

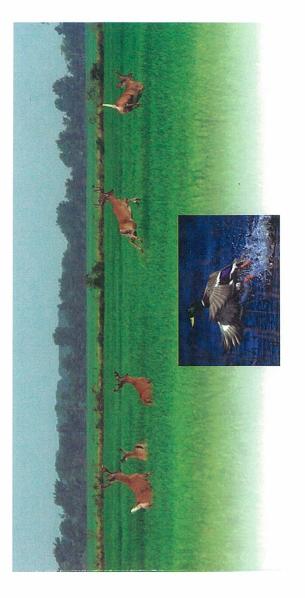
Facts about Growing Rice

Rice farmers begin preparing their land for planting in late winter and early spring. Tractors pull farm implements that turn and break the soil. The farmers then use other implements to level the land. Once the fields are prepared the rice is planted, either by ground equipment or aerial application.

Levees are created in the fields to ensure an even water distribution over the rice. After the plants have sprouted, the farmers flood the fields. Water remains on the rice throughout the growing season and then is drained before harvest.

Rice typically matures in 90-120 days. The crop is harvested with large machines called combines. The grain is then taken to elevators where it is dried to the appropriate moisture content. The rice is then either exported or sent to a rice mill for further processing.

Rice is characterized as long, medium or short grain. Arkansas primarily grows long and medium grain. Other rice-growing states are California, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Texas, and Florida.



Arkansas Rice and the Environment

Arkansas rice farms provide important wetland habitat for migrating waterfowl and indigenous wildlife, including birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals – making rice a unique agricultural crop. Waste rice leftover from harvest is an energy-rich food that waterfowl need to thrive.

Winter-flooded rice fields provide resting and feeding area for migrating and wintering ducks. Rice farming and wildlife coesist perfectly in the Arkansas Delta, and rice farmers are among the nation's leading advocates for nature, conservation and the environment.







Arkansas Rice Federation

- With more than 10,000 members, the Arkansas Rice Federation serves as the primary voice for the Arkansas rice industry.
- Arkansas is the nation's largest rice-growing state, producing half the nation's rice and nearly nine billion pounds annually.
- The Arkansas Rice Federation is made up of representatives of the state's producers, millers and merchants groups.
- Arkansas grows rice on more than 1.3 million acres each year, mainly in eastern Arkansas counties from Louisiana to Missouri. The top five riceproducing counties are Arkansas, Poinsett, Cross, Lawrence and Lonoke.
- The annual Arkansas rice crop contributes more than \$1 billion to the state's economy and accounts for thousands of jobs in rural communities.
- Rice is Arkansas' second-highest value commodity and the state's top agricultural export.
- Arkansas rice, known for its versatility, can be used in a variety of cuisines and is notable for its health benefits. Rice is free of cholesterol and sodium and has no trans or saturated fat.
- Arkansas rice farms also make a strong contribution to the environment. Rice fields in Arkansas, combined with natural wetlands, provide the single most important wintering area for North America's mallards. Winter flooding of rice fields also helps prevent erosion, control weeds and protect soil nutrients.
- The Arkansas Rice Federation is the state advocate for all segments of the Arkansas rice industry with a mission to promote and protect the interests of producers, millers, merchants and allied businesses.

For more information: Ben Noble, 501-375-1103

Source: Arkansas Rice Federation, January 2010



ARKANSAS RICE AT A GLANCE

ARKANSAS RICE COUNCIL

Rice Promotion in the United States and Internationally

The AR Rice Council Board of Directors is composed of 30 elected rice farmer directors; 3 directors are elected in each of 10 rice-growing districts.

The AR Rice Council Board elects farmer directors to the USA Rice Council Board. 20 of 33 farmer directors on the USA Rice Council Board are from Arkansas.

ARKANSAS RICE PRODUCERS' GROUP

Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy

Working on behalf of all Arkansas Rice Farmers

The AR Rice Producers' Group names a 12-member delegation to the USA Rice Producers' Group Board of Directors.

