

Louisiana 2004

Victor Leander Roy, Sr.

Father and Founder of the Louisiana 4-H Program



Born: Mansura, Louisiana
Nominated by: Louisiana 4-H
Year Inducted: 2004

4-H Statistics: Considered the Father and Founder of the Louisiana 4-H Program. Received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Louisiana State University and later attended Tulane University, where he received a Master of Arts Degree in 1925. Organized the first parish-wide Boy's Corn Club while Superintendent of Education in Avoyelles Parish. Named the first state agricultural agent stationed at LSU. Was a collaborator with Dr. Seaman A. Knapp, recognized as the founder of the Cooperative Extension Service, and attended a Washington conference with Dr. Knapp that led to the creation of the 4-H Club organization. Became President of State Normal College from 1911-1929.

Victor Roy is considered the Father & Founder of the Louisiana 4-H Program. He was born June 18, 1871 in Mansura, Louisiana. Mr. Roy received the Bachelor of Science Degree from Louisiana State University in 1890. In 1894, he attended a session at the University of Chicago and later attended Tulane University, where he received the Master of Arts Degree in 1925. After graduating from LSU, Mr. Roy taught in Mansura and later became a high school principal. In 1902, he was appointed to the faculty of the University of Southwestern Louisiana. In 1904, Mr. Roy was appointed Superintendent Avoyelles Parish. He organized the first parish-wide Boy's Corn Club meeting on February 8, 1908. About 300 boys came from every part of Avoyelles Parish, most by free transportation provided on the Avoyelles parish railroad.

At the meeting, the boys heard instructions on corn growing and the plan to deliver seed corn to each member. The large-eared Shaw variety was used and distributed to about 400 boys. Other parishes later followed Roy's example. Mr. Roy became the first state agricultural agent stationed at LSU. He became a collaborator with Dr. Seaman A. Knapp, recognized as the founder of the Cooperative Extension Service, and attended a Washington conference with Dr. Knapp that led to the creation of the 4-H Club organization. Mr. Roy became President of State Normal College from 1911-1929. He returned to LSU until 1934, then served two years as assistant to William B. Hatcher, the National Youth Administrator for Louisiana. Mr. Roy retired in 1936.



Roy (front left) and teachers at school - 1906.



A portrait of Victor Leander Roy, circa 1889.



Roy speaks to a 4-H group - 1956.