

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 316

BY REPRESENTATIVES WYBLE AND CHASSION

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the LSU AgCenter, in coordination with the Southern Ag Center and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, to study and develop strategies to strengthen small and mid-scale agricultural production and to expand opportunities for young adults to participate in and pursue careers in agriculture.

WHEREAS, agriculture is a vital component of Louisiana's economy, culture, and rural communities and is directly tied to workforce development, economic growth, employment opportunities, long-term food security, and the overall stability of the state; and

WHEREAS, small and mid-scale farms that are generally under two hundred fifty acres are critical to local food systems, rural development, and direct-to-consumer markets; and

WHEREAS, supporting the continued viability and expansion of such agricultural operations is essential to sustaining and strengthening local food systems in the state; and

WHEREAS, there are barriers to entry, particularly for individuals under forty years old, that limit participation in agriculture and hinder growth in agricultural production; and

WHEREAS, addressing these challenges requires attention to infrastructure, training, and market access, which producers have identified as key needs for agricultural operations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the LSU AgCenter, in coordination with the Southern Ag Center and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, to study and develop strategies or best practices, including those from other states, to expand production on farms under two hundred fifty acres, increase entry into agriculture among young adults, and strengthen direct-to-consumer and value-added agricultural markets.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall include but not be limited to the following areas:

- (1) Sales and marketing training for direct-to-consumer producers.
- (2) Access to processing facilities, particularly for poultry and small livestock.

- (3) Cold storage infrastructure, including refrigerator and freezer capacity.
- (4) Evaluation and improvement of the state's "Certified Louisiana" branding program.
- (5) Development of a statewide peer-to-peer training conference for producers.
- (6) Expanded technical assistance through the LSU AgCenter focused on small-scale agricultural production and value-added "clean food" production.
- (7) Support for farmer mental health and wellness resources.
- (8) Opportunities to expand agritourism, including farm-based events, on-site sales, and other revenue-generating activities that connect consumers to local agriculture.
- (9) Best practices and mentorship programs to support, expand, and encourage participation among young and beginning farmers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LSU AgCenter shall identify potential policy recommendations, including incentives, partnerships, and workforce development strategies to support these efforts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LSU AgCenter shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development no later than February 1, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the vice president for agriculture for the Louisiana State University, the chancellor of the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, and the commissioner of agriculture and forestry.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES