



Introduction of New LSU AgCenter Faculty

*La. Agricultural Technology & Management Conference
Feb. 13, 2026*

Michael E. Salassi
Executive Associate Vice President &
Director – La. Ag. Experiment Station
LSU AgCenter, Baton Rouge, LA



LSUAgCenter.com

Dr. Christine Coker

- **Professor of Extension Horticulture & Research Coordinator**
- **Hammond Research Station, Hammond, LA**
- **Started July 2025**
- **Degrees:**
 - **Ph.D. – Horticulture, Auburn University, 2001**
- **Responsibilities:**
 - **Hammond Station research coordinator**
 - **Statewide vegetable extension**



Dr. Colton Blankenship

- **Assistant Professor of Horticulture Weed Science**
- **Hammond Research Station, Hammond, LA**
- **Started August 2025**
- **Degrees:**
 - **B.S. – Biology, University of Alabama**
 - **M.S. – Weed Science, North Carolina State Univ.**
 - **Ph.D. – Weed Science, North Carolina State Univ.**
- **Responsibilities:**
 - **80% extension/20% research**



Dr. Anna Organou

- Assistant Professor of Agronomy
- Macon Ridge Research Station, Winnsboro, LA
- Started August 2025
- Degrees:
 - Ph.D. – Crop & Soil Sciences, Univ. of Georgia, 2020
- Responsibilities:
 - 70% research/30% extension
 - Agronomic crop production practices



Dr. Dimitri Pavlou

- Assistant Professor of Irrigation Agronomy
- Macon Ridge Research Station, Winnsboro, LA
- Started August 2025
- Degrees:
 - B.S. – Ag. Sciences, Univ. of Thessaly, Greece, 2009
 - M.S. – Automation Technology, Aarhus Univ., Demark, 2012
 - Ph.D. – Crop and Soil Sciences, Univ. of Georgia, 2020
- Responsibilities:
 - 80% research/20% extension
 - Research/extension work in agronomic crop irrigation



Dr. Stephen Ippolito

- **Assistant Professor of Weed Science**
- **Dean Lee Research Station, Alexandria, LA**
- **Started August 2025**
- **Degrees:**
 - **B.S. – Willamette University, 2017**
 - **M.S. – North Carolina State University, 2022**
 - **Ph.D. – North Carolina State University, 2025**
- **Responsibilities:**
 - **25% research/75% extension**
 - **State-wide extension responsibilities for weed management in corn, cotton, grain sorghum, oats, peanuts, soybean, and wheat**
 - **Research program primarily focused on agronomic field crops (corn, cotton, grain sorghum, oats, peanuts, soybean, and wheat) in Central Louisiana**



Dr. Tyler Musgrove

- Assistant Professor
- Rice Research Station, Crowley, LA
- Started January 2026
- Degrees:
 - B.S. – Ag. Business, Louisiana Tech, 2017
 - M.S. – Entomology, LSU, 2022
 - Ph.D. – Entomology, LSU, 2025
- Responsibilities:
 - 80% extension/20% research
 - State-wide rice extension specialist, primary point of contact for rice producers and crop consultants in Northeast Louisiana



Dr. Leandro Vieira

- **Assistant Professor – Soil Fertility & Agronomy**
- **Scott Research & Extension Center, Winnsboro**
- **Start March 1, 2026**
- **Degrees:**
 - **B.S. – Agronomy, Fed. Inst. of Santa Catarina, Brazil, 2016**
 - **M.S. – Soil & Plant Nutrition, Univ. of Sao Paulo, Brazil, 2018**
 - **Ph.D. – Soil Science, Univ. of Florida, 2023**
- **Responsibilities:**
 - **70% extension / 30% research appointment**
 - **Statewide responsibilities for agronomic crop soil fertility outreach and education**
 - **Extension educational responsibilities will focus on improving the delivery of soil fertility and soil health information**



