Morehouse Parish Sheller and Cracker Equipment Purchase

The **Morehouse Parish Police Jury** of Bastrop, Louisiana received $17,312 to increase the efficiency, sales and product quality of peas, beans and pecans being marketed at the Morehouse Parish Farmers Market. Funds were used to purchase needed shelling and processing equipment for use at the market.

Final Report FY09

Final Performance Report

Date: October 25, 2011

Recipient Name:	Morehouse Parish Police Jury
Title of Project:	Morehouse Parish Farmers Market
Grant Number:	12-25-G-09-39
Location:	Bastrop, Louisiana
Grant:	FMPP

Project Summary:

The Morehouse Parish Farmers Market's pea sheller and pecan sheller was old and unstable. The equipment was undependable and needed to be repaired frequently causing customers to find other locations to shell peas and crack pecans for them along with those customers that purchase peas and pecans already shelled. This caused business to drop. Prior to the new equipment the Farmers Market processed about 300 bushels of peas during the May-September season and 100 lbs. of pecans during the November-January season.

By purchasing a new pea sheller and pecan sheller for the Farmers Market would provide services for the citizens of Morehouse Parish and surrounding areas that was not always available during peak times of the year. It would also cause more interest in our farmers market.

Project Approach:

The Morehouse Parish Police Jury seen the needs of the Morehouse Parish Farmers Market and decided to submit an 2009 Farmers Market Promotion Program application to purchase one (1) new pea sheller and one (1) new pecan sheller. First, the Farmers Market Manager received price quotes for both the pea sheller and pecan sheller. Those quotes were turned into the Police Jury for approval and then submitted with the grant application. Once the application was reviewed by the USDA and approved the equipment was purchased.

Goals and Outcomes Achieved:

Our goal was to improve service to customers of the Farmers Market. Since the pea sheller and pecan sheller were purchased for the Morehouse Parish Farmers Market business has picked up tremendously. When we received the pecan sheller it was not the peak time for use; however, the citizens of Morehouse Parish along with others from the surrounding areas were bringing some of their stored pecans to shell. So far this year, since getting the new equipment, the Farmers Market has processed about 900 bushels of peas and 300 lbs. of pecans and the market is starting to strive. The cost for peas during the peak season is $3.00 per bushel unshelled or $20.00 per bushel (approximately 10 lbs.) shelled. The cost for pecans during the peak season is $2.00 per pound unshelled and un-cracked, $3.00 per pound cracked only and $8.00 per pound cracked and shelled. Both machines are used year round; however, only Farmers Market employees operate them.

Beneficiaries:
Besides the citizens of Morehouse Parish citizens from the surrounding areas along with farmers and businesses have enjoyed the new services of the Farmers Market. When the old pecan sheller was in use vendors, growers and consumers had to travel at least seven miles out of their way to the nearest location to have their pecans processed. This also caused a loss in sales at the Farmers Market because they could not process their own. As far as shelling peas there was no local vendor that had a machine to shell them; so most citizens carried them out of the parish to be processed or shelled them themselves, in which is very messing and time consuming. Once the new equipment was purchased the Farmers Market was able to provide the services and today we have customers from Arkansas and surrounding states come for pecans and peas among various other items. The new equipment has regained pride in our Farmers Market and we will continue to move forward with new ideas to make it even better.

Lessons Learned:
During the process of this grant minor complications did occur. When the Farmers Market Manager was getting quotes for the equipment he was unaware that the vendor submitting the quote for the pecan sheller was for a used one. This was discovered after the grant application had already been submitted and approved. The Manager then received a quote for a new pecan sheller. When the new pecan sheller was purchased it was less than the "used" one that was including in the application. Another complication we had was since I, Police Jury Secretary, was unable to attend the first meeting held November 2009 in Washington, D.C. the Police Jury President had to attend. So I was unaware a request for an amendment to the budget had to be submitted and approved. When I did submit one it was not approved. This caused some funding left in the grant budget.

