



Texas Rice

Texas A&M University System Agricultural
Research and Extension Center
Beaumont, Texas

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Seed Rice Production: A Foundation for Texas Farmers

The Texas Rice Improvement Foundation has a long history of serving Texas rice farmers.

The Foundation Seed Program had its beginning in the spring of 1941. At that time the Beaumont Center was still located at the old site in Amelia. Researchers had a small quantity of a newly developed rice variety and several barrels of an improved strain of Blue Rose, but lacked the land to grow out an increase. Researchers met with A.H. Boyt, President of The American Rice Growers Association in Beaumont, D.W. Edwards who was manager of the Texas Public Service Farms Company and a few local producers. It was agreed that the Texas Public Service Farms Company would grow the seed on their land, under the supervision of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. Soon after, 28 acres of land near Nome was planted, with all expenses covered by the Texas Public Service Farms Company. Sales for that first crop of seed rice amounted to \$2,316.00.

Seed production continued, and in July of 1943 a State Charter was granted and the Texas Rice Improvement Association (TRIA) officially became a voluntary, non-profit association. It was formed primarily for the purpose



Seed processing facilities at the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center in Beaumont. Funds provided by TRIA allowed construction of the seed barn, in addition to other storage areas, labs and equipment.

of producing and distributing seed of new varieties, and giving financial support to experiments dealing with rice improvement. The list of incorporators included A.H. Boyt, J.C. Dishman, E.T. Fuller, Jr., H.R. Hunsucker and E.V. (Pat) Boyt. In 1945 the Beaumont Center moved to its present location west of Beaumont, with land financed by this core group that made up TRIA. Currently, the organization owns approximately 525 acres at the Beaumont Research and Extension Center and 78 acres of land at the Eagle Lake Research Station. All told, TRIA has provided over \$10 million for research, and funded the Rice Quality Lab, two field labs, cold storage facilities, the implement shed, storage barn, seedsman home, and the seed processing plant.

Robert Bauer has served as president of the Texas Rice Improvement Association since 1976.

As a farmer and businessman Mr. Bauer has provided leadership for the Texas rice industry for over two decades, and has engaged in rice production since 1945. Jim Stansel is the Vice President of TRIA and Brenda Setliff is Secretary/Treasurer. Setliff and Foundation Seed Manager Robert Weatherton share offices on-site at the Beaumont Center. As Secretary/Treasurer, Setliff is responsible for keeping financial records, recording meeting minutes, maintaining historical documents and insuring that the charter requirements for the organization are met.

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From the Editor...

Welcome to this special issue of *Texas Rice*. We are closing out this year's production of *Texas Rice* with an issue dedicated to the Texas rice foundation seed program. The purpose of this issue is to provide our producers with a general overview of how the Texas rice foundation seed program evolved and the tremendous amount of work the staff spends to deliver superior rice seed.

For the rest of this editorial, I would like to go a bit beyond rice and focus on the remaining part of the Texas statewide Foundation Seed program. While rice foundation seed is produced by the Texas Rice Improvement Association (TRIA), foundation seed for many other crops is produced by the Texas Foundation Seed Service (TFSS). TFSS operates as a link in the seed-increase program between the public plant breeder and the commercial seedsmen or private breeder to produce seed for a wide range of crops. Similar to TRIA, TFSS is a nonprofit self-supporting organization. However, unlike TRIA, TFSS is a unit of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

TFSS began in 1951, initially producing corn seed. TFSS now produces more than 100 varieties, strains and crosses of 25 crops. These crops are listed in the *FSS Price List* at <http://tfss.tamu.edu/>. TFSS takes small amount of seed provided by plant breeders and multiplies it for distribution to producers. As with rice, foundation seed for other crops is priced higher than commercial seed since it is a premier grade and intended for increase and not commercial production. Its seed production is primarily through supervised contracts with growers in selected areas. Seed conditioning is handled at the TFSS facilities or by supplemental services provided through contractual arrangements. Foundation seed production must meet Texas Department of Agricultural requirements involving sanitation of planting and harvesting equipment, and specified rotation conditions.

