research Service Sugarcane Research Laboratory, Houma, LA)	U.S.D.A. Agriculture Research Service Laboratory, Houma, LA	The ARS's Sugarcane Research Laboratory (SRL) scientists in Houma are involved in a multidisciplinary team effort to develop superior varieties of sugarcane, for both sugar production and for the bio-energy industry that is evolving across the southeast. Additionally, the SRL is developing production practices needed for profitable production of sugarcane for both sugar and energy. The current facilities are not designed to handle an expanded program and lack many of the safeguards (environment, employee, and security) required by current federal standards.	\$23,000,000
Green Energy Sugarcane (U.S. Agricultural Research Service Sugarcane Research Laboratory, Houma, LA)	U.S.D.A. Agriculture Research Service	This investment will expand a small "green" research program for the development of high-fiber/energy sugarcane varieties; identify the cultural, disease, insect, and weed control programs necessary to optimize yields and explore and integrate feedstocks. Through the incorporation of genes from wild species of sugarcane found throughout the world, USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists in Houma, Louisiana are increasing this biomass yield sugarcane even further. These wilder species also have the potential of adding genes for increased: crop longevity, tolerance to stress (moisture and temperature), and tolerance to disease, insect, and weed pests. Because these varieties are hardier, their region of adoption is being tested in other states in the south and southwest to include CA, OK, AR, MS, AL, and GA as well as non-traditional sugar producing parts of TX, LA, and FL. The development of energy varieties of sugarcane can be a key component of an effort to decrease our nation's reliance on foreign oil supplies.	\$2,000,000
Funding for Mexican Rice Borer Research (U.S. Agricultural Research Service Sugarcane Research Laboratory, Houma, LA)	U.S.D.A. Agriculture Research Service Laboratory, Houma, LA	This investment will develop controls for the invasion of a new pest in LA's sugarcane fields. The Mexican rice borer (MRB) was first detected in 1980 in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. It is a native of Mexico but spread from South Texas along the Gulf Coast to sugarcane production areas of Louisiana. The MRB is projected to cause yield losses in Louisiana sugarcane amounting to \$200 million each year.	\$500,000
Renovate existing YMCA facility	Bogalusa YMCA, Bogalusa, LA	This investment will utilize rural community facilities funding to renovate an existing YMCA facility that will serve as an emergency shelter during future emergencies.	\$2,250,000

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Caddo Regional Water Supply Initiative	Caddo Parish Commission, Shreveport, LA	Funds will be used to initiate a smart-growth study that will look for solutions to the urban sprawl that is causing the rapid depletion of both the Cross Lake Reservoir and the Wilcox Aquifer. These two water sources are the primary supply of drinking water for the City of Shreveport and Caddo Parish.	\$500,000
Public Health Mosquito Control Aerial Control Enhancement - New Aircraft Purchase	Calcasieu Parish Police Jury Mosquito Control, Lake Charles, LA	Humans and animals are increasingly at risk for disease, especially after the emergence of West Nile virus as an ongoing public health threat. Mosquito control therefore plays a critical role, not only in protecting health, but in allowing for an improvement in the overall quality of life.	\$750,000
Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference	Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference, Columbia, SC (Gulf-South Region)	The ISSC is made up of members from the Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), State Shellfish Control Agencies, including state health and resource regulators, and the shellfish industry. The purpose of the ISSC is to provide formal structure for State regulatory authorities to participate in establishing regulatory guidelines and procedures for uniform State application of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP).	\$250,000
Louisiana West Nile Virus Disease Research	Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Baton Rouge, LA	This investment will provide research into infectious diseases and parasites that cause significant mortality of farmed alligators or destroy the value of the products, (leather and meat).	\$250,736
Alligator Research Center	Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Baton Rouge, LA	This investment would build a state-of-the-art research facility on the campus of LSU's Aquaculture Research Station for conducting research on a wide range of alligator disease and husbandry needs of the \$80 million dollar per year Louisiana alligator industry. To date, the LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in close cooperation with LSU and the Louisiana alligator industry has conducted extensive research on diseases that have a major economic impact on alligator farming in Louisiana.	\$1,000,000
