Emerging Markets for Wood Energy In the United States







Richard Vlosky, Director

Crosby Land & Resources Professor in Forest Sector Business Development Louisiana Forest Products Development Center

> Michael Blazier Associate Professor Hill Farm Research Station

Louisiana State University Agricultural Center

May 2014

Presentation Outline

- •Renewable Energy
- Wood-to-Energy
- Wood Biomass
- Energy Options
- Current Landscape in the U.S.
- The U.S. South

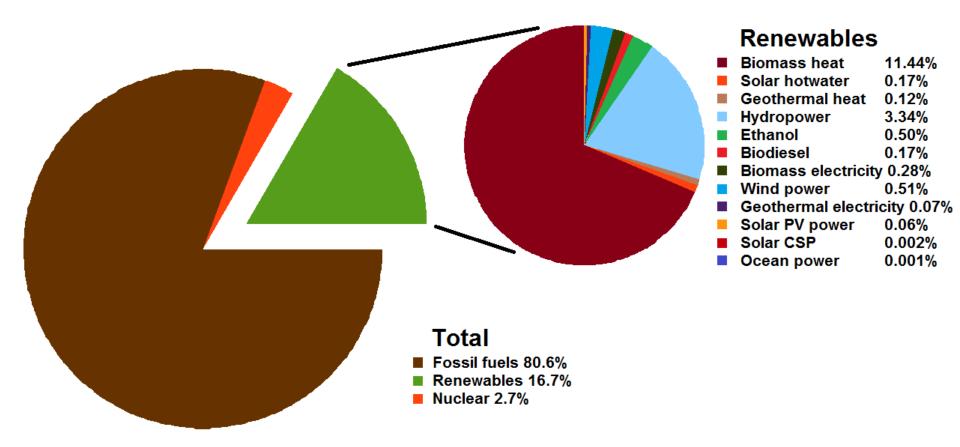




Today's Energy Paradigm

- Fossil fuel **resources are finite**
- Global energy consumption is increasing (nearly 30% by 2030)
- The world **population is growing** (9+ billion by 2050)
- Fast-developing economies like India and China are demanding more resources
- Greenhouse gas emissions are increasing (World carbon dioxide emissions expected to increase by 1.9% annually between 2001 and 2025)

Total World Energy Consumption by Source (2010)