In August of this year, TFSS underwent a major change in its management, with the hiring of Steve Brown as TFSS Program Director. Steve graduated from Texas Tech with a BS in Business and has worked in the private sector seed industry from 1973-1999. In 2000, Steve went to work for a business lobby group and commuted to Washington DC from his home in Vernon, Texas. His wife Jan, to whom he has been married for 30 years, remained in Vernon where she is

a teacher. Fortunately for Texas, Steve decided that the Washington DC circuit was not for him and he returned to Texas to work for TFSS.

Steve is well respected by the seed industry, and has many private industry contacts. He has a strong understanding of the problems that seedsmen face. Steve has stepped into his new position and is moving at a fast and furious pace. In the brief time that Steve has been with TFSS, he has upgraded the TFSS website with help from Loretta Cortez in College Station, added more information, and making the website more user friendly. He has also worked very closely with Frank



Steve Brown is the Texas Foundation Seed Service Program Director.

Gilstrap in the TAES administrative office, and with the TAMU Technology Licensing Office in redefining the role of TFSS with regards to Intellectual Property Protection and Licensing Agreements. Many of the changes that Steve is bringing to TFSS will undoubtedly be

given serious consideration by the Texas rice foundation seed program.

If you need foundation seed for other crops, please contact Steve at TFSS. He can be reached at Texas Foundation Seed Service, 11914 Hwy. 70, Vernon, TX 76384, Phone: (940) 552-6226, Fax: (940) 552-5524.

As a quick sales pitch, I would like to remind all of our rice seedsmen that if they are in the market for foundation seed, get your orders in soon. With a couple of new varieties available this year, foundation seed supplies are expected to sell quickly. We have provided a foundation seed order form on the back page of *Texas Rice*. Similarly, producers should get with their seedsmen as soon as possible. Certified seed for some varieties is expected to be in low supply this year, again because of new releases. I hope you find the cover story and the supporting articles useful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. T. Wilson".

Ted Wilson
Professor and Center Director

Seedsmen Profile...

Texas Growers Producing Quality Seed Rice

There are many steps involved in the production of high quality seed rice, giving our growers every advantage in a world marketplace.

Seed certification in Texas is a system designed to maintain the genetic identity and purity of crop varieties. The process starts with breeder seed, which comes directly from the scientist who developed the variety. This seed is grown out to produce foundation seed. In the case of rice, this step is carried out by the Texas Rice Improvement Association's Foundation Seed Program, located at the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center in Beaumont. The seed is handled so as to maintain the genetic purity and identity as designated by the Federal Seed Act and Texas Seed Law. These laws are enforced by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). No more than 4 days prior to harvest, foundation fields are inspected by TDA representatives and must meet strict standards for purity.

Next, seedsmen purchase the foundation seed to produce registered seed, and the registered seed is then grown out to produce certified seed. Both of these steps also require TDA certification, and laboratory verification of seed germination and purity. The certified seed is purchased by growers who want the highest quality seed possible for commercial crop production. Any grower can produce registered or certified seed for sale to other growers, but they must meet TDA guidelines as dictated by state law. The following is a list of seedsmen in Texas who grow registered or certified seed.

Winco Ag Products – Eagle Lake - Winco is a subsidiary of Wintermann and Co., which was founded by the late David Wintermann. The Wintermann family has a long history of rice production in Texas. David was one of the first growers to produce registered seed rice back in the early 1940's. Currently, Davis Waddell is the Winco farm manager, and coordinates the production of registered and certified seed. Tennant farmers produce the seed on approximately 6000 acres of Wintermann land that has been in the family for over 60 years. Last year they grew Cocodrie, Cypress, Jefferson and Saber. Waddell and Cliff Mock scout



A field of registered seed rice. The roguing lanes insure that workers have clear access to remove any unwanted plants.

the fields regularly for insects, disease problems and nutrient deficiencies. Call 979-234-5551 for more information.