ARS Soil & Water Research Unit – Integrated Open-Ditch Drainage Management	Louisiana Hypoxia Working Group, Baton Rouge, LA	This investment will fund research by the USDA Agricultural Research Service Unit at LSU into open-ditch agricultural drainage management in the Cabin Teele Watershed in Madison Parish. Agricultural drainage in the Mississippi River Basin is a major contributor to the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxic Zone. In the Midwest, controlling subsurface drainage can reduce annual agricultural nitrate losses up to 50%. Wetland diversions can also reduce nitrate loads in the receiving streams. Research needs to confirm/document the effectiveness of these practices in the Lower Mississippi River Basin before recommending them to stakeholders.	\$300,000

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Louisiana Tech University Rural Development Center	Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, LA	The Louisiana Rural Development Center facilitates the transfer of information and technical assistance from Louisiana's universities, state and federal agencies to rural communities and community leaders on issues that are important to rural areas. Through its annual conferences and other training sessions, the center is a source of information and an initial point of contact to rural citizens and others seeking assistance. In addition, the center is engaged in research and projects relating to rural community development throughout Louisiana and especially in the parishes of north Louisiana.	\$104,637
Aquaculture Research	LSU Ag Center, Baton Rouge, LA	This investment will fund ongoing research into aquaculture practices in Louisiana. Specifically, funds will be used to enhance crawfish harvesting efficiency, to protect cultured aquatic species from disease, and to develop new value-added aquaculture food products and waste by-products. The total farm-gate value of aquaculture production in 2007 exceeded 281.6 million.	\$150,000
Best Management Practices	LSU Ag Center, Baton Rouge, LA	This investment provides training for Louisiana's farmers in a variety of fields, including how to develop and implement a Natural Resource Conservation Service resource management system plan to address any potential or occurring farm-based pollution. To date, 2600 famers in Louisiana have participated in the Best Management Practices program.	\$1,000,000
Blackbird Control Research	LSU Ag Center, Baton Rouge, LA	Funds will be used to research methods of mitigating crop losses due to black bird infestations. Yield losses due to blackbird depredation have been estimated to vary from 77 million pounds in 1995 to slightly over 93 million pounds in 2002. Economic losses associated with blackbird damage have been estimated to average \$9.3 million annually from 1995 to 2002.	\$150,000
Cropping Systems Research	LSU Ag Center, Baton Rouge, LA	This investment will fund research into cropping practices for Northeast, La. The economy of the area is completely dependent on agriculture, whether farming per se or the infrastructure associated with farming. Parishes in the area lead the state in the production of cotton, corn, small grains, sweet potatoes and soybeans, but production potential of these crops is seldom reached. Problems associated with pests (insects, nematodes, diseases, weeds) and crop fertility require substantial production input which lowers profit margins.	\$750,000

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Formosan Termites Research	ARS Southern Regional Research Center, New Orleans, LA	Funding will continue research into ways to mitigate the Formosan Termite infestation. This insect has caused millions of dollars worth of damage including over \$300 million in New Orleans alone. Clearly, it is the most costly pest in the state and the management of this termite is essential to Louisiana's economic well-being. For the last seven years, the LSU AgCenter has participated in the USDA/ARS project, Operation Fullstop. Plans for 2010 include expansion from 77 blocks currently included to the entire French Quarter (95 blocks), funding permitting. Termite numbers in the French Quarter have been reduced 75% in Part 1 blocks and 50% in other blocks after two years in the program.	\$3,499,000
Salvinia Invasive Weed Research	LSU Ag Center, Baton Rouge, LA	Funds will be used to research a combination of management tactics, including chemical and biological control, to halt the spread of Salvinia, which is an invasive species that chokes off waterways, and eventually reduce their distribution and density. A collaborative effort with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the USDA-ARS, and the LSU AgCenter is being planned to study biological control involving the release and establishment of small weevils that feed on the salvinia and eventually destroy the plants.	\$750,000
