



Texas Rice

Texas A&M University System Agricultural
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The History and Traditions of Texas A&M University

Texas A&M, the state's first public institution of higher education, was opened on Oct. 4, 1876 as the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. The school owes its origin to the Morrill Act of 1862, which established the nation's land-grant college system.

In 1963, the name of the institution was changed to Texas A&M University to more accurately reflect its expanding role as a leader in teaching, research, and public service for the state, nation and world. The initials "A" and "M" are a link to the university's past; they no longer represent any specific words, as the school's curriculum has grown to include not only agriculture and engineering, but architecture, business, education, geosciences, liberal arts, medicine, science and veterinary medicine.

Since its conception in 1876, Texas A&M University has made many achievements and accomplished a great deal in fulfilling its land grant responsibilities. Currently, it ranks among the top 10 U.S. institutions in enrollment of National Merit Scholars and is among the top 50 U.S. universities (U.S. News & World Report - 2001).

Regarding leading edge tech-

nology, Texas A&M is the only academic institution to clone four different species: cattle, goat, swine and feline and was recently invited to become a member of the highly selective Association of American Universities.

Fall 2002 enrollment was a record 45,083, with women accounting for almost half of the total enrollment; and African American and Hispanic students accounting for approximately 11 percent of the student body. With the goal of optimizing the college experience, Texas A&M ranks among the top 12 universities nationally in its ability to house students on campus, enhancing their academic and extracurricular opportunities. More than 11,000 students reside in campus housing, and the university provides shuttle buses to scores of surrounding apartment complexes, making off-campus students even more a part of campus life.

Being an active part of campus life is an integral part of the A&M experience. In fact, the number of students that do not actively participate in school activities is traditionally quoted as being very low, only around 2%. (Hence the term "Two



Cadets from E-2 Company are privileged with the responsibility of caring for Texas A&M's most treasured tradition, Reveille.

Percenter", used by the student body to refer to those few who do not embrace the traditions of the University.)

The following is a brief description of the traditions that unite Aggies, past and present, all over the world.

Corps of Cadets

Texas A&M was established as a military institution, and the Corps of Cadets has played an important part in its history and development. Although membership in the Corps became voluntary in 1965, Texas A&M historically has produced more military officers than any other institution in the nation, ex-

From the Editor...



I hope you were able to attend last month's Rice Field Days at Beaumont and Eagle Lake. The combined attendance at the 29th Eagle Lake Field Day and the 56th Beaumont Field Day exceeded 600, the best in recent history. It looked like rain was going to pour during both field tours, but good weather prevailed, with the winds and cloudy weather lowering the temperatures to comfortable levels. Strong participation from our local county organizers, producer and rice industry sponsors, 4-H volunteers, invited speakers, and faculty and staff made the field days a success. We would like to give special thanks to our producers and industry supporters for making these events possible.

The 2003 season has posed many challenges to rice production