

# RICE STEWARDSHIP

## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



RICE STEWARDSHIP





PHOTO: USA RICE

**"The National Black Growers Council is excited about our partnership with USA Rice, the universities, Ducks Unlimited, and others," said PJ Haynie III, Arkansas rice farmer and chair of the National Black Growers Council.**

# LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

AMERICA'S RICE PRODUCERS - WATER CONSCIOUS, WILDLIFE FRIENDLY, CLIMATE SMART

The USA Rice-Ducks Unlimited Rice Stewardship Partnership will soon celebrate its 10-year anniversary in February 2023. Looking back, we have much to celebrate. And looking forward we have much more to accomplish. And most importantly we will stand by our mission from the beginning and that is to conserve three of the Nation's most important natural resources; working ricelands, water, and wildlife.


## LOOKING BACK:

- » We have built a Rice Stewardship Field Team of 25+ professionals from USA Rice, Ducks Unlimited, California Rice Commission, and Delta Wildlife, who possess great expertise and experience with on-farm conservation.
- » We have surpassed 1,000+ unique and individual rice farms covering more than 800,000 acres where we have accomplished conservation planning and technical and financial assistance for improved environmental performance and trends to a better bottom line for producers.
- » We have 25 supplychain financial sponsors who have contributed over \$10 million to leverage conservation impact and leverage USDA investments in conservation. Just 5 top-tier sponsors have contributed >85% of these funds, namely Walmart Foundation, Nestle' Purina PetCare, The Mosaic Company, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, and Chevron USA.
- » And we have worked seamlessly with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service in all major rice-growing states to effectively deliver 10 Regional Conservational Partnership Program awards, 2 of which received renewals, all totaling over \$108 million in financial assistance to rice producers.


## LOOKING AHEAD:

- » The horizon unveils agriculture as a key solution in global climate change. Historic funding for climate-smart agriculture has come, and will continue to come, through aggressive federal legislation.
- » Rice Stewardship Partnership is once again in a lead position with our Climate-Smart Commodities grant award of \$80 million. At an Arkansas media event on September 16th, held at Isbell Family Farms, Secretary Tom Vilsack said, "The Rice Stewardship proposal was the highest scoring project of all grants submitted in this first round."
- » We will grow our working relationships with the historically underserved agricultural community by forging partnerships with the National Black Growers Council and other representative organizations.
- » We will increase our integration and capacity within the NRCS whose budgets for key working lands conservation programs, like Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Stewardship Program, are set to increase 9-fold by 2026.

Indeed, looking back we have much to celebrate. And looking forward we have much more to accomplish. We will stand by our mission from the beginning and that is to conserve three of the Nation's most important natural resources; working ricelands, water, and wildlife. We thank the NRCS, our supplychain financial sponsors, and many other in-kind supporters, for the solid foundation upon which we stand. Let us continue the momentum, the economic and environmental impact, through tomorrow and beyond. And remember - America's Rice Producers - water conscious, wildlife friendly, climate smart.



Jeff Durand  
Co-Chairman



Al Montna  
Co-Chairman





# Historic CONSERVATION FUNDING FOR AMERICA'S FARMERS & RANCHERS

PHOTO: CALRICE.ORG

By: **Jamison Cruce**, Senior Director of Government Affairs, USA Rice & **Julia Peebles**, Manager of Agriculture and Sustainability Policy, Ducks Unlimited

Yes, we are all still trying to fully understand the magnitude and impact of the last year's blockbuster funding announcements for conservation. The Nation's farms, forests, ranches, public lands, and rural economies all stand to benefit from these historic investments. The numbers are staggering, the scope and pace of work ahead are only beginning to sink in, and all involved in our Rice Stewardship Partnership could not be prouder and more excited.

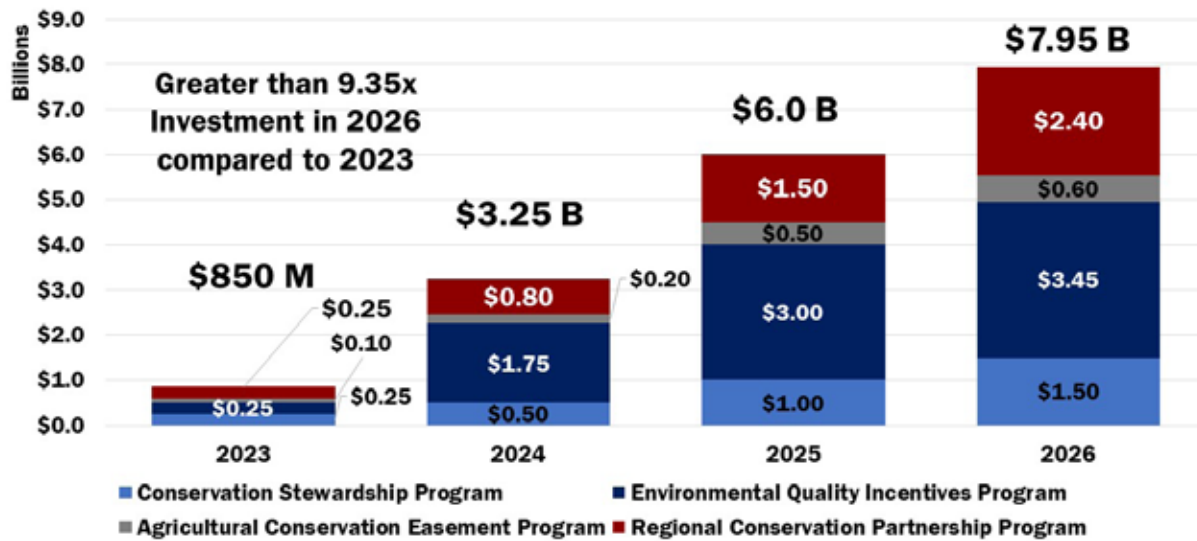
The funding started as far back as November 2021 with the **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (H.R. 3684)**. This ambitious \$1.2 trillion piece of legislation with \$550 billion in new funding supports both existing and new competitive grant programs to enhance and modernize infrastructure related to transportation, water, rural community resilience, and communications. The bill invests in the U.S. Forest Service to build capacity for working with partners to improve wildland fire management and repair infrastructure, both nature-based and constructed, across national forests and grasslands. Furthermore, this Act invests in USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for flood prevention projects and repairs on existing watershed infrastructure.