Glenn Toler Farms – Raywood – Clodus Cox started as Farm Manager for the Beaumont Center in 1953. In 1958 he went to Seaburg Rice Company and within 10 years was producing 3600 acres of registered and certified rice. Today Cox manages his son-in-law's operation, where they produce commercial and seed rice. Last year they grew 66 acres of registered Saber, the newest release from the Beaumont Center. For more information call 281-391-2118.

BU Growers – Bay City – BU is a limited partnership created in the spring of 1989. Joe Crane is a general partner and manager, with Lee Bosley serving as assistant general manager and sales agent. Services offered include commercial drying and marketing through their sales office. BU grows only seed rice and contracts with 5 growers in the Wharton/Bay City area to produce 1500 acres of registered and certified rice annually. Last year they grew Jefferson, Gulfmont, Cypress, Cocodrie, Dixiebelle Saber and Clearfield varieties. For more information call 979-245-2043.

J. D. Woods Interests – Brookshire – Des Woods is well known for his work in the rice industry, and has produced seed rice since 1975. He has acreage in Texas and Louisiana, and produces commercial rice as well as registered and certified seed rice. Last year he grew registered Cocodrie and Cypress for sale to Texas and Louisiana producers. Des currently serves as Chairman of the Texas Rice Research Foundation. Call 281-375-5562 for more information.

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Seedsmen continued...

Garrett Farms – Danbury – Jacko and Nancy Garrett have produced certified and registered seed rice since 1983. Last year they grew 1800 acres for seed - including Saber, Jefferson, Cocodrie, Cypress, Lemont, CL121, CL141, and CL161. The Garrett's also grow commercial rice, and were responsible for starting *Share the Harvest*, a charitable non-profit foundation that collects rice donations from farmers, coordinates drying and milling, and distributes the food to area food banks and relief efforts. For more information call 979-922-8405 or email jgarrett@garrettfarms.com



Roguing crews carry bags to guarantee all off-types are completely removed from registered and certified fields.

Rice Belt Warehouse – El Campo – Created in 1962, Rice Belt currently has satellite facilities in Edna, Ganado, Blessing, Bay City, Rosharon and Alvin. Dick Ottis is the Executive Vice President and CEO and Jim Pavlik is the seed rice Production Manager, who is responsible for the daily operations of the seed business. Services include drying, storage, marketing assistance, custom seed processing and registered &



Hundreds of man-hours are spent insuring the purity of Texas seed rice.

certified seed sales. Last year they teamed up with Jay Davis at East Bernard Marketing Co-op to provide web-based marketing opportunities for their growers.

Rice Belt contracts with 7 growers who produce seed rice on a total of 1500 acres in Matagorda, Jackson, Victoria, Wharton and Colorado Counties. In 2001 they grew Cypress, Lemont, Gulfmont, Cocodrie, Jefferson and Wells. For more information call 979-543-6221 or log on to www.ricebelt.com

Franz Seed Rice – Katy – Raymond Franz has been producing registered seed rice since Lemont was released in 1983, and has been on the TRIA board for over 30 years. Last year he grew registered Jefferson, Cocodrie, Saber and Dixiebelle on a total of 425 acres. He also has approximately 400 acres in commercial production. Raymond has kept his seed rice business

small to insure quality, selling mostly to farmers in the Katy area. He relies on Gary Bradshaw for consulting on his seed rice and commercial acreage. To contact Raymond call 281-391-8152.

Murrell Farms – Winnie – David Murrell has been in seed rice production for over 20 years, growing mostly new releases. This year he grew 15 acres of registered Saber for his personal use, and for sale to neighbors. He has approximately 700 acres in commercial production in the Winnie area. David's brother Edward owns Winnie Dryers, a company that specializes in the construction and maintenance of rice dryers. David's uncle, Raymond Murrell, farms rice in Mississippi and David occasionally sends seed there to be grown out, as the soil type more favorable for seed rice production. For more information call David at 409-296-9598. *

Article by Jay Cockrell.