ARKANSAS RICE MILLS Farmer-owned Cooperatives and Privately Owned Companies

Includes Rice Mill Members of the USA Rice Millers' Association and/or USA Rice Council
4 out of 5 Arkansas Rice Mill Members pay dues to both organizations.

ARKANSAS RICE MERCHANTS Rough Rice Merchandisers

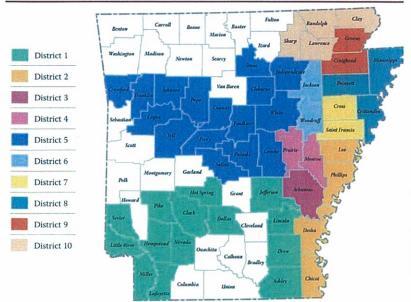
Purchasing and Marketing Rough Rice

Providing an important market outlet for Arkansas rice farmers, Arkansas Rice Merchant membership today includes 10 companies. Arkansas also was the starting ground for the USA Rice Merchants' Association; which joined the USA Rice Federation in 2005.



ARKANSAS RICE STARTS RIGHT HERE:

Arkansas Rice Districts



ARKANSAS RICE COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

30 VOTING FARMER DIRECTORS

10 Election Districts
Each district elects 3 farmer directors.

1 position in each district is elected annually, providing annual opportunities for new representation on the board.

An open petition process * makes it possible for any AR rice farmer to run for a seat in his/her district.

* For the 2011 election, more than 14,400 letters were mailed based on a list from the Arkansas office of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA).

4 Non-Voting Ex Officios

AR Mill Members on USA Rice Council Board (2)

Representative from AR Rice Merchants

Representative from AR Seed Dealers





AR RICE COUNCIL BOARD 30 Voting Farmer Directors

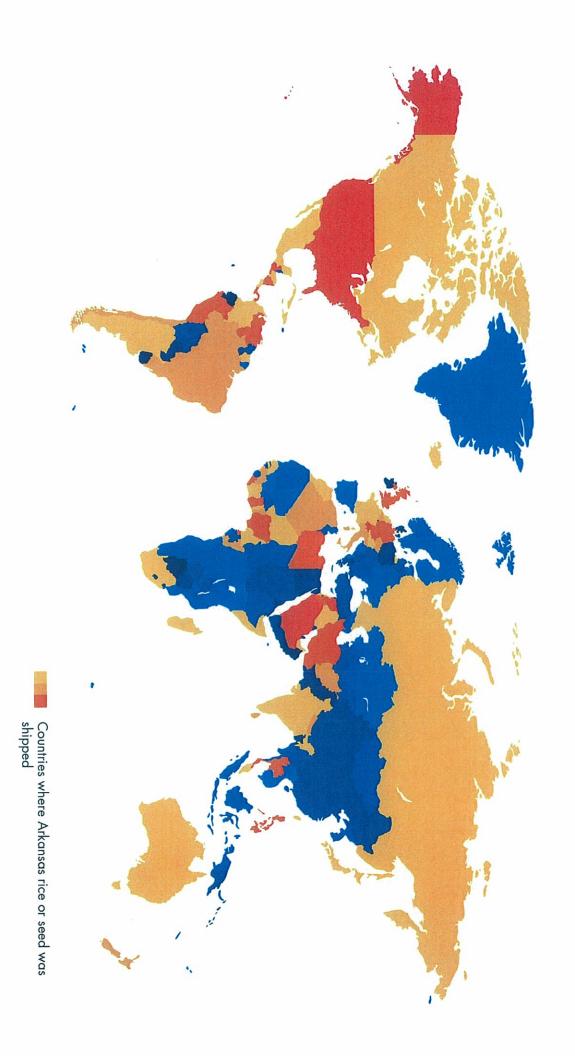
AR Rice Council Elects Farmer Directors to USA Rice Council Board

USA RICE COUNCIL BOARD

42 Total Voting Directors

33 Farmer Directors (19 are from AR)

9 Mill Directors (2 are from AR)



Arkansas Rice

USA Rice FEDERATION

rkansas ranks first among the six major rice-producing states, accounting for approximately 49 percent of U.S. rice production. Arkansas rice, known for its versatility, can be used in a wide variety of cuisines. It is enjoyed in the United States and throughout the world.