In August 2022 came the **Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117-169)** worth around \$770 billion. This law's stated goal is to lower prescription drug costs, fund new energy, climate, and health care initiatives, and reduce budget deficits. Provisions specific to agriculture include nearly \$40 billion for spending on programs

and initiatives ranging from Farm Bill working lands conservation and technical assistance to renewable energy and biofuels. There are also funds provided for rural development and drought mitigation.

The details on support for working lands programs are important here. The Inflation Reduction Act will add about \$18.05 billion in additional funding to existing Farm Bill working lands conservation programs through fiscal year 2026 and extend the programs' authorities through fiscal year 2031; however, this funding is at the discretion of the USDA Secretary and eligible practices, or enhancements should be "climate-smart" to include carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emission reductions. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was appropriated \$8.45 billion, Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) was appropriated \$4.95 billion, Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) was appropriated \$3.25 billion and Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) was appropriated \$1.40 billion. Over the next four years, the Inflation Reduction Act invests 9.35 times the amount of funding previously included in the 2018 Farm Bill for these four working lands programs. In addition to the funding added to these programs that provide financial and technical assistance for conservation practices on working agricultural lands, the Act also includes an additional \$1 billion in funding for conservation technical assistance, \$300 million for a carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emissions quantification program, and \$100 million in funding for administrative expenses.

## CBO Conservation Baseline & \$18.05 Billion from IRA



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Source: Congressional Budget Office, HR 5376 EAS

Then in February 2022, there was the announcement of the **Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities** funding opportunity. Recall that this new program offered \$1 billion to support pilot projects that create market opportunities for U.S. agricultural and forest products produced using climate-smart practices and include innovative, cost-effective methods for quantification, monitoring and verification of greenhouse gas and carbon sequestration benefits. Here, USDA will support the production and marketing of climate-smart commodities using voluntary incentives through partners to producers and landowners, including early adopters to: (a) implement climate-smart production practices, activities, and systems on working lands, (b) measure, report, and verify the carbon and greenhouse gas (GHG) benefits associated with those practices, and (c) develop markets and promote the resulting climate-smart commodities. The funding opportunity was divided into two application pools, one with applications ranging from \$5M-\$100M, and the other <\$5M.

On September 14th the announcement of awards for the first pool of projects was released by USDA. Of the 450 proposals submitted, 70 were funded

for a grand total of \$2.8 billion. The extra funding was added due to the popularity of the effort and the number of excellent proposals submitted. Our proposal, entitled Rice Stewardship Partnership for Climate Smart Commodities, was funded at \$80M. At an Arkansas media event on September 16th, held at Isbell Family Farms, Secretary Tom Vilsack said, “This proposal was the highest scoring project of all grants submitted in this first round.” Congratulations to all of those involved in making this proposal and Partnership a success.

So yes, we are all still trying to fully comprehend the impact of the last year’s funding announcements for conservation and for Rice Stewardship. With all of this comes some anxiousness and an increased need for understanding. We say that although much seems to change – even more stays the same. Rice Stewardship will still focus on 3 of the Nation’s more important resources: working ricelands, water, and wildlife. With that comes conservation of energy, reduction in greenhouse gases, and, importantly, a trend to a better bottom line for producers. The scope and pace of work ahead are embraced by our team. We look forward to the great work our Rice Stewardship Partnership will accomplish in the coming years.

# WATERFOWL & RICE

## PRODUCING QUALITY PRODUCTS AND QUALITY HABITATS THROUGH THE RICE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

By: **Emily Austin**, Ducks Unlimited Corporate Relations & External Affairs Manager & **Meaghan Huseman**, Ducks Unlimited Conservation Specialist



Image of:  
Kenneth Averett Jr.

Jordan Averett is a fifth-generation farmer in the most northern point of rice country. In the 1930s, his grandparents owned one of two stores in the small but booming town of Charter Oak, MO. After they sold it they used the money to purchase what became the family's home place on 270 acres.

"My great-grandparents sold their store and bought this land," said Jordan. "In the 1950's they started farming cotton and soybeans, and in the 1980's they switched to rice." Jordan and his father have been producing rice ever since.

In the 2022 growing season, the Averett farm had 1,300 acres in rice. Jordan and his father farm a total of 4,100 acres, alternating between soybeans and rice, with half the rice being hybrid and half conventional.

Jordan believes that one of the keys to having a successful farm is to focus on sustainability and being willing to make changes that support this. Being involved with the NRCS and Rice Stewardship helps him to achieve this goal.

"As a producer, I feel like focusing on giving back to nature instead of only taking," Jordan went on to say. "The technical assistance you get as a Rice Stewardship

participant helps to guide you to be a more impactful producer." Currently, in his initial year of the program, Jordan hopes to see a significant improvement in the water usage on his farm.