We have learned that, if possible, those filling out the paperwork for the grant needs to attend the meetings; that way they will know how to fill out the forms correctly and know who to contact if there are questions. Also when getting price estimates on an item make sure to verify the quotes received and get the vendor to put it in writing. That way if you have a problem like ours you have proof of what was said.

Additional Information:
Attached are photos and newspaper articles regarding our project.

Contact Person:
Shasidee Phillips (318) 281-4132 E-Mail: spmppj@yahoo.com

FEDERAL FINANCIAL REPORT

(Follow form instructions)

1. Federal Agency and Organizational Element to Which Report is Submitted USDA/AMS/MSD/FMPP	2. Federal Grant or Other Identifying Number Assigned by Federal Agency (To report multiple grants, use FFR Attachment) 12-25-G-0939	Page 1	of 1 pages

3. Recipient Organization (Name and complete address including Zip code)
Morehouse Parish Police Jury, 125 East Madison Avenue, Bastrop, Louisiana 71220

4a. DUNS Number	4b. EIN	5. Recipient Account Number or Identifying Number (To report multiple grants, use FFR Attachment)	6. Report Type	7. Basis of Accounting
02601258	72-6000913		☐ Quarterly ☐ Semi-Annual ☐ Annual ☒ Final	☐ Cash ☐ Accrual

8. Project/Grant Period From: (Month, Day, Year)	To: (Month, Day, Year)	9. Reporting Period End Date (Month, Day, Year)
September 28, 2009	September 28, 2011	September 28, 2011

10. Transactions	Cumulative
(Use lines a-c for single or multiple grant reporting)	
Federal Cash (To report multiple grants, also use FFR Attachment):	
a. Cash Receipts	15,612.00
b. Cash Disbursements	12,610.00
c. Cash on Hand (line a minus b)	3,002.00
(Use lines d-o for single grant reporting)	
Federal Expenditures and Unobligated Balance:	
d. Total Federal funds authorized	17,312.00
e. Federal share of expenditures	12,610.00
f. Federal share of unliquidated obligations	4,702.00
g. Total Federal share (sum of lines e and f)	17,312.00
h. Unobligated balance of Federal funds (line d minus g)	0
Recipient Share:	
i. Total recipient share required	
j. Recipient share of expenditures	
k. Remaining recipient share to be provided (line i minus j)	
Program Income:	
l. Total Federal program income earned	
m. Program income expended in accordance with the deduction alternative	
n. Program income expended in accordance with the addition alternative	
o. Unexpended program income (line l minus line m or line n)	

11. Indirect Expense	a. Type	b. Rate	c. Period From	Period To	d. Base	e. Amount Charged	f. Federal Share
				g. Totals:			

12. *Remarks: Attach any explanations deemed necessary or information required by Federal sponsoring agency in compliance with governing legislation:*

13. **Certification: By signing this report, I certify that it is true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent information may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalities. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001)**

a. Typed or Printed Name and Title of Authorized Certifying Official Terry Matthews, President	c. Telephone (Area code, number and extension) (318) 281-4132 d. Email address spmppj@yahoo.com
b. Signature of Authorized Certifying Official Terry Matthews	e. Date Report Submitted (Month, Day, Year) 10/26/11 14. Agency use only:

Standard Form 425
OMB Approval Number: 0348-0061
Expiration Date: 10/31/2011

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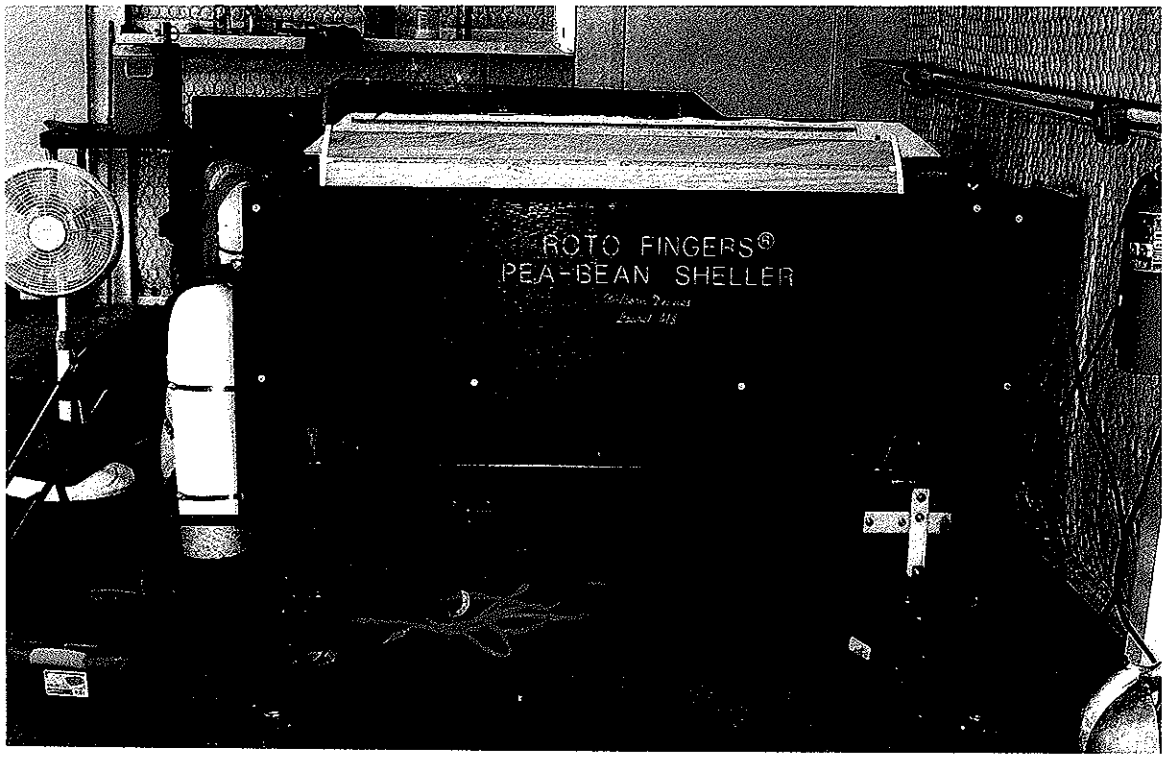
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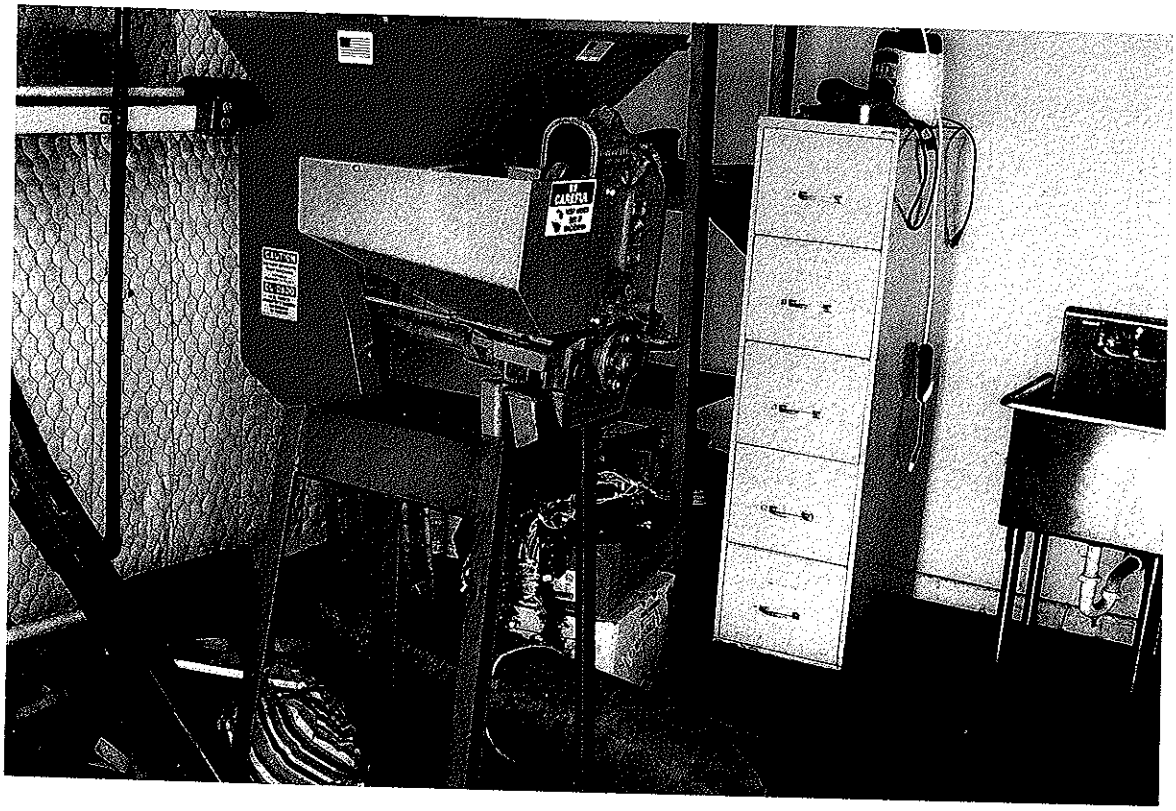
CAMERA