Economy

Arkansas grows rice on 1.5 million acres on average each year. Rice is the state's second-highest value commodity and the top agricultural export. The annual Arkansas rice crop contributes more than \$1.8 billion to the state's economy and accounts for thousands of jobs, which are crucial to many rural Arkansas communities.

State Rice Organizations

Arkansas rice production took root more than a century ago. Today, rice farmer and industry representatives chart the course for Arkansas rice through state and national organizations. For example, each of the 10 rice-growing districts elects three farmers to serve on the 30-member board of the Arkansas Rice Council. About two-thirds of those directors also serve on the USA Rice Council Board. Three farmer directors from each district also serve on the board of the Arkansas Rice Producers' Group, which names a delegation to the USA Rice Producers' Group.

In 2008, the Arkansas Rice Federation was formed as a coalition of the Arkansas Rice Council, Arkansas Rice Producers' Group, rice mills and merchants to enhance education on and outreach by the state's rice industry.

Arkansas Rice Federation at-a-Glance



Conservation and Sustainability

In Arkansas, managed rice fields and natural wetlands provide an important wintering area for North America's waterbirds. During the winter months, rice farmers capture rainwater in rice fields, creating vital resting and foraging habitat for migratory and wintering waterfowl. Winter flooding of rice fields also helps to prevent erosion, control weeds and protect soil nutrients.

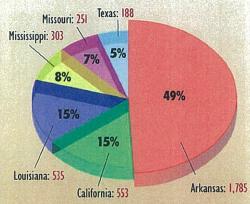
An industry study shows that over a 20-year period, rice farmers nationwide have achieved a:

- 21% decrease in land use
- 52% reduction in energy use
- 32% reduction in water use
- 29% reduction in soil methane production
- 34% decrease in soil loss



The U.S. Rice Industry by the Numbers

The U.S. Rice Industry Dedicated 3,615,000 Acres to Production in 2010



State numbers are in thousands of acres and percentages are rounded.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Crop Production 2010 Annual Summary

Arkansas Rice Counties



Arkansas, Ashley, Chicot, Clark, Clay, Cleburne, Conway, Craighead, Crawford, Crittenden, Cross, Dallas, Desha, Drew, Faulkner, Franklin, Greene, Hempstead, Hot Spring, Independence, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Lafayette, Lawrence, Lee, Lincoln, Little River, Logan, Lonoke, Miller, Mississippi, Monroe, Nevada, Perry, Phillips, Pike, Poinsett, Pope, Prairie, Pulaski, Randolph, Saline, Sevier, Sharp, St. Francis, Stone, White, Woodruff, and Yell

*Green shaded areas represent ricegrowing areas.

Fast Facts:

- One half-cup of enriched white or whole grain brown rice cost roughly 10 cents per serving.
- 44% of the nation's rice farm operators live in Arkansas.
- September is National Rice Month to spotlight the U.S. rice industry and its contributions to America's economy.



Look for the "Grown in the USA Rice" logo on packages of 100% U.S.-grown rice. Buying American rice supports American farmers and the U.S. economy.

From My Plate to Your Plate



From MyPlate to Your Plate — Rice Fits!

The U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans / MyPlate recommend 6 one-ounce servings of grains daily (based on a 2,000-calorie diet), with half the servings coming from whole grains, such as brown rice, and the other half from whole or enriched grains like enriched white rice. The USA Rice Federation is a

USDA MyPlate National Strategic Communications Partner to educate consumers about healthy food choices. Go to choosemyplate.gov to find more about healthy eating.