Jordan commented, watching a flock of teal fly over his field, "Rice and nature go hand in hand. Since being involved in the program, and flooding our fields after harvest, we have noticed a significant improvement." In winter, flooding rice fields provides loafing and foraging habitat for migrating waterfowl; it works to help provide a refuge for all manner of wildlife during the migration. Leaving the water on seems to retain some nutrients left behind from the birds coming and going. I have always had a great fascination with nature and the complexities of growing food in the most conservative manner that is available to me. One of these days I fear there will be too few farmers willing to go through with these programs, and that is very troubling."

Another aspect of the Rice Stewardship that has benefited the property is implementing sustainable water use practices. "This year, irrigating has been challenging," Jordan said. "We have had a very dry summer and experienced some well surge." Thanks to the innovative use of polypipe, surge valves and timers Jordan has cut back on his overall water usage. "One of the great things about the program is, that it encourages producers to make the best, most effective use of critical resources. For us this year, that was water."

**"The truth is: the natural world is changing. And we are totally dependent on that world. It provides our food, water and air. It is the most precious thing we have, and we need to defend it."**

**- SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH**



Jordan Averett sits on the same equipment his grandfather used more than 30 years ago.

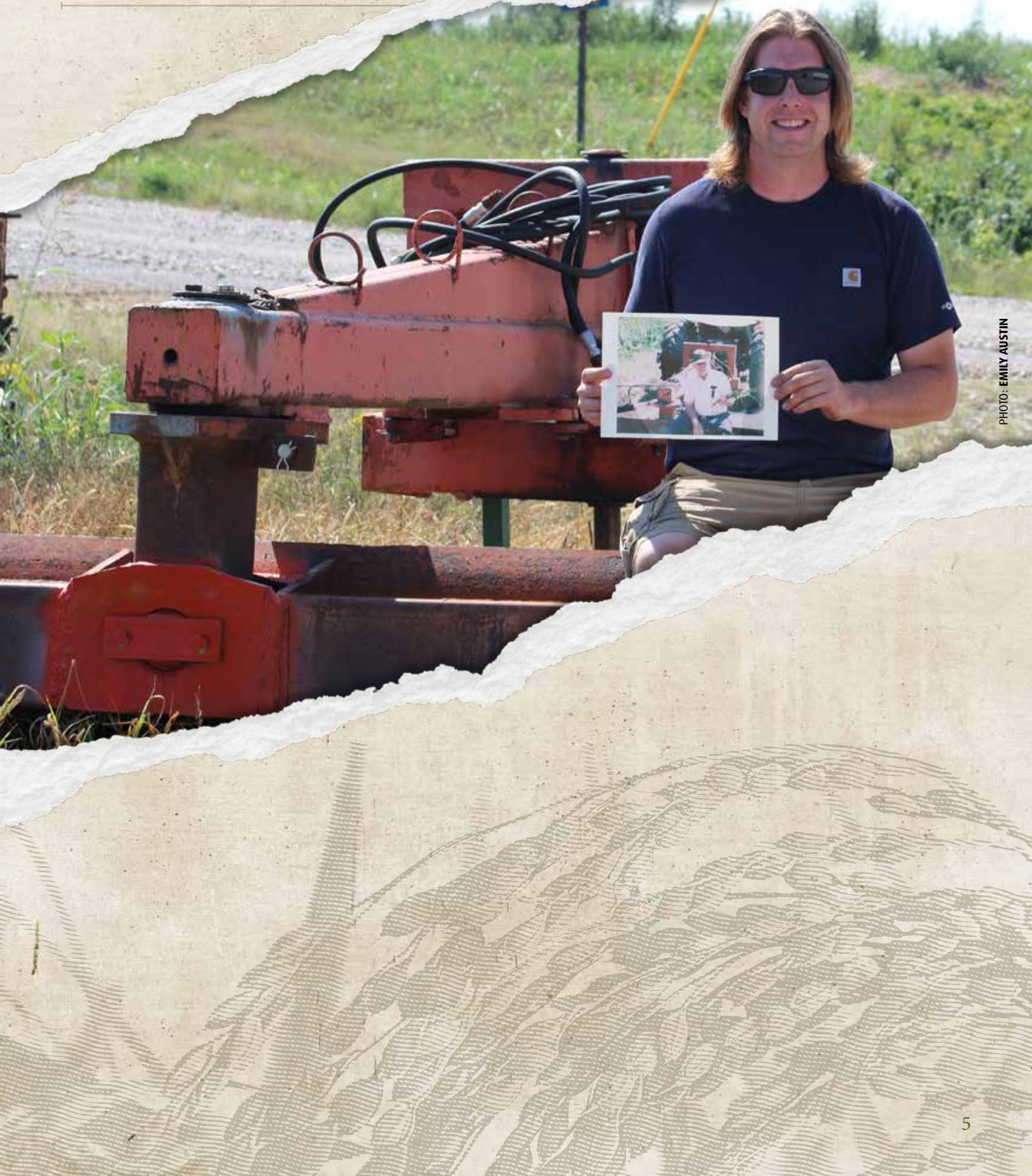


PHOTO: EMILY AUSTIN



# BATTLING DROUGHT IN CALIFORNIA

## CALIFORNIA RICE ADVANCES PROGRAMS TO HELP WILDLIFE

By: **Luke Matthews**, California Rice Commission, Wildlife Programs Manager

In 2022, the California Rice Commission (CRC) and its many conservation partners successfully secured \$8 million from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to combat significant drought impacts. In addition, CRC and the California Ricelands Waterbird Foundation continued work on ongoing winter flooding programs, special shorebird projects, nesting cover and further testing of salmon habitat management practices.