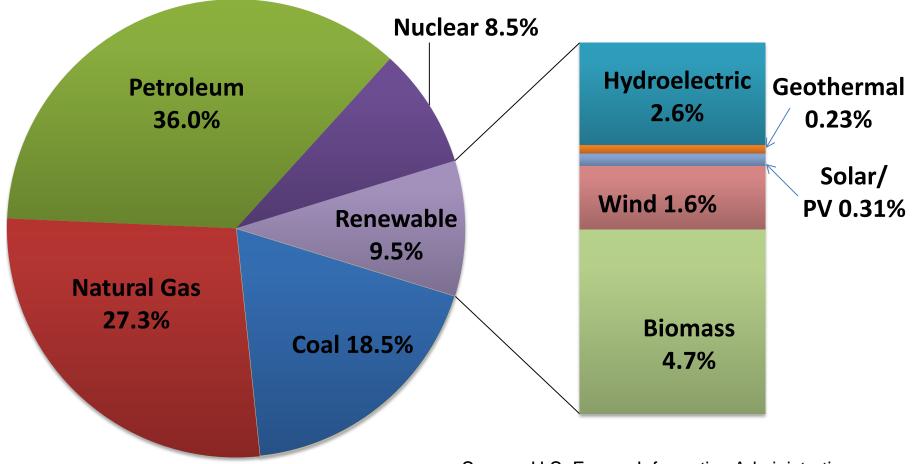


REN21 Renewables 2012 Global Status Report

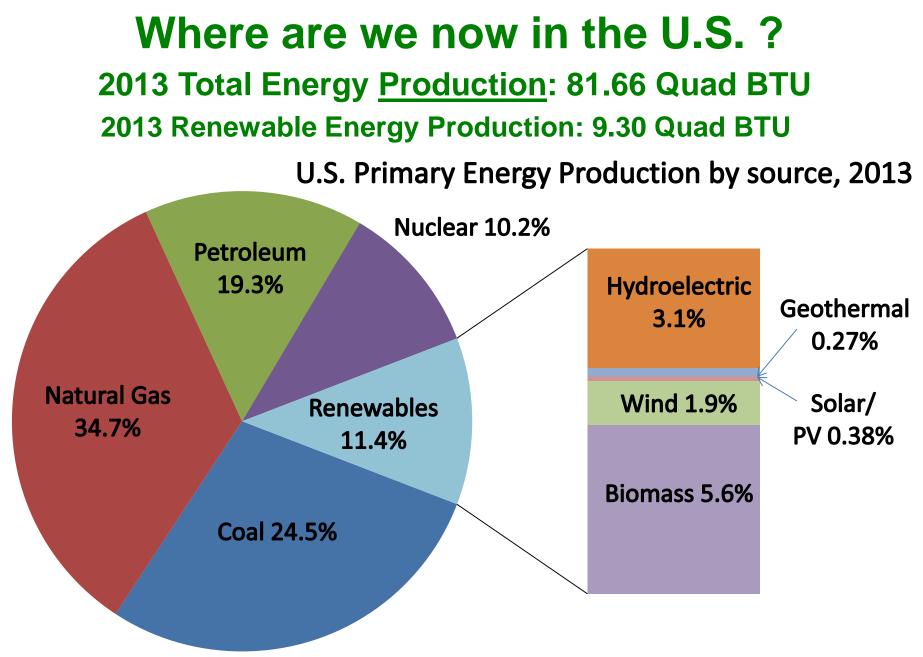


Where are we now in the U.S.? 2013 Total Energy <u>Consumption</u>: 97.53 Quad BTU 2013 Renewable Energy Consumption: 9.29 Quad BTU

U.S. Primary Energy Consumption by source, 2013



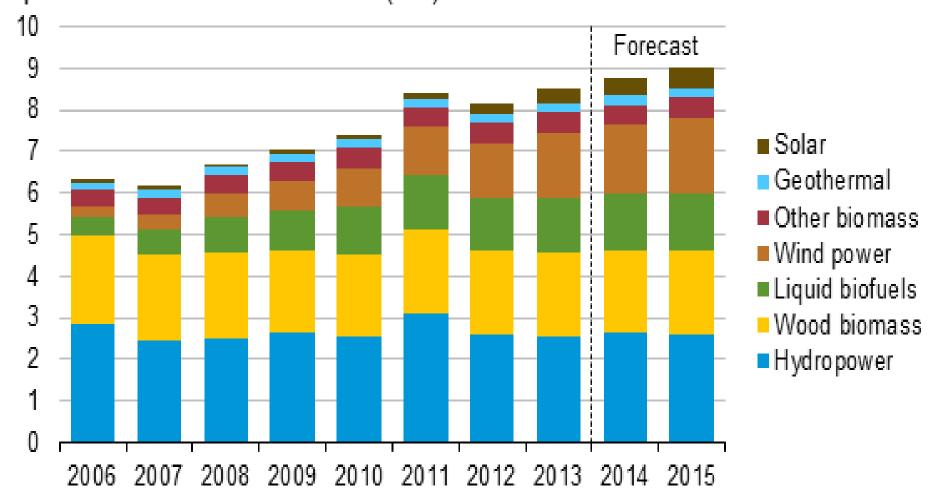
Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