Photos courtesy of Rice Belt Warehouse.

OOPS !!!

In the October issue of *Texas Rice* we incorrectly cited the photographer of the 'crop formation' taken at Hlavinka Farm as Garry McCauley. Roland Orsak took the photograph and Garry did us the service of passing it along!

Happy Holidays to all our farmers and friends! We hope the coming season will be even more productive than the last. Thanks to everyone for helping make our first year of Texas Rice a success!

Foundation Seed continued...

Robert Weatherton has been the Foundation Seed Manager for TRIA since 1996. His duties span the gamut from tractor work to supervising employees in the care and upkeep of foundation fields. Each year, approximately 150 acres at the Center are dedicated to foundation seed production. And while the planting scheme has varied over the years, Weatherton currently practices a 3-year rotation, as required by state law. This insures that fields are kept clean, especially from red rice, and the foundation seed produced is of the highest possible quality.

Foundation fields are planted between March 15th and April 15th.

The seeding rate is 50 to 80 lbs/ac depending on the variety. Seed is treated with Icon (for rice water weevils), Release (growth hormone), Vitavax (warm season fungicide), Allegence (cool season fungicide) and zinc (seedling vigor and development.) For the base fertilizer, 200 lbs/ac of diammonium phosphate (18-46-0) is incorporated two days prior to planting. Soil tests are sent in every other year, and if a need is indicated, special fertilizer blends are applied. After plant-



Foundation Seed Manager Robert Weatherton demonstrating the air-activated bagging scale used to package seed rice. The scale is inspected yearly by the TDA to insure accuracy.

ing, the fields are rolled and the herbicide Command is applied for grass control. The fields are then flushed and drained. If needed, a 33-0-0 urea and ammonium sulfate blend is applied during flushing after the three-leaf stage. While this source is more expensive, Weatherton feels that the nitrogen stays in the tissues longer, creating healthier plants.

At the 5-leaf stage a foliar application of Gibberellic acid tank mixed with an herbicide may be applied to boost growth and reduce weed populations. The day before permanent flood urea is applied at a rate of 100 – 200 lbs/ac, depending on the variety and stand count.

Permanent flood is established roughly 30 days after seedling emergence. The fields are thoroughly rogued for off-types throughout the growing season, beginning at PD. The last urea applications are made at panicle initiation (PI), 100 lbs/ac, at panicle differentiation (PD), 50 - 75 lbs/ac, and 10 days after PD, 50 – 75 lbs/ac.

Pest populations are closely monitored, with stink-bugs being the main threat. The fields are watched closely from first flowering through the milk stages and Karate is applied at a rate of 4 oz/ac every 15 days if needed. There was a new product introduced for rice in October of 2001 called Fury. It is similar to Karate, and labeled for the same pests. Weatherton is considering rotating the two, to avoid build up of resistant pest populations. Fungicide is applied as a precautionary measure 7 – 10 days after PD.

The Texas Department of Agriculture inspects the fields no more than 4 days prior to harvest, looking for off-types and red rice infestation. In addition to this, a 10 lb bulk sample must be sent to the TDA lab in Giddings for further evaluation before the seed is approved. Harvest begins in July, and anything harvested before August 15th may be ratooned, although this rice is not sold as seed. The grain is dried and stored at the Center, with extreme care taken to main-

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Brenda Setliff is the TRIA Secretary/Treasurer. She handles the office end of running the foundation seed rice program.

Foundation Seed continued...

tain the purity of the seed rice. The combines are thoroughly disassembled and cleaned after each variety is harvested, removing the header and all the screens, to insure that cross contamination does not occur.

In the 2001 crop year Saber, Jefferson, Bolivar, Lemont and Della were produced by the foundation seed program. A commercial field of Dixiebelle was also produced. The TRIA board will meet in January to decide which varieties will be grown in 2002, but indications are the list will include Saber, Bolivar, Jasmine 85, Cypress and Cocodrie.