### WATERBIRD HABITAT CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

#### Drought Relief Waterbird Program (DRWP)

This program received a second \$8 million award from DWR to help create more flooded habitat on rice fields and wetlands. Over 55,000 acres of rice and wetland habitat in 2021 and ongoing enrollments for 2022. We appreciate DWR partnering with CRC to help waterbirds survive multi-year drought conditions.

#### California Winter Rice Habitat Incentive Program (CWRHIP)

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife recently turned over the administration of this program to CRC. We've worked to add flexibility and, therefore, greater participation to help sustain winter flooding in California. Enrollments for the program were just over 20,000 acres this year.

#### Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

This NRCS program provides financial assistance to implement waterbird conservation practices, including flooding for habitat, cover cropping and habitat enhancement to benefit wildlife, soil health and water quality.

#### California Ricelands Waterbird Foundation's Bid4Birds Program

California Ricelands Waterbird Foundation continues to expand and provide growers with the opportunity to create critical habitat by implementing seasonal flooding for migratory birds. This summer, we created nearly 1,000 acres of shorebird habitat before fall flooding started.

### CALIFORNIA RICELANDS SALMON PILOT PROJECT

CRC continued developing a strategy for managing winter-flooded rice fields to help salmon. Our Phase II Pilot Study with UC Davis and California Trout will continue for 1-2 more years. In the 2022 field season, accomplished the following:

- » Tested the management practice on full-sized rice fields for the first time.
- » Conducted radio telemetry tagging to quantify survival results and out-migration to the ocean.
- » Demonstrated volitional passage of salmon within and out of the project fields

CRC appreciates its ongoing partnership with the NRCS as they support our current \$1.2 million Phase II Pilot Program. We also thank our match funding partners. This includes significant funding provided by Syngenta and State Water Contractors and contributions from Grow West, Corteva, Agriscience American Commodity Company, California Family Foods, Rice Research Board and Lundberg Family Farms.







PHOTO: CALRICE.ORG

**Luke Matthews, CRC's Wildlife Programs Manager, joined by California Grower Everette Willey to showcase a California Ricelands Waterbird Foundation ([CalRiceWaterbirds.org](http://CalRiceWaterbirds.org)) habitat projects to two Foundation donors—Sun Valley Rice and Sawtelle Sake.**









# MAKING AN IMPACT, ONE FARM AT A TIME

TRUSTED ADVISOR **DENNIS NEUMAN** RICE SPECIALIST

By: *Emily Austin, Ducks Unlimited Corporate Relations & External Affairs Manager*



Dennis Neuman has a passion for conservation. A graduate of Texas A&M University in Kingsville, Texas, Dennis always knew he wanted to help make a difference in the world around him by helping others understand how to take care of the land. A 39-year veteran with the NRCS, he knows a thing or two about taking care of our critical resources.

While working for NRCS, Dennis started as a conservation planner, was promoted to a district conservationist, and ultimately became a multi-county Resource Team Leader. Throughout his career with NRCS, Dennis assisted hundreds of producers plan and accomplish their properties' conservation objectives.

"Being able to help producers evaluate the needs of their land and come up with a plan to improve that land is very rewarding," Dennis said. "We must take care of our resources if we expect to continue to farm. This summer, we have seen just how limited access to water can be."

After retiring from NRCS, Dennis was asked to join the Rice Stewardship team, and in 2016, he did just that. "Working for Ducks Unlimited, and working with rice producers has been pretty seamless," said Dennis. "I've been able to help promote and ultimately see funded millions of dollars in

conservation work through the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) cost-share program." The EQIP program helps to install irrigation, land leveling and pipelines to conserve water.

Through Rice Stewardship, Dennis has assisted with planning and developing Conservation Stewardship Program contracts on over 35,000 acres of rice country. These programs are designed to help promote waterfowl habitat, conserve water and encourage sound nutrient and pest management. Dennis currently manages 75 contracts with Texas rice producers.

When asked what essential advice Dennis would give to rice producers, it would be, "Don't ever give up. Keep persisting, and eventually, all the hard work will pay off."

An avid outdoorsman, Dennis enjoys hunting, fishing, volunteering for the Fayette County Fair and spending time with his six grandchildren in his downtime.



PHOTO: EMILY AUSTIN





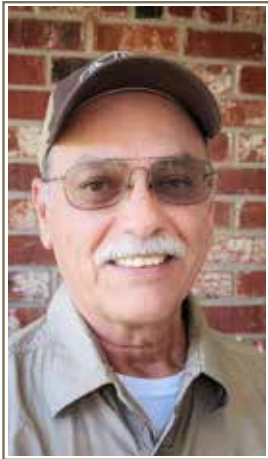
PHOTO: DUCKS UNLIMITED



# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, PERSONAL ATTENTION

TRUSTED RICE SPECIALIST RAUL VILLARREAL

By: *Emily Austin, Ducks Unlimited Corporate Relations & External Affairs Manager*



In August 2019, long-time Ducks Unlimited rice specialist Dennis Neuman needed help with the ever-increasing work associated with the Rice Stewardship Partnership. Knowing it would take a person with a particular skill set to do the job, Dennis reached out to long-time friend Raul Villarreal for help.

“At the time, I had retired from the NRCS after more than 36 years of service,” Raul said. “Dennis called and said they could use my help with all the rice contracts they were managing. Since I had helped develop the software that RCPP uses to monitor the program, I said, ‘why not?’”

In his service with NRCS, Raul was part of the team that developed the software to monitor aspects of the RCPP. The ‘toolkit’, now called Conservation Desktop and ProTracts, is the contract management software used in RCPP and is an essential part of the monitoring process.

