



USDA StrikeForce Initiative in Louisiana

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**Helping
People
Help the
Land**

*Soil Water Air Plants
Animals People Soil
Water Air Plants
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Water Air Plants
Animals People*

Why StrikeForce

- ❖ Eighty five percent of America's persistent poverty counties are in rural America
- ❖ In 2010 Agriculture Secretary Vilsack launched the StrikeForce for Rural Growth and Opportunity
- ❖ A coordinated effort to increase economic opportunities and address the needs of rural communities suffering from persistent poverty
- ❖ In collaboration with over 400 partners, including other federal agencies, CBOs, state and local partners, USDA is providing targeted assistance

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Success of StrikeForce in Louisiana FY 2014

4,075 Projects = \$761.6 Million Invested

- ❖ **251 Jobs Created or Saved**
- ❖ **4,551,751 Summer Meals for Kids**
- ❖ **450 Farmers Assisted**
- ❖ **794 Conservation Efforts**
- ❖ **11,374 Home Investments**



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THE ROBERSON



FARM SERVICE AGENCY
YOUTH LOAN



Outreach Agreements

NRCS State Conservationist



Meeting with CBO



StrikeForce Targeting NE Delta Parishes FY 2014



StrikeForce From Oak Grove to Violet, LA



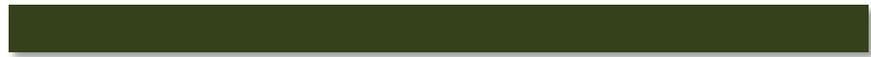
StrikeForce Partnership with Burpee Seed





Measure of Success from SF Meetings

- ❖ For FY 2014 Joint USDA SF Meetings yielded 22 Request for Assistance
- ❖ To-date for FY 2015, Joint USDA SF Meetings and other meetings have yielded 80 Request for Assistance
- ❖ Approximately 90% of the request are from first time USDA participants
- ❖ Request have been both USDA and non USDA related



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Rapides Station Community Ministries

- Establish a cadre of 4 soil health coaches to teach, mentor, and coach beginning farmers
- Recruit a team of 8 potential beginning farmers to participate in a community food hub
- Host 2 soil health days



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StrikeForce Success



High Tunnel Structure



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Boyce Farmer's Market



NRCS StrikeForce Sponsored Trip for RSCM



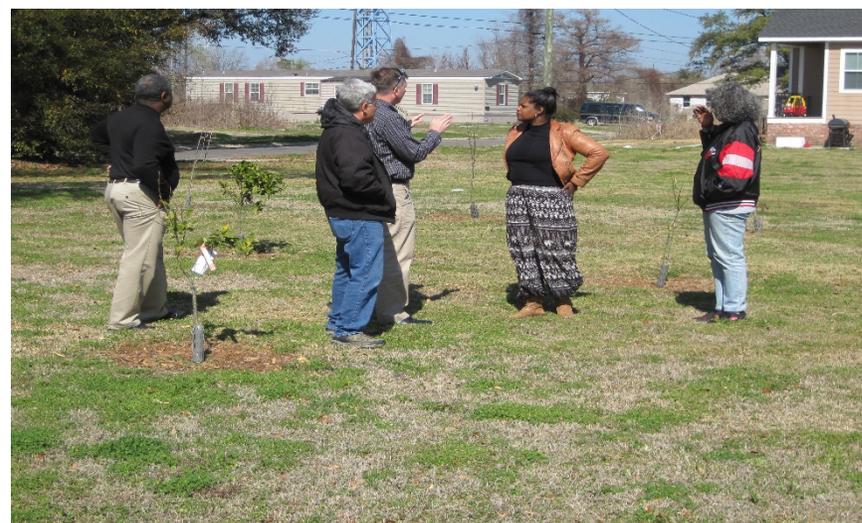
Grazing Land Workshop HJL Farms Brusly, LA



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Joint NRCS & FSA StrikeForce Efforts in Lower 9th Ward



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Green Market – Vegetable Produce Stand



USDA School Garden



USDA School Garden



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at KIPP School New Orleans

- USDA is committed to building a healthier next generation
- High Tunnel funding of \$4,100 made possible by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Civil Rights through NRCS
- Partners include OASCR, NRCS, KIPP New Orleans, Orleans Parish School Board
- Impact – Educational program to educate students on agriculture production and the consumption of fresh, healthy foods



USDA Site Visit to VEGGI Farmers Coop



USDA Site Visit to VEGGI Farmers Coop



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

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