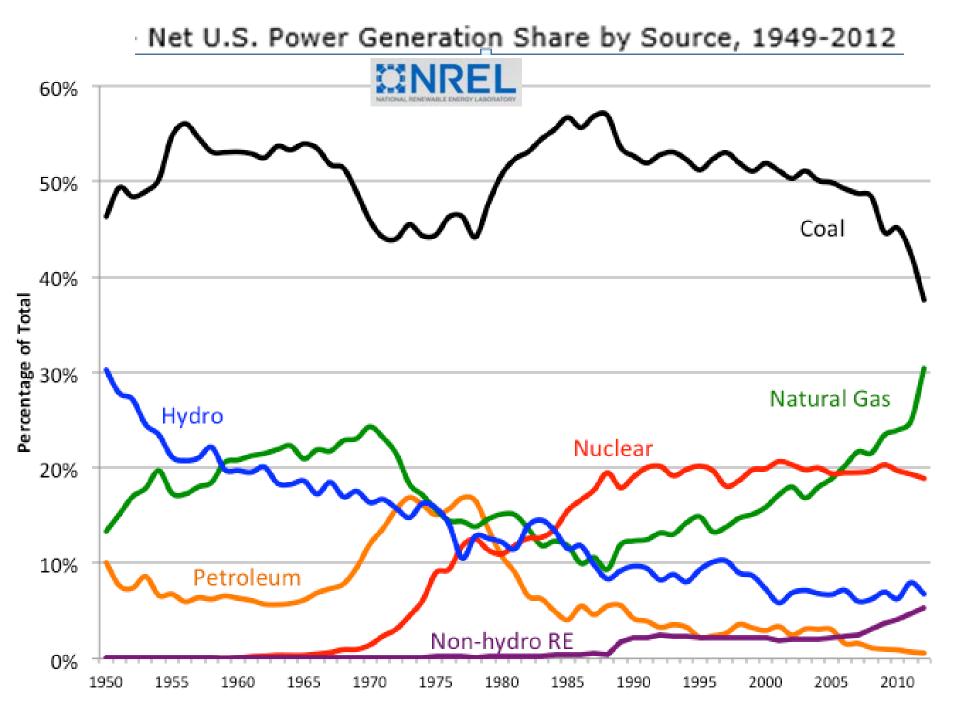
U.S. Renewable Energy Supply quadrillion British thermal units (Btu)



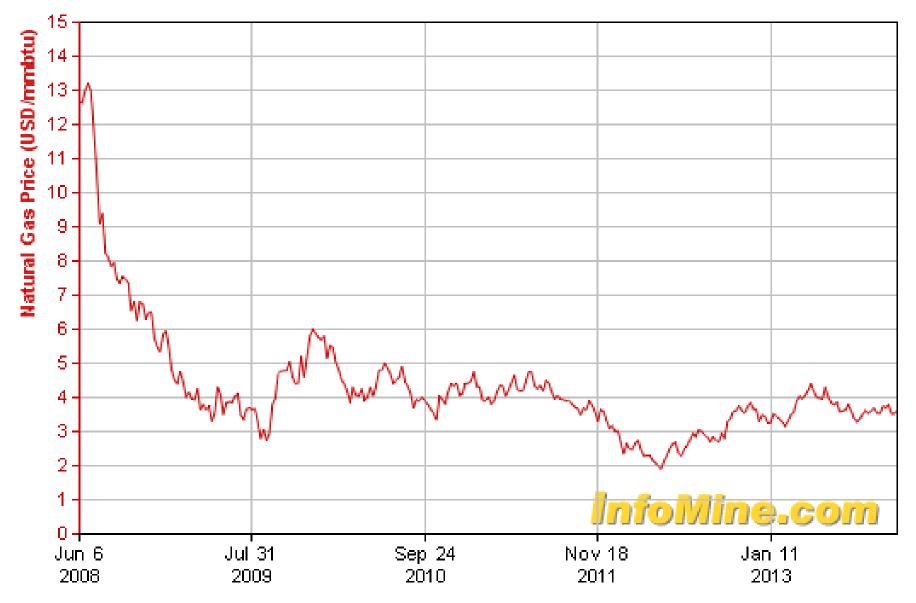


Note: Hydropower excludes pumped storage generation. Liquid biofuels include ethanol and biodiesel. Other biomass includes municipal waste from biogenic sources, landfill gas, and other non-wood waste.

Source: Short-Term Energy Outlook, April 2014.



Natural Gas Price 3.61 USD/mmbtu 15 Nov '13



Wood-based Biomass→ Energy



Drivers & Issues

Siomass industry drivers: subsidies, natural gas prices, sustainable harvest levels, wood fiber prices, and transportation costs.

Harvesting, collecting and transporting cellulosic post-harvest biomass residues can be difficult and expensive.

Whigh transportation costs means cellulosic postharvest biomass plants must source feedstock near plant-typically 75 miles (although up to 150 miles has been reported).

Pre-Summary

Siomass demand currently driven by wood-burning power companies---Pellets.

♦ Wood-based fuels not economically viable

♦ Demand for wood → electricity could also change the landscape.