New equipment at Farmers Market

By Connie Priest

Pictured with the new pea sheller and pecan cracker now available at the Morehouse Farmers Market are Don Coston, Farmers Market Manager; Terry Matthews, Morehouse Parish Police Jury President and Mark Sistrunk, police jury member and chairman of the Farmers Market. With these new equipment additions to the market, Coston said they will be able to service more customers, and quickly too.

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Bastrop Daily Enterprise
Thu Apr 15, 2010, 06:00 AM CDT

Bastrop, La. -

Through a lot of paper work and grant writing, the Morehouse Farmers Market now has two new pieces of equipment. They received a new pea sheller and a new pecan cracker. Market manager Don Coston said if it were not for the ladies at the Police Jury office helping with the enormous amount of letter writing and shuffling paperwork, they would not have received the new items.

"These ladies deserve all the credit. They did the work and now we get the benefits here at the Farmers Market", said Coston. "We started working on this project in April 2009 for the grant monies, it just takes a lot of time and knowledge as to how to write for a grant and receive it."

"I hope we have the largest market this summer, to any around. If you have a garden, have a few vegetables to share, bring them in and we will do our best to sell out!"

"We are elated to have Mr. Coston as the manager", said Terry Matthews, police jury president. "We have not had to help financially from the police jury, in the past two years. It has been most productive. Mr. Coston has worked very hard to make this market what it is and we are very pleased with his contributions."

Related Stories.

FARMERS MARKET

Bastrop Daily Enterprise/CONNIE PRIEST

Don Coston, manager of the Morehouse Parish Farmers Market, is pictured here with the new pecan cracker for the market. He made the comment that it is late in the year to be shelling pecans, but they have been very busy the past few weeks doing just that. Coston said memberships are open for any vendors interested in selling their produce. He stated fresh squash will soon be for sale, and all the other good things will follow. He does have some fresh mayhaws for sale, along with Texas watermelons, sweet potatoes, peanuts and a variety of jams, jellies and pickles.

Speed factor in serious injury crash

Enterprise News Service

A man was seriously injured after losing control of his motorcycle in Morehouse Parish.

Louisiana State Police Troop F Troopers investigated the crash on May 2, 2010 at about 4 pm. A 1999 Honda motorcycle was traveling south on Merton Bowe Rd. at an apparent high rate of speed. The driver lost control of the motorcycle in a curve and drove off the left side of the road. The motorcycle continued for over 400 feet before sliding across a gravel parish road and re-entering Merton Bowe Rd., where the driver was ejected.