The RCPP has several technical aspects that must be monitored, which is where rice specialists step in to assist. To Raul, the best part about his role in the program is the on the groundwork with the producers. “Helping producers implement various aspects of their contracts from ecologically based pest management, irrigation and water management, all while helping them maintain active agriculture production on their land takes time and trust,” Raul said. “Working with producers yearly and seeing the efforts in practice is pretty exciting.”

In Texas, irrigation is a big issue, but it’s an issue the program is helping with. Conservation efforts that are beneficial for rice are useful for ducks. The water use practices utilized as a part of the program are a testament to that. “We are seeing a lot more waterfowl on the fields we work on,” he said. Rice fields are flooded in the winter to provide habitat for migrating waterfowl. “The number of geese we see is really unbelievable.”

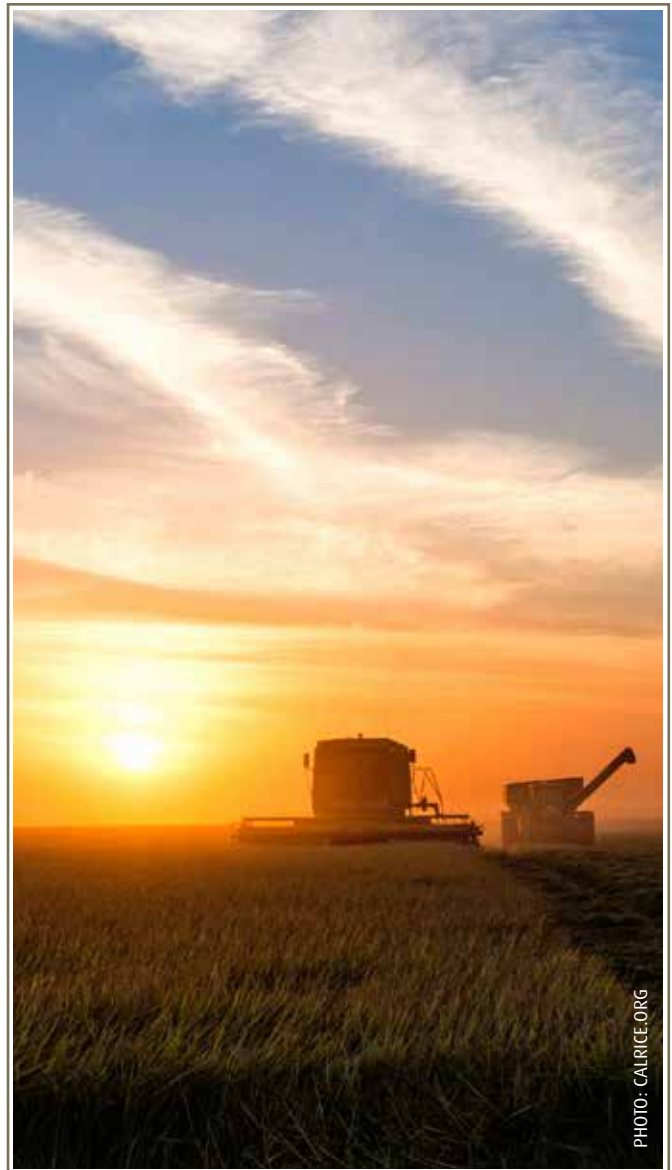


PHOTO: CALRICE.ORG

# FARMING IN THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA

LONGTIME DUCKS UNLIMITED MEMBER, FIRST GENERATION FARMER

By: *Emily Austin, Ducks Unlimited Corporate Relations & External Affairs Manager & Meaghan Huseman, Ducks Unlimited Conservation Specialist*

The Mississippi Delta is a distinct landscape nestled between the Yazoo and Mississippi Rivers. Rich in culture, this area was once one of the top cotton-growing areas in the nation. Today it is quickly becoming known for soybeans and rice.

Walt Rambo and his wife Ashley are proud first-generation Mississippi rice producers. “In 2014, we had our first crop of rice,” said Walt. “My grandfather once told me you have to grow what your ground is suited for. My ground is suited for rice and soybeans. Eventually, I would love to transition to all rice.” The Rambo’s currently farm 1,300 acres that rotate between the two crops.

A Ducks Unlimited member since a young age, Walt knows the relationship between agriculture and waterfowl is an important one. “Ducks need loafing areas; they look for lots of surface area,” Walt said. “When we flood our rice fields in the winter, we provide this. The ducks that migrate through the Delta are looking for somewhere to rest, without hunting pressure.” While passionate about duck hunting, Walt also sees how important it is to provide quality bird habitats. Implementing Rice Stewardship recommended practices helps their property offer this much-needed habitat.

In 2017, Trinity Long with the NRCS approached Walt and Ashley about enrolling their farm in the RCPP to help with production and resource management. Walt sits on the state board of directors for Soil and Water and knows firsthand how critical resource water is for farmers and the cost to irrigate fields. Now, as a participant in the Rice Stewardship, Walt can attest to the cost savings producers experience by implementing recommended practices. “The tailwater recovery practice has truly



changed the face of our farm. Thanks to this technique, we are almost 100 percent self-sufficient on 300 acres.” By switching to surface water irrigation, Walt has significantly improved his rice and soybean harvest.

While water is a concern for rice producers, so is finding just the right type of rice to grow. Historically, Walt has grown seed rice, but in the 2022 growing season, he planted row rice for the first time. By implementing practices encouraged by the program, Walt has been able to streamline his operations, resulting in lower emissions and decreasing his carbon footprint. Growing row rice also provides the opportunity to utilize the “no-till” farming practice.