Tillage, Silviculture Research	LSU Ag Center, Baton Rouge, LA	This special grant addresses critical environmental concerns in Louisiana. Alternatives to traditional tillage in southwest Louisiana rice production are needed to improve floodwater quality, reduce soil erosion, and reduce production costs.	\$500,000
Wetlands Plants Research	LSU Ag Center, Baton Rouge, LA	This program combines the expertise of LSU AgCenter plant breeders, ecologists, and other plant and soil scientists to facilitate the development and utilization of improved native plant resources to preserve remaining marshes and stabilize those that are being re-created. This project will develop strategies for genetic improvement leading to the economic and rapid establishment of critically important wetland plant species over large areas of threatened and reclaimed coastal wetlands.	\$1,462,453
Wood Utilization Research	LSU Ag Center, Baton Rouge, LA	Wood products are an integral part of Louisiana's economy providing over \$3 billion per year and 26,000 jobs directly. Its greatest use is in construction, but this use is being threatened. Due to wood degradation, more non-wood substitutes are being used in construction at a greater cost and with greater impacts on the environment. The Wood Utilization Research Program proposes to address the following major issues relevant to Louisiana and the South: 1) Development of decay resistant and environmentally benign wood preservatives for solid wood and wood-based composites, 2) Development of durable wood-based composites and engineered wood products, 3) Development of environmentally-friendly and economically feasible methods of recycling decommissioned preservative-treated wood.	\$1,000,000

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Chenier Plain Sustainability Initiative - Louisiana Environmental Research Center - McNeese State University	McNeese State University, Lake Charles, LA	The purpose of this funding is help to implement Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan, the goal of Louisiana Environmental Research Center has shifted to facilitate monitoring and research of environmental issues and concepts related to wetlands restoration/remediation, with primary emphasis on the Chenier Plain. The numerous benefits of this investment include storm protection, protection of oil and gas networks, protection of transportation networks including the Port of Lake Charles, improved water quality, sustainable fisheries and the protection of coastal communities and infrastructure.	\$1,935,519
Institute for floodplain ecology	Nicholls State University, Thibodaux, LA	Funds would establish a multidisciplinary institute with the goal of providing translatable research and instruction to regional and national concerns regarding floodplain function and health. The channelization and control of the Mississippi River has caused severe subsidence and land loss throughout the lower floodplain estuary. Current land loss is a national ecological crisis that threatens the homes, safety, and environmental health of commercial species, petroleum industry operations, and the homes and safety of 10 million residents of southeastern Louisiana.	\$1,840,418
Lincoln Parish Stormwater Conservation and Management Program	Lincoln Parish, LA	Funds would develop a stormwater and conservation management program for Lincoln Parish as a whole. Direct beneficiaries of the results of this program will include the City of Ruston, the City of Grambling, the incorporated areas of Simsboro, Dubach, Choudrant, and Vienna, the unincorporated areas of Lincoln Parish.	\$750,000
Pennington Delta Nutrition Research	Pennington Biomedical Research Center, Baton Rouge, LA	This investment will provide funding to a consortium that includes multiple universities in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas dealing with the nutrition problems with a focus on obesity prevention in the Mississippi Delta region. With the known health disparities related to obesity that prevail within this area, the importance of obesity prevention is enormous. The project involves the Lower Mississippi Delta of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi.	\$1,000,000
Pennington Special Research Grant	Pennington Biomedical Research Center, Baton Rouge, LA	This project will fund ongoing expenses related to continuing USDA-funded research at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center. This research addresses the epidemic of obesity in the US and the world and consequently benefits all people. This research tests the hypothesis that individuals with a predisposition to becoming obese and developing the metabolic syndrome have altered metabolic and genetic patterns of response to diets high in fat or high in energy. The current research objective is to characterize baseline biochemical, endocrine and anthropometric predictors for fat storage in healthy men and women eating diets altered in percent fat.	\$900,000