- Logging slash:
 - 1.2 to 3.2 tons
 per hectare
 generated from
 needles,
 branches left on
 site
 - Potential:
 - Chip tree tops instead of pushing it back into stand



Forests for Biofuel: Potential forest biofuel products



• Logging slash bundled to support power plant

- 100-MW Southern Energy wood-fired power plant in Nacogdoches, Texas (currently idled)
- 20-year power purchase agreement with Austin (Texas) Energy

Management Approaches: Short-rotation woody crops

- Fast-growing plantations that produce large amounts of biomass in short time
- Whole tree chipped in harvest
- Rotation lengths:
 - 3 to 7 years
 - Possibly get 1.5 rotations per planting due to resprouting

Short-rotation woody crops

- Species grow along SE coastal region
 - E. benthamii, macarthurii, camadulensis
- Tolerant to temperatures down to 17 degrees F
- Yields:
 - 5-8 tons/ha per year (loblolly pine = 1.2 tons/ha per year)
 - Mature by age 6-9



Short-rotation woody crops

Hybrid Poplar



Eucalyptus globulus (3 years) Australia



Paulownia (1 year) Fastest Growing Species



Eucalyptus sp. (6 years-rotation age) Brazil



VERY High volume- short rotation woody crop

Frankensteinus sempervirens 6 years old





Where Does Wood Fit into the Picture?



Wood Energy in the U.S.

- Wood is the most commonly used biomass fuel for heat and power in the U.S.
- About 84% of the wood and wood waste fuel used in the U.S. is consumed by industry, electric power producers, and commercial businesses.
- Most of this is used at wood product manufacturing facilities in cogeneration.

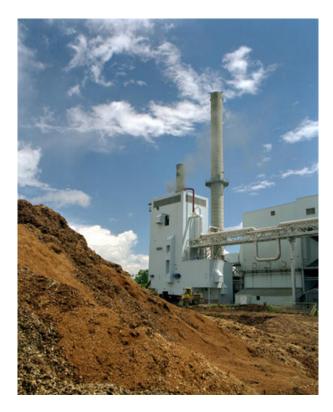


Wood to Energy What are the options?



Gasification

- Converts carbon-based materials, such as coal, petroleum, biofuel, or biomass.....
- into carbon monoxide and hydrogen.....
- by reacting the raw material, at high temperatures controlled <u>with oxygen</u> and/or steam.
- The resulting gas mixture is called synthesis gas or syngas and is itself a fuel.



Pyrolysis

- Chemical decomposition of a condensed substance by heating.
- Does not require oxygen.
- Extreme pyrolysis, which leaves only carbon as the residue, is called *carbonization* and is also related to the chemical process of *charring*.
- Pyrolysis is used in the to produce charcoal, activated carbon, methanol and other chemicals from wood.





Cogeneration

- Simultaneous production of heat and electricity, commonly called combined heat and power (CHP), from a single fuel.
- Traditionally, a steam turbine is used to produce electricity, although a wood gasification/ internal combustion unit can also be a cogeneration unit.
- Most of U.S. CHP capacity is in wood products manufacturing industries.