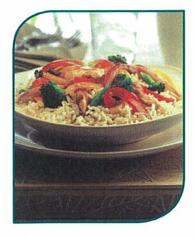
Rice Eaters are Healthier

Recent research published in the Journal of the American Dietetic Association and Nutrition Today shows that eating enriched white and whole grain brown rice helps improve overall diet quality and potentially reduces the risk for many chronic diseases.



USA Rice Federation • www.usarice.com





Orange Chicken and Vegetable Rice Bowl

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- ½ pound skinless, boneless, chicken breasts, cut into strips
- 1 cup broccoli florets
- 1 carrot, thinly sliced
- ½ medium onion, sliced
- ½ each yellow and red bell peppers, sliced

- 1 ½ teaspoons grated fresh ginger
- 7 ounces low-sodium chicken broth
- 1/4 cup orange juice
- 1 ½ teaspoons grated orange zest
- 1 ½ tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1 ½ cups hot cooked brown rice

Preparation

In a large skillet or wok, heat ½ tablespoon of oil; add chicken and stir-fry until lightly browned; remove and set aside. In same skillet, heat remaining oil; stir fry vegetables and ginger 4-5 minutes, or until vegetables are tender crisp. Combine chicken broth, orange juice and

zest, soy sauce and cornstarch in a bowl and stir until smooth. Add to skillet, stirring constantly. Boil 1 to 2 minutes or until thickened. Stir in chicken and cook until heated through. Spoon over or toss with hot rice.

Yields 6 one-cup servings.

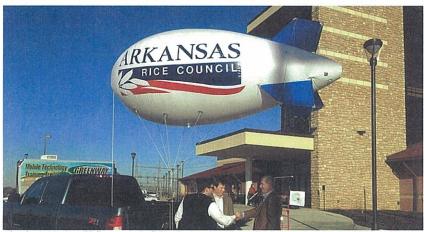
A JOURNAL FOR FARMERS, MERCHANTS AND MILLERS

Arkansas Rice Federation

SPRING 2012

VOLUME 3. ISSUE 1

2012 ARKANSAS RICE ANNUAL MEETING



The Arkansas Rice Council balloon prepares for flight as farmers arrive at the Grand Prairie Center in Stuttgart. See full story on Page 2

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NEW TOOL FOR PIGWEED CONTROL AWAITS USDA APPROVAL

ARKANSAS RICE FEDERATION CANDIDATE FORUM

PRIMARY ELECTION LIST

FARM BILL BRIEFING WITH SENATOR BOOZMAN

HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE FIELD HEARING IN JONESBORO

JONESBORO – In April, the U.S. House Agriculture Committee came to Jonesboro, Arkansas, for a field hearing on the upcoming farm bill. The reauthorization of the current farm bill is of critical importance to the rice industry and Arkansas as a whole. Many rice farmers took time out at the beginning of the planting season to attend this session to reinforce our message to Congress: The farm bill matters and is a viable safety net which must be preserved for the rice industry.

Rep. Rick Crawford (R-AR), the only Arkansas member of the House Agriculture Committee, helped organize this event on behalf of Arkansas farmers. Chairman Frank Lucas and other members of the committee joined Crawford to hear from various sectors of the farming community, including rice. Arkansas Rice Federation Chairman Dow Brantley, who grows rice, soybeans, corn and cotton, was one of the few who testified before the committee.

"Rice is the state's second-highest value commodity

and the top agricultural export. Nationally, the U.S. rice industry contributes \$34 billion in economic activity," said Chairman Brantley. "It provides jobs and income for not only rice producers and processors, but for all involved in the value chain, contributing 128,000 jobs."