Walt is a passionate duck hunter but a true conservationist at heart. “I have always told our kids (Addison, 16 and Wyatt, 12) that you must care for your resources. One of the most critical resources we have is water. Working our land under the technical guidance of the Rice Stewardship helps us to make the best use of this resource while helping us as farmers produce a quality product.”

According to Walt and Ashley, the future of rice farming is the younger generation. “I think it’s important to get young folks involved in agriculture,” he said. “We must show them how important it is to preserve and create habitat.”



Walt Rambo talks to DU's Ethan Adkins about harvest timing.



PHOTO: MATT HARRISON





# VALLEY IRRIGATION JOINS RICE STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIP

By: *Terry Kostinec, Ducks Unlimited Director of Development – Nebraska*

Rice is one of the world’s most important crops. Each year the US rice industry distributes nearly 40 million pounds of rice across the globe to combat food insecurity. Rice agriculture is also vital to waterfowl, providing crucial habitat in North America’s most important migration and wintering landscapes.

The USA Rice-Ducks Unlimited Rice Stewardship Partnership has been working with rice producers to help keep farms producing abundant crops and providing habitat for waterfowl. The partnership is working to improve the efficiency of irrigated agriculture across the lower Mississippi River Valley and the Louisiana and Texas Gulf Coast.

Following a successful water sustainability partnership with Ducks Unlimited in Nebraska’s Rainwater Basin, Valley Irrigation has developed a broader relationship to bring new technologies and solutions to rice country. Examples include remote water-level monitoring, automated irrigation pump operation, weather stations, and more. The resulting improvements in irrigation efficiency save energy and time, leading to a better bottom line for rice producers.

As part of its contributions to Rice Stewardship, Valley Irrigation is providing financial support for field staff, establishing demonstration farms, and participating in farmer-to-farmer field days. “This all-in approach makes our efforts valuable to rice producers, and that’s what we are all about,” says Dr. Scott Manley, director of agriculture support for DU’s Southern Region.

“Valley Irrigation and our parent company, Valmont Industries, create critical infrastructure along with agriculture irrigation products providing sustainable solutions around the globe,” says Andy Carritt, Valmont chief technology officer and a DU volunteer and major donor. “Through this partnership, DU will impact additional rice acres and reach the one-million-acre milestone in 2023.



PHOTO: CALRICE.ORG



The Leader in Precision Irrigation.





PHOTO: EMILY AUSTIN

**Ethan Adkins, Ducks Unlimited Rice Specialist, wires a water level sensor to a solar-powered device that allows for remote monitoring.**





**A flooded rice field in  
southeastern Missouri.**

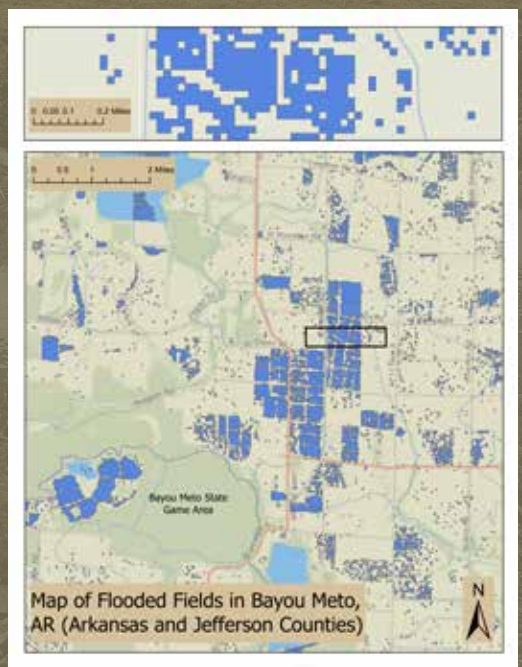


PHOTO: TONY JACO



# WATERFOWL & WINTER FLOODED RICE FIELDS

## DU SCIENTISTS TEST WINTER WATER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

By: *Megan E. Martin, Ducks Unlimited Conservation Specialist*

Scientists with Rice Stewardship are working on innovative techniques to estimate the percent flood of rice fields in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley (MAV) by testing a framework for using satellite imagery. Dedicated team members spend hundreds of hours each winter traveling to farms across the MAV to monitor enrolled fields on the producer's behalf. Team members have previously captured geotagged photos for the producer to submit to the NRCS as part of the monitoring process. As enrollments in winter water conservation practices increase in this region, the acreage in need of monitoring is also increasing. Rice Stewardship scientists have devised a solution that may decrease the need for in-person visits to producers.

Since 2015, Rice Stewardship has assisted with winter water monitoring on over 1,400 farms. Our land classification technology will improve monitoring conservation efforts, benefiting both the producer and wildlife. "The new framework uses satellite imagery and an algorithm to estimate the percent flood on enrolled fields across the Mid-South," stated Dr. Manley with DU. "Rice field staff collected data to compare to the estimates and continue improving their ability to detect water on fields." Over the past three years, the framework has been best at recognizing dry and very wet fields.

Data analysis has shown that partially flooded fields and fields with rice stubble are more difficult for the algorithm to classify as wet. Clouds also negatively affect the ability to detect water accurately. However, the framework is getting better with each year of data collection. "As we gather more validation data, we will be more confident in our assessment, making fully automated detection possible," Geographic Information Systems Programmer Michael Mitchell says. "I believe that the project is a positive step forward."

This winter, DU plans to keep collecting data to improve the algorithm and begin a partial rollout of the technology. Twenty to thirty producer properties will be selected to have satellite-generated imagery maps depicting each field's water coverage. Rice team members will make in-person visits to all fields classified as dry to verify the classification. Producers will receive maps of percent flood, which may be shared with NRCS. If successful, Dr. Manley says this technology will save time and may pave the way for a pay-for-performance system, in which producers are compensated based on the number of flooded acres per month across the winter season.