The driver, identified as 29-year-old Raymond White from Mer Rouge, was not wearing a motorcycle helmet at the time of the crash. He has been airlifted to LSU-Shreveport hospital with serious injuries. Alcohol use is not suspected, but routine toxicology tests are pending.

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By CONNIE PRIEST
Staff writer

For those of you that

Morehouse Farmers Market

By Connie Priest

05.04-farmers-mkt1.jpg

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Bastrop Daily Enterprise
NEW! Tue May 04, 2010, 09:02 AM CDT

Bastrop, La. -

Don Coston, manager of the Morehouse Parish Farmers Market, is pictured here with the new pecan cracker for the market. He made the comment that it is late in the year to be shelling pecans, but they have been very busy the past few weeks doing just that. Coston said memberships are open for any vendors interested in selling their produce. He stated fresh squash will soon be for sale, and all the other good things will follow. He does have some fresh mayhaws for sale, along with Texas watermelons, sweet potatoes, peanuts and a variety of jams, jellies and pickles.

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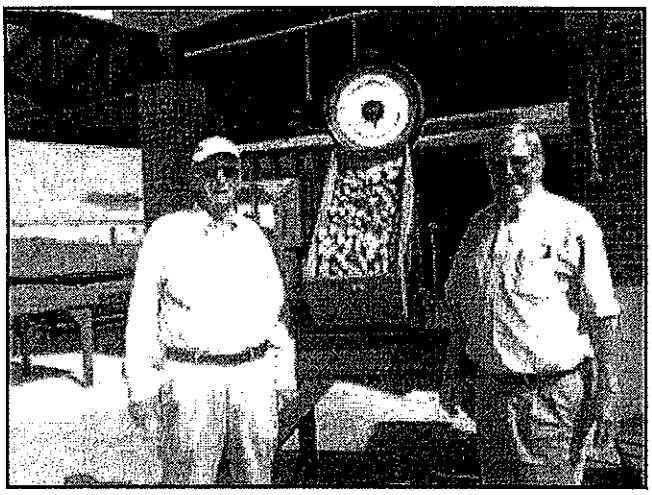
Antique scales unique to Farmers Market



By Connie Priest

The Morehouse Parish Farmers Market recently received this donation of antique banana scales from Jimmy and Flint Robertson. When Robertson Produce moved to Monroe, the brothers decided to give the antique scales to the Farmers Market, mainly as a conversation piece. They both said in their high school years, they weighed many pounds of bananas on these scales. In explaining the process of weighing, it brought back a lot of memories for the men of Robertson Produce.

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By Connie Priest
Bastrop Daily Enterprise
Tue Apr 20, 2010, 10:03 AM CDT

BASTROP -

Don Coston, manager of the Morehouse Farmers Market, has acquired a very unique scale, one that belonged to Robertson Produce for many years. Jimmy Robertson and Flint Robertson donated the Toledo scales to the Farmers Market and shared some memories.
The banana scales held a wooden box, that back in the day, Robertson's had to get a $5 or $6 deposit on or people would keep them. Jimmy said that this scale is obsolete and a true antique.
"When we were in high school, we spent many a night weighing bananas. We drove to the wharf in Gulfport or to New Orleans and picked up the banana stalks, 900 to 1000 boxes per container. At that time they were shipped just like they were cut from the trees, and then we had to cut the "hands", a group of bananas like we buy in the grocery now. We shredded paper and put in the box to keep from bruising the fruit", said Flint.
"The bananas were so green that it took four or five days for the fruit to get ripe", Jimmy added. Now, with all the USDA laws and so forth, the fruit is already cut, and packed before it is ever shipped, and you know exactly where it comes from, another law. Of course when the brothers were working side by side, they had to do all the work manually.
Coston is glad to have such a unique piece of Morehouse history at the Farmers Market, after all, according to Flint, Robertson Produce actually got its start with strawberries, then moved on to produce.

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