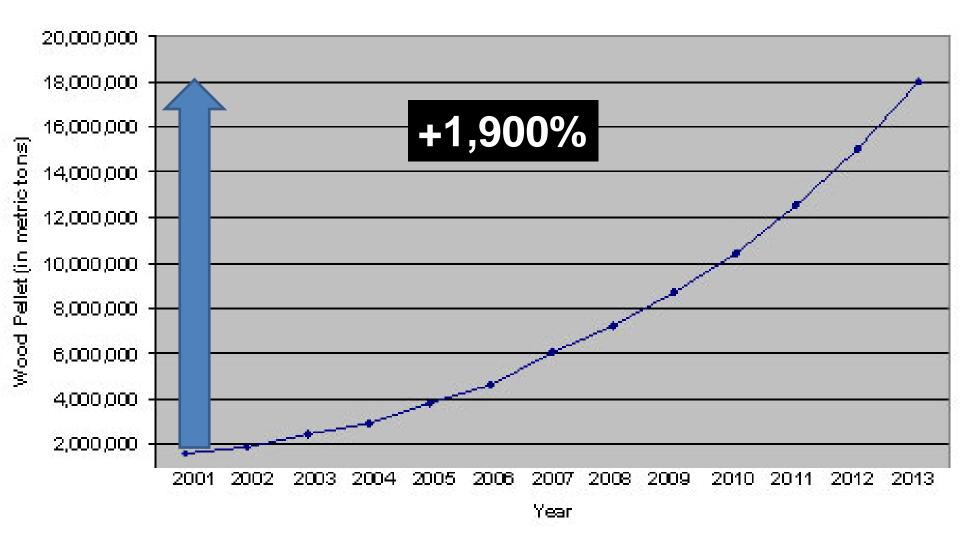
Pellets

- European Union nations imported some 4.46 million metric tons of wood pellets in 2012 up from 3.2 million in 2011.
- Sweden consumes more than 20% of the world's wood pellets and demand is growing.
- 36% of those pellets came from the United States, the most of any nation.
- Wood pellets have about 70 percent of the calorific value of coal.