"Rice producers always ask for more flexibility with their winter water conservation contracts," Dr. Manley explains. "Producers prefer to have options for various reasons, such as tractor rutting during harvest, switching to early soybeans or other crops, and needing to take soil samples." Dr. Manley believes this new framework and a pay-for-performance system could consider these needs, allowing the producer to choose where and how long to hold water based on the operation's needs and in turn, providing valuable waterfowl habitat.



PHOTO: CALRICE.ORG

# RICELAND FOODS CONTINUES SUPPORT

for the

# RICESTEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIP

By: *Emily Woodall, Manager, Rice Conservation Services, USA Rice*

Riceland Foods is a farmer-owned cooperative that provides marketing services for rice and soybeans grown by its 5,500 farmer-members in Arkansas and Missouri. As the world's largest marketer of rice, and one of the Mid-South's major soybean processors, Riceland receives, stores, transports, processes and markets up to 125 million bushels (2.5 million metric tons) of grain each year.

## Riceland's Contribution

From the inception of RCPP in 2014, Riceland has been an in-kind contributor to the Rice Stewardship Partnership. As the program progressed, Riceland pledged financial contributions from the Riceland Foundation.

"The mission of the Riceland Foods Foundation is to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve," said Kevin McGilton, Executive Director, Riceland Foods Foundation. "Foundation funds being matched and placed back in our local communities is a win-win."

Riceland has pledged capacity support of \$250,000 for the Mid-South Graduated Water Stewardship Program through 2024.

## Setting Goals for Sustainable Success

As natural resource conservation continues to be a focal point, the rice industry is well suited to highlight the impact of rice farmers in agriculture. The USA Rice Federation's Sustainability report does an incredible job telling the story of the past 30 years, but

the industry has also set ambitious goals to achieve by 2030. These goals have inspired companies to set their own goals around resource conservation. In 2020, Riceland set a goal to reduce the amount of water used in rice production by 250 billion gallons by 2025. Programs implemented through the Rice Stewardship Partnership help incentivize the practices that will ultimately drive the change needed to meet and exceed these goals moving forward.



## The Ingrain Good Initiative

Riceland's sustainability initiative, Ingrain Good, helps bring value back to our farmer members. The Rice Stewardship Partnership works towards the same goal of adding value to rice farms across the country. The Ingrain Good logo represents the larger picture of sustainability and depicts an ecosystem that depends on the stewardship of rice farmers across the country. Water is needed to grow rice. Rice is required in order to feed ducks, and ducks depend on flooded rice fields for habitat and other things essential to their migration journey each year. Rice cultivation provides millions of acres of waterfowl habitat across the rice-growing states, and the Rice Stewardship Partnership plays a huge role in ensuring this habitat continues to grow.

Riceland is proud to support the Rice Stewardship Partnership and looks forward to continuing our support in the future.



# RICELAND<sup>®</sup>

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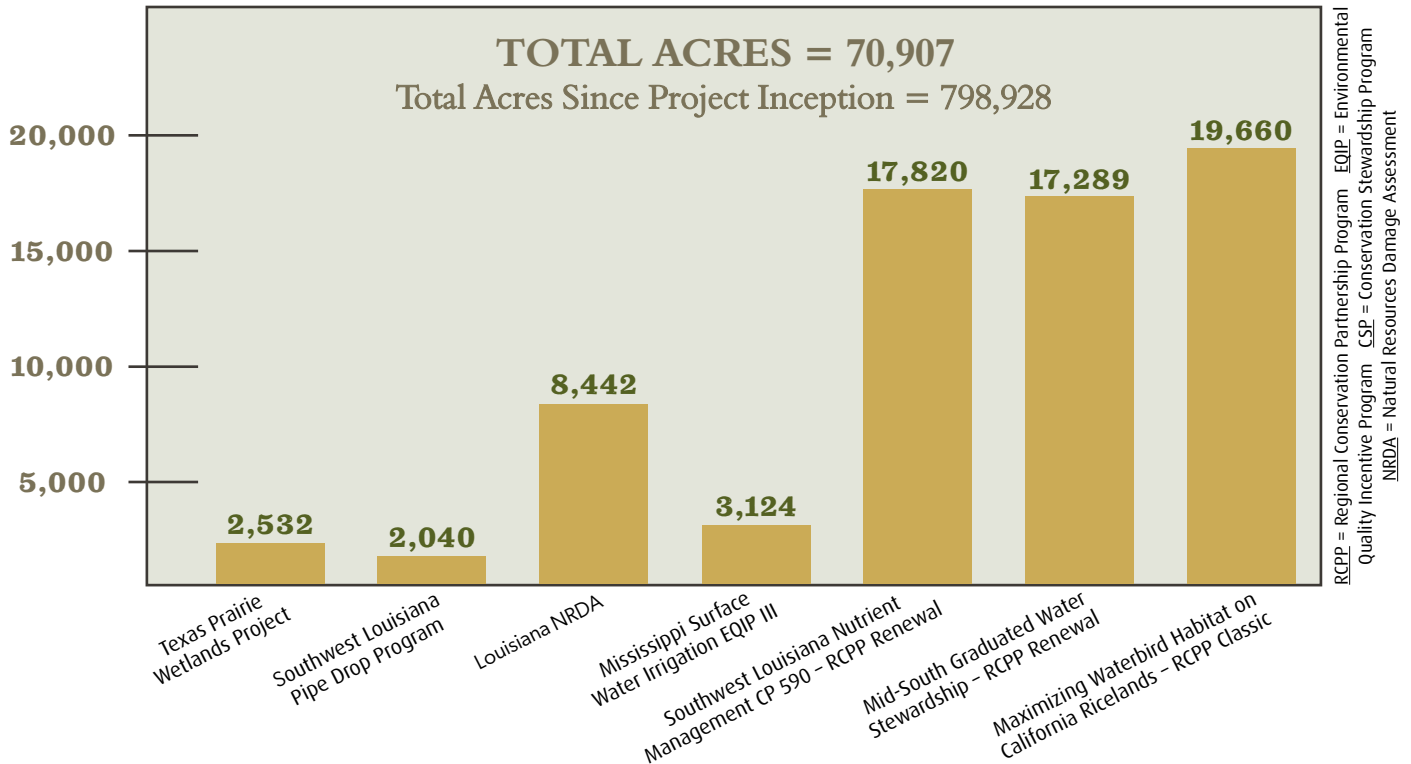