The deadline for placing foundation seed orders is January 18th. If the pre-deadline orders for a variety exceed the supply available, then the seed will be allocated by the TRIA board. After the January 18th deadline, remaining seed is distributed on a first come, first served basis. It is to the grower's advantage to order early, to insure they will get what they need for that crop year. Only those producers who participate in the rice check-off program are eligible to purchase foundation seed.

The check-off program was initiated in 1982 as authorized by state law, and the monies are collected by the Texas Rice Producers Board (TRPB). Each year, farmers contribute 8¢ per every hundredweight of rice sold, with 5¢ directed towards research and 3¢ for marketing. The TRPB collects the check-off fund and distributes the money earmarked for marketing to the Texas Rice Council and the research funds to the Texas Rice Research Foundation (TRRF), who then awards the money to researchers through a competitive grant program. TRRF is also a voluntary non-profit organization, solely comprised of farmers. The Chairman of TRRF is Des Woods, Vice-Chairman is Layton Raun, and the secretary is Rodney Mowery. Alice Garlough is a registered CPA and acts as Administrative Services Manager for the organization. Her office is located on their family ranch just outside of Sealy in Cat Spring. She works for TRRF on a contract basis, and handles all the bookkeeping associated with the col-



Kip Landry first started at the Beaumont Center in 1994, and has worked in the Foundation Seed Program for the past two years. Not pictured is Louis Perez, who has worked in the program since the fall of 2000.

lection and distribution of check-off funds. At the end of the year, farmers have the option of requesting a refund, or leaving their check-off monies in place to be distributed by TRRF. The call for proposals goes out in the Fall, and each December researchers can submit grant proposals dealing with rice production and improvement. The review process goes through February, at which time the TRRF Board of Directors announces which proposals have been awarded funding. Last year the Texas Rice Research Foundation funded \$600,886 in grant and equipment money, all of which came from producer check-off funds. Since its conception in 1982, the TRRF board has distributed over \$15 million for rice research in Texas.

Projects funded last year include Biology and Management of Stem Borers in the Texas Rice Belt; Determining the Physical, Chemical and Genetic Mechanisms of Fissure Resistance; Development of Improved Breeding Methods and Rice Cultivars for Texas; Farm Level Analysis for the Evaluation of Farm Policy Options; Funding of 2002 Rice Production Guidelines and Rice Update Newsletter; Integrated Weed Management System for Herbicide Tolerant Rice; Physiology Research to Improve Combined First and Second Crop Yield; The Physiological Basis for Superior Yield Performance in Texas Rice; A Rapid Method for Determining Carbohydrates and Nitrogen at Different Stages of Rice Development; Rice Growth, Development, and Yield Educational Series and Survey for Current Texas Rice Crop Statistics; and Stem Carbohydrates Research to Expand Ratoon Crop Acreage and Income.

In spite of the reduction in Texas rice acreage over the past 10 years, the industry continues to contribute a significant amount to the state's economy. Now more than ever before, it is important for producers and researchers to strengthen alliances, and reaffirm commitments that will carry the rice industry forward into the 21st century. *

Article and photos by Jay Cockrell.

Senate Fails To Pass Farm Bill Before End of Session

USA RICE FEDERATION - The United States Senate was unable to produce a farm bill this week when bipartisan consensus did not develop around any of three major bills under consideration. USA Rice worked hard with our rice-state Senators to try to develop consensus sufficient to pass a bill.

“The rice industry, in particular, has been faced with hard times, low prices and a very large crop. Our priority has been to work with rice-state Senators to fashion a bill that would provide a sufficient safety net for farmers and a solid commodity title,” said Ellen Terpstra, USA Rice Federation president. “We urged Congress to complete action on the bill as soon as possible so that rice producers would be in a better position early next year as they have to make planting decisions. We appreciate the leadership shown by the rice-state senators we worked with, but are extremely disappointed that the Senate was not able to gain bipartisan support for a farm bill this session. We urge rice producers and millers to join us between now and when Congress reconvenes in late January to press for action on the bill early next year.”

