

# CAREE Comments

By Shannon Murphy

(Conservation, Agricultural Resources and Environmental Education)

The National Agriculture in the Classroom conference was held June 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> in New Orleans. CAREE had the opportunity to attend the conference. There were around 400 educators, Agricultural literacy Coordinators, Agriculture in the Classroom volunteers, and State Agriculture in the Classroom Contacts. Educators had the opportunity to hear from many different speakers and attended workshop sessions to see different ways to bring agriculture into their classrooms.

On Friday we had the opportunity to tour different Louisiana agricultural businesses. There were five different tour groups and each group toured different agricultural businesses. I had the opportunity to tour Raceland Raw Sugar Corporation, Motivati Seafood's, USDA-ARS Sugarcane Research Unit, Daniel Naquin Farms, Inc and John Deere Thibodaux, Inc.

At Raceland Raw Sugar Corporation we had the chance to learn more about a sugar mill. The mill is a producer of brown sugar, molasses and syrup. It has a processing capacity of 15,000 tons of cane per day. Soon the mill will be using sugarcane to make



ethanol.

Motivati Seafood's distributes oysters to customers nationwide. They use a high pressure process on the oysters which shucks the oysters while

reducing harmful bacteria to non-detectable levels. To the left is the machine that they use for the high pressure process on the oysters.



At the USDA Sugarcane Research Unit they explained how new varieties are used and tested before they are released to farmers. Daniel Naquin farm is a family farm that consists of over 4,000 acres of sugarcane and 15 acres of crawfish ponds. At the crawfish pond we learned more about raising crawfish. In the end of May the crawfish ponds are drained, then the land is tilled and planted so that the crawfish will have food to feed on. Around October the plants are harvested and the pond is filled again. The crawfish are harvested in the spring.

At the John Deere Thibodaux, Inc. they produce sugarcane harvesting equipment.



The conference was very educational while giving new ideas on how to bring agriculture into the classroom and learning more about Louisiana Agriculture.