"The hearing gave producers in my district a seat at the table and a voice in the conversation as new farm policy is being crafted. I thank Chairman Lucas and my friends on the House Agriculture Committee for coming to Jonesboro to learn more about Mid-South agriculture and what we can do as a committee to ensure producers' viability. The hearing is one of only four field hearings in the entire country and will ensure that the 2012 Farm Bill represents the needs of Arkansas farmers," said Rep. Crawford.

"The biggest risk to the U.S. rice industry is not crop failure, but our own government's trade policies and the trade policies of foreign governments, which are either condoned or ignored by our government," said Brantley. "These trade polices and the increased costs of inputs, especially fuel and fertilizer, over which the U.S. rice farmer has no control, cannot be covered by a one-size-fits-all farm policy."

Additional field hearings were held in Illinois, New York and Kansas. For Chairman Brantley's entire testimony please go to our website: ArkansasriceFarmers.org,



Congressman Rick Crawford asks a question at the field bearing

2012 ARKANSAS RICE ANNUAL MEETING (CONT.)

STUTTGART – In January the 2012 Arkansas Rice Annual Meeting, a joint meeting of the Arkansas Rice Council and Arkansas Rice Producers' Group, was a success in the new Grand Prairie Center in Stuttgart, AR. Hundreds of farmers from all rice districts met to take part in the event and hear timely updates from the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission about the State Water Plan rewrite timeline. In addition to updates from USA Rice, attendees enjoyed a state-of-the-art industry tradeshow with equipment vendors and industry representatives.

Many farmers shared that the Rice Industry Award's Ceremony was the highlight of the day. The Lifetime of Public Service on Behalf of the Rice Industry was awarded to former Congressman Marion Berry from Gillett, AR. The Excellence in Promotion Award was presented to Eric Leonard on the Arkansas Rice Council for his work uniting the Clay County Relay Life Team with the Rice Council's efforts to work closely with community projects. The Youth Leadership Award was presented to state FFA President Victoria Maloch, who was credited with naming rice as the official state grain. The Lifetime Achievement in the Rice Industry was awarded to Gary Sebree for his years of service as chairman of the Arkansas Rice Producers' Group as well as his service as chairman of the USA Rice Producers' Group, USARPG Conservation Committee and the USA Rice Federation.

Items such as an electric Stealth Cart and Yeti Cooler were auctioned to benefit the USA Rice PAC raising \$8,500 to help support candidates and protect the Check-Off Program.

Thanks to the sponsors of the annual meeting. None of this would have been possible without your support:

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Steve Orlicek, Miss Arkansas Rice Brittany Johnson, Ben Noble, Robert Petter, Betsy Ward, Dow Brantley



Dan Hosman, Scott Gairban, and David Gairban



Victoria Maloch, David Gairban



Mitch Berry, Gary Sebree



Steve Orlicek, Eric Leonard

WASHINGTON, DC, FLY-IN



L-R Gary Sebree, Mary Francis Perkins, Gary Perkins, Bobby Hoard, Senator Mark Pryor, Randy McNeil, David Gairban, Bryan Moery, Keith Glover, Park Eldridge, Ray Vester, Bill Reed

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Chairman Dow Brantley, Vice Chair David Gairhan, and members of the Producers' Group Board traveled to Washington, D.C., in February for the USA Rice Federation Washington, D.C., Fly-in. While on Capitol Hill, they met with both Sens. Mark Pryor (D-AR) and John Boozman (R-AR) to discuss the concerns of the Arkansas rice industry.

The Arkansas rice delegation also met with each of the state's four members of Congress and their staff, and delivered the same message to each office: Rice farmers understand the need to rein in deficit spending and the rice industry is

prepared to meet its obligations to achieve that common goal. However, farmers shouldn't be forced to carry more than their fair share of the burden. Rice must be treated equitably among other commodities. Farmers need policy that offers producers a choice be it enhanced target price or enhanced revenue program, and a farm bill that is bankable.