During the Senate debate this week, the Cochran-Roberts and the Hutchinson substitutes were both voted down. The Senate held three cloture votes on the Daschle substitute, none of which was successful. Cloture would have limited debate to 30 hours with only germane amendments offered. It takes 60 votes to invoke cloture, but the committee-passed bill could only muster 54. Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) warned that

if cloture was not invoked on the third vote he would pull the bill from the floor and move to other important business. Daschle was true to his word and pulled the farm bill from consideration.

Republicans expressed concern that if cloture were invoked there would not be time for all the amendments to be offered. Democrats countered that the failed Republican substitutes have given the Republicans opportunity to change the committee bill and that cloture would still provide for 30 hours of debate. The farm bill was but one item on the list of issues that the Senate could not agree upon during the last week of work before the year-end break. The halt to the farm bill debate on December 19 came after negotiations on the economic stimulus package broke down.

Following a meeting on December 20, the White House issued a letter to Republican lawmakers on the importance of producing a good, bipartisan farm bill that the president can sign into law early next year. The letter stated that, “The President also has been clear about the need for a generous farm bill in order to help farmers and ranchers through this difficult period. As a result, you have our commitment that the Administration will continue to support additional ten-year program funding of \$73.5 billion in accordance with the Congressional Budget Resolution.”

The farm bill debate is over for 2001. USA Rice is hopeful that in January a rested and revived United States Senate will pick up where they left off and make rice producer and miller expectations of meaningful new farm policy a reality.

Farm Security Act of 2001 House Version of the Farm Bill

H.R. 2646 is a product of more than two years work by the House Agriculture Committee, which included numerous field hearings across the country where real farmers and ranchers shared their perspectives on what was and was not working with current farm policy.

Over the past four years Congress has provided over \$30 billion in needed ad hoc assistance for farmers. H.R. 2646 is a better way to address the needs of rural America that will allow more disciplined budgeting by the federal government and more reliable assistance for farmers and ranchers.

H.R. 2646 is a balanced bill that addresses critical farm program needs and also makes significant investments in and improvements to our conservation, rural development, export promotion, research, nutrition and other programs.

H.R. 2646 maintains planting flexibility provisions of the current farm bill and adds a target-price based counter-cyclical program to help farmers weather adverse market conditions.

The Farm Security Act provides a 3-piece safety net, retaining the fixed decoupled payments as well as the marketing loan program, and adding a counter cyclical payment to provide consistent and reliable support that will allow farmers and their lenders to plan for the future.

H.R. 2646 is fully compliant with the budget approved out by Congress earlier this year, providing \$73.5 billion in additional spending over 10 years. *

Standard Treated
Seed Includes: Vitavax, Zinc,
 Release and Apron

Icon applied @ 0.0375 lb.
ai per 60 lb. seeding rate.



MAIL SEED ORDER TO:
 Texas Rice Improvement
 Association
 1509 Aggie Dr.
 Beaumont, TX 77713
 Attn: Brenda

RICE VARIETY	PRICE/CWT STD. TRT. &NON TRT. SEED	PRICE/CWT STD. TRT. W/ICON	ORDER CWT.	AMOUNT ENCLOSED
<i>SABER</i>	\$80	\$20		
DIXIEBELLE	\$60	\$20		
GULFMONT	\$60	\$20		
JASMINE	\$60	\$20		
JEFFERSON	\$60	\$20		
LEMONT	\$60	\$20		
DELLA	\$80	\$20		
COCODRIE	\$60	\$20		
CYPRESS	\$60	\$20		

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Full Payment Must Accompany Seed Order. Make checks payable to: *Texas Rice Improvement Association.*

All orders must be postmarked by 12:00 noon, January 18, 2002.

Allocations will be made Feb. 23, 2002. If you have any questions call 409-752-2741 ext. 2230

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