PHOTO: EMILY AUSTIN



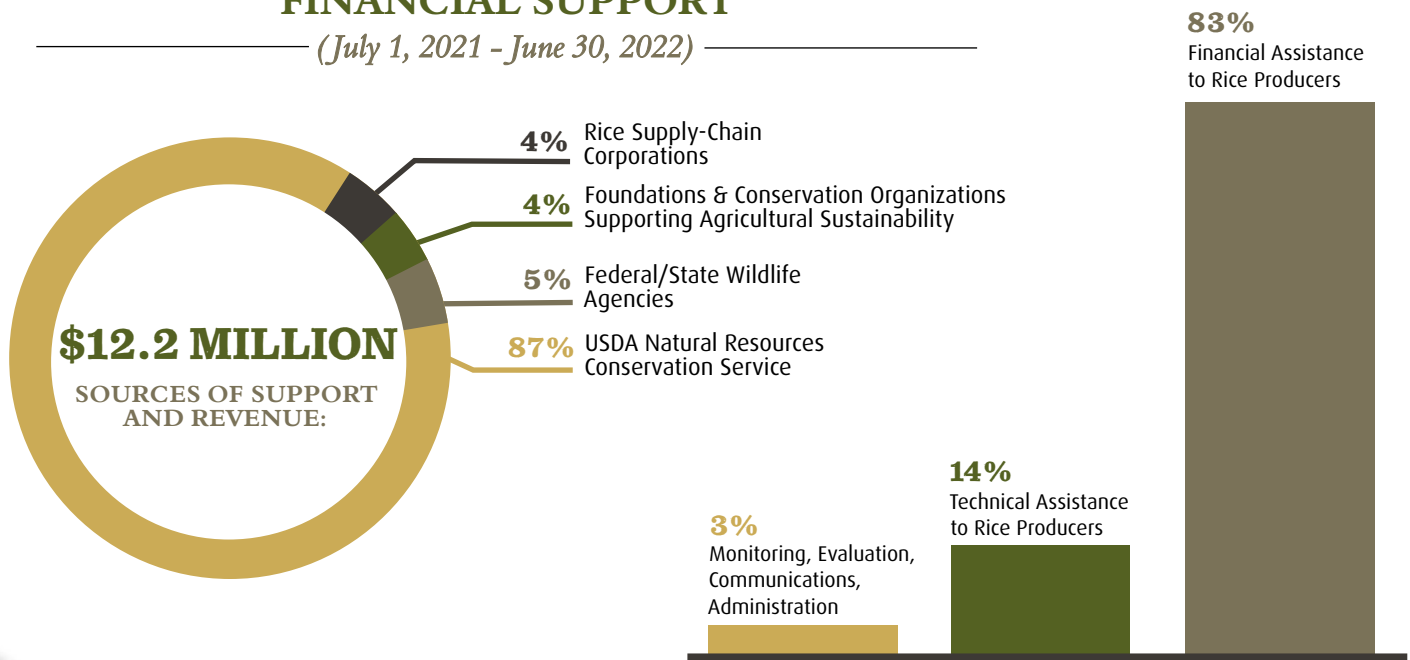
# FINANCIALS 2021 - 2022

## RICE ACRES IMPACTED



## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

(July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022)



## WHERE THE MONEY GOES

Financial reporting does not include in-kind contributions of time and talent.



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## SPONSOR



# IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

We sincerely appreciate the time and talent offered by so many in-kind supporters, without whom, Rice Stewardship could not be such a success.

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Agri-Drain Corportation  
American Carbon Registry-Winrock International  
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Arkansas Farm Bureau  
Arkansas Natural Resources Commission  
Arkansas Rice Federation  
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Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry  
Louisiana Department of Enviromental and Quality  
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Louisiana Rice Growers Assn.  
Louisiana Rice Mill  
Louisiana Rice Research & Promotion Board  
Louisiana State University AgCenter  
Lower Colorado River Authority  
Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture  
Lower Neches Valley Authority  
Mars  
McCrometer  
Mississippi Rice Research & Promotion Board  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
Missouri Rice Producers Group  
National Black Growers Council  
National Watershed Coalition  
Northern California Water Assn.  
Syngenta  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service  
Texas A&M Institute for Renewable Natural Resources  
Texas A&M Wintermann Rice Research Station  
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Texas Rice Producers - CWIC  
Texas Rice Producers Legislative Group  
Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board  
Texas Water Resources Institute  
The Climate Trust  
The Landscape Flux Group  
The Rice Foundation  
Unilever  
USA Rice Council  
USA Farmers  
USA Rice Merchants' Assn.  
USA Rice Millers' Assn.  
Wharton County SWCD  
White River Irrigation District  
Yellow Rails and Rice Festival







# AMERICA'S RICE PRODUCERS

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