Passage of farm bill reauthorization in 2012 will be a long-shot. Every member of the Arkansas delegation expressed their belief that while they will be working diligently toward passage of a new farm bill, the odds of achieving that goal are stacked against passage. The federal budget is tight and every sector of federal government spending is targeted for reductions. Agriculture is no exception and the commodity title, which includes funding for commodity safety-net programs, will certainly see significant reductions and changes in the coming months.

The rice delegation delivered a letter from Arkansas Rice Federation Chairman Dow Brantley, the full contents of which can be found on our website, ArkansasriceFarmers.org.



New Tool for Pigweed Control Awaits USDA Approval

Arkansas farmers managing glyphosateresistant weeds such as Palmer pigweed will likely have another tool to use in their soybean rotations in the coming years. In March, Monsanto unveiled its Roundup Ready® Xtend Crop System, which is designed to provide farmers with more consistent, flexible control of weeds, especially tough-to-manage and glyphosate-resistant weeds, to maximize crop yield potential.

Pending regulatory approvals, the system is expected to be available to U.S. farmers for the 2014 growing season, consisting of a new soybean trait solution and a next-generation herbicide formulation. Roundup Ready® 2 Xtend is Monsanto's newest Genuity® soybean trait that includes tolerance to dicamba. Roundup® Xtend is an enhanced dicamba and glyphosate herbicide premix that will enable farmers to manage weeds before planting, and as an over-the-topoption during the season in conjunction with Roundup Ready Xtend crops. With dual modes of action, this low-volatility formulation will give farmers additional choice for broad control of glyphosateresistant and tough-to-control broadleaf weeds, and extend application and planting flexibility as well as the window for post-emergence applications.

USDA will hold a comment period for the general public to provide input on USDA's deregulation of this technology. It will be important for government regulators in Washington to hear from Arkansas farmers who can confirm the benefits of a new weed management tool for glyphosate-resistant pigweed.

NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH'S "LET'S MOVE" EVENT

LITTLE ROCK - Arkansas Rice Federation Chairman Dow Brantley joined Arkansas Surgeon General Dr. Joe Thompson, speaking to more than 600 students at Fulbright Elementary School in Little Rock at an event to kick off National Nutrition Month in March.

Brantley talked to students about the importance of Arkansas rice production, describing how rice is grown and transported from the farm to the table. Students received the Arkansas Rice Council's "Arkansas Awesome" rice educational pamphlet and a brown rice recipe mix to make at home with their families.

Dr. Thompson, a pediatrician and pioneer in childhood obesity prevention, urged students to be active and eat healthy foods, such as rice. "I enjoyed this opportunity to educate students about the importance of good nutrition and physical activity," Thompson said. "They were eager to learn, and we appreciated the school's interest in educating kids on how to have a healthy lifestyle."

During lunch, students sampled a flavored veg- Chairman Brantley distributes bags of rice.

etable brown rice to familiarize them with whole grains as school meal planners comply with new U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) school nutrition standards that emphasize whole grains and other healthy foods. Students voted overwhelmingly in favor of the taste and received "I love brown rice!" stickers for their participation.

USA Rice Federation and state rice organizations like the Arkansas Rice Council support First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move!" campaign and conduct activities with schools to teach students about healthy eating and the role rice plays in a healthy diet.



AUGUST 3
STUTTGART
STUTTGART
STUTTGART

JULY 14-16
JULY 14-16

SOUMER BOYED WEETING RICE PRODUCERS
ARKANSAS RICE COUNCIL /
JUNE 20

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ARKANSAS RICE FEDERATION BRINKLEY CANDIDATE FORUM



L-R Ben Noble, David Gairban, Bruce Maloch, Tiffany Rogers, Marvball Wright, Eddie Joe Williams, Jonathan Dismang, Todd Wilcox, Dow Brantley, Jerry Brown

BRINKLEY – Last November, the Arkansas Rice Federation hosted current elected state officials as well as candidates for office in Brinkley to share their campaign goals with members of the Arkansas Rice Producers' Group. To continue the education and outreach process to our elected officials, this is the second candidate forum the Arkansas Rice Federation has hosted this election cycle.

"I cannot stress the importance of this enough," said Ben Noble, executive director of the Arkansas Rice Federation. "When politicians hear the issues directly from the mouths of farmers, they listen. We need to continue spending time and energy getting to know the folks who make the policies that directly affect our business."

The 2012 primary season is drawing close. Voting will be held May 7 through 22. After the June run-off elections, the Δrkansas Rice Federation will host additional candidate forums in rice country.

Here are a few primary elections in rice districts:

CANDIDATES	HOMETOWN
E	
Sen. Jack Crumbly	Widener
Rep. Keith Ingram	West Memph
Sen. Stephanie Flowers	Pine Bluff
Rep. Efrem Elliott	Altheimer
Rep. Eddie Cheatham	Crossett
Gregg Reep	Warren
Johnnie Bolin	Crossett
	Sen. Jack Crumbly Rep. Keith Ingram Sen. Stephanie Flowers Rep. Efrem Elliott Rep. Eddie Cheatham Gregg Reep

Dist. 10 Dorothy Hall

Mike Holcomb

Gene Yarbrough

Dist. 12 Jerome Turner

Chris Richey

Dist. 47 Rep. Jody Dickinson

WM Burl Simmons, Jr.

Dist. 52 Todd Wilcox LJ Bryant

Dist. 55 Joe Guy Monte Hodges Mary Gay Shipley Effie Collins

Dist. 57 Mary Broadaway Matthew Buchman Warren
Crossett

Sheridan
Pine Bluff
Star City
Poplar Grove
Helena
Newport
r. Augusta
Jonesboro
Grubbs
Osceola
Blytheville
Blytheville
Blytheville

Paragould

Senator Boozman's Farm Bill Briefing

In March, Senator John Boozman, along with Congressman Tim Griffin(AR-2) and representatives from Senator Pryor's office, provided agriculture industry leaders with the latest farm bill developments.

"While we are not where we need to be in terms of our nation's agriculture policy, I am committed to continue fighting for Southern crops as we move forward, and ensuring that our safety net serves all crops and all regions"

- U.S. SENATOR JOHN BOOZMAN



L-R Greg Cole, Dr. Cochran, Cynthia Edwards, Dow Brantley, Senator John Boozman, Bill Reed.

2011-2012 ARKANSAS RICE PRODUCERS GROUP BOARD OF DIRECTORS Revised 8/1/11

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*Jennifer James jhjames@hughes.net	6	133 Jackson Road 34 Newport, AR 72112	870-523-9413 Office 870-217-2838 Cell
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DISTRICT 9: Joe Christian ilag@suddenlink.net Dan Hosman dmhosman@suddenlink.net *David Gairhan	3 ,	Jonesboro, AR 72404 3905 Thousand Oaks Drive Jonesboro, AR 72404 1105 Layman Dr.	870- 870-972-8154 870-219-1403 Cell 870- 870-930-6917 Cell 870-483-5589 Office
DISTRICT 9: Joe Christian jlag@suddenlink.net Dan Hosman dmhosman@suddenlink.net *David Gairhan dgairhan@centurytel.net DISTRICT 10: Eric Leonard	3 6 3	Jonesboro, AR 72404 3905 Thousand Oaks Drive Jonesboro, AR 72404 1105 Layman Dr. Jonesboro, AR 72404	870- 870-972-8154 870-219-1403 Cell 870- 870-930-6917 Cell 870-483-5589 Office 870-930-5635 Cell 870-276-1219

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Chuck Wilson

2011-12 ARKANSAS RICE COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Revised 6/21/10

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Arkansas Rice is an alliance representing the Arkansas rice industry, including farmers, millers, merchants and others. Arkansas Rice comprises the Arkansas Rice Council, Arkansas Rice Producers' Group, state rice mills and merchants.