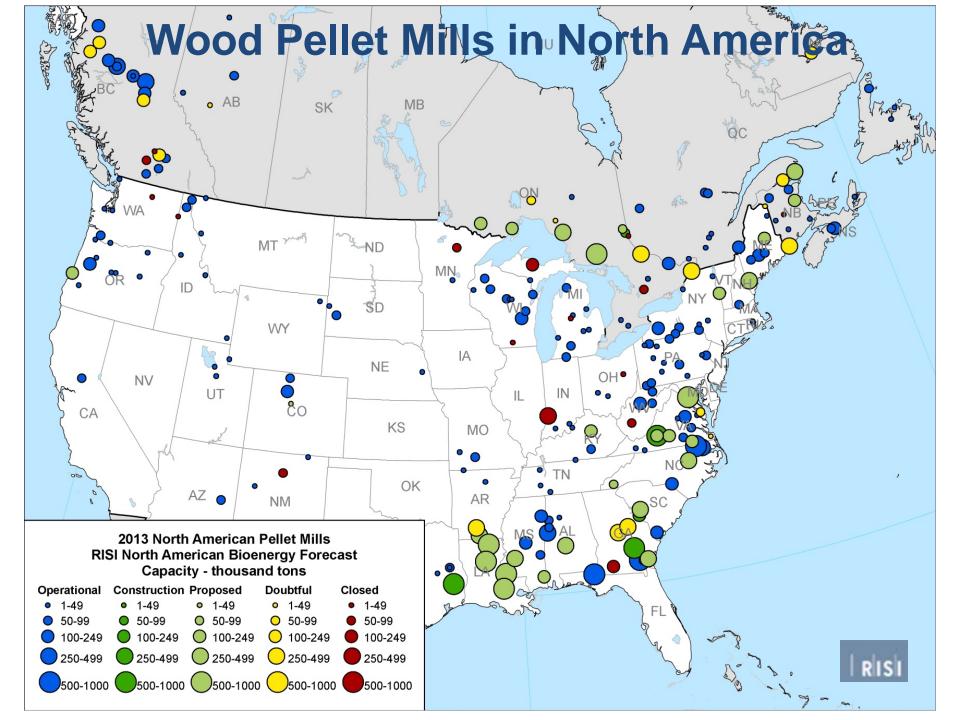


Source: Baton Rouge Business Report, June26, 2013

Wood Pellet Demand in Europe

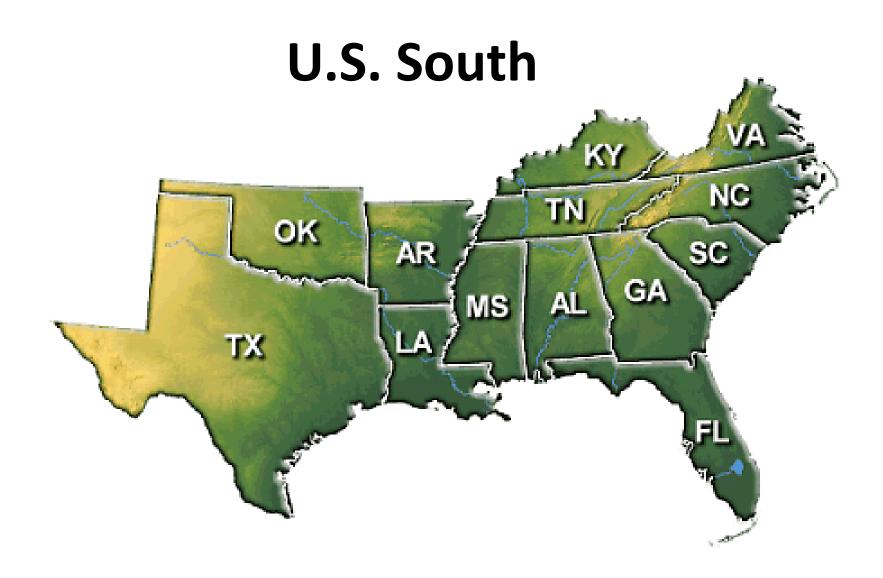


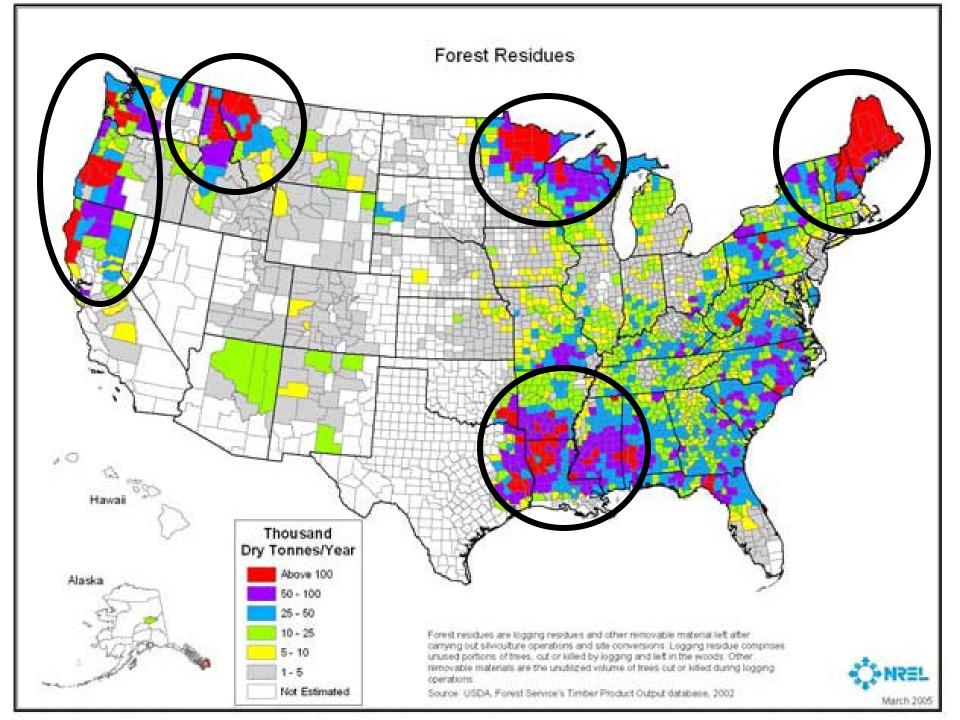
Sources – Pellets@las and Wood Resource Quarterly



What's Happening Here?







Southeast Biomass Resources

- 85 million hectares of forestland
- 34 million hectares of traditional cropland
- 48 million hectares of pasture/hay land

- 7.5 billion head of poultry
- 43 million head of livestock
- 151 million tons of municipal solid waste
- Many other unique biomass resources



Forest Landowner Opportunities and Challenges

The U.S. South is the "wood basket of the nation."

Significant forestland partly due to its sub-tropical climate, steady supply of rainfall, and favorable topography.

Challenges

- Infrastructure remains one of the biggest challenges in bringing renewable energy online.
 - Transmission lines need to be modernized and expanded to tap into rural sources of electricity, especially wind.
 - Biofuels need expanded pipelines, rail, ports and other shipping facilities to get to urban consumers; expansion of blender pumps and flex fuel vehicles are also needed.
- Significant long term *public and private investment* is needed to achieve a new, renewable energy future.
- Regulatory actions and proposals from EPA, DOE, USDA, states, etc.



Thank You Questions???

LSUAgCenter.com

Richard P. Vlosky, Ph.D.

Director Louisiana Forest Products Development Center Crosby Land & Resources Endowed Professor of Forest Sector Business Development

Room 227, School of Renewable Natural Resources

Louisiana State University Agricultural Center

Baton Rouge, LA 70803 Phone (office): (225) 578-4527 Fax: (225) 578-4251 Mobile Phone: (225) 223-1931 vlosky@lsu.edu