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Pennington Human Nutrition Research	Pennington Biomedical Research Center, Baton Rouge, LA	The Pennington Biomedical Research Center and the USDA have partnered in research for the prevention of obesity. These funds will cover ongoing expenses related to two continuing research studies that have resulted from this partnership, one a school-based intervention program and the other a 10-year longitudinal study.	\$2,500,000
Sustainable Community Forestry Initiative for Bioenergy and Bio-based Products	Southern University Ag Center, Baton Rouge, LA	The proposed programs will develop tools for analyzing the benefits of using woody biomass, developing the management strategies involved in sustainably producing woody biomass both from working forests and the wildland-urban interface, developing supply curves and economic impact assessment, and communicating with community leaders and other interested individuals about woody biomass and its possibilities. The development of woody bioenergy will result in reduced fossil fuel use, reduced greenhouse gasses, improved energy security, reduced forest management costs, reduced risks of wildfire and insect infestations, and increased economic diversity for the region.	\$350,000
Sustainable Agriculture Education and Technology Development	Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Baton Rouge, LA	Funds will be used to make agriculture best-practices tools available for the rural citizens of northern Louisiana. By furnishing these previously unavailable tools Southern University can create economic development opportunities and bridge the divide between these rural communities and best practices information for the modern agricultural family.	\$1,500,000
Teacher Quality and Retention Program	Thurgood Marshall College Fund, National	This project will provide funding to the Teacher Quality and Retention Program (TQRP) designed to promote instructor quality and retention in America's rural school districts with critical teacher shortages. Research demonstrates student achievement is more heavily influenced by teacher quality than other factors such as race, socioeconomic status, or academic record. Teacher quality and retention specifically correlates with the academic achievement of minority students in underserved rural school districts. The five-year TQRP is designed to improve rural student performance by increasing the knowledge base, attitude, performance, and retention of teachers.	\$2,000,000
Haynesville Fire Station Renovations	Town of Haynesville, LA	This investment will make possible improvements to the existing fire station by adding three new truck bays and renovating the existing building to allow all fire engines and equipment that are critical to fighting fires to be housed in one facility. This project benefits the entire town by providing improved safety and fire fighting ability in this area. Currently some of the equipment is stored at an off-site facility and arrives at a different time. These improvements will allow Haynesville to lower its fire rate to a 3 and reduce insurance rates.	\$1,162,000

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TransGenRx	TransGenRx, Inc, Baton Rouge, LA	This investment will facilitate the partnership of TransGenRx, Inc. with the Louisiana State University AgCenter. TransGenRx is a biotech company that has developed a revolutionary gene delivery technology for transfer of specific genetic sequences to produce therapeutic proteins for drugs and vaccines. This work is done in collaboration with the National Cancer Institute (cancer treatment and diagnosis), Centers for Disease Control (diagnostics and vaccines), and Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (component vaccines).	\$1,000,000
Phytoestrogens: Nature's Products for Health & Economic Development	Tulane University/Xavier University, New Orleans, LA	This project researches new effects of natural dietary constituents (phytoestrogens) on health and disease in human; especially, estrogen-sensitive organs, such as breast, reproductive and cardiovascular systems. Phytoestrogens are compounds that mimic ovarian steroid hormones (estrogens). Their consumption via soybeans has previously been linked to a decrease in the incidences of several diseases, including breast and prostate cancer. Furthermore, soy-based hormones have also been linked to a lessening of menopausal symptoms. Identifying the estrogenic activity of soybean isoflavones will benefit the nutritional health of the population in general, particularly older women.	\$2,000,000
Union-Lincoln Water Supply Initiative	Union-Lincoln Regional Water Supply Initiative, Ruston, LA	Funding will be used to continue the evaluation of the feasibility of an alternative surface water source to supplement use of the Sparta Aquifer. Through years of overuse, the Sparta aquifer on which Union and Lincoln parishes currently rely for water has been severely degraded. This investment is a step towards establishing a new surface water source to ensure the continued availability of water to Union and Lincoln Parishes.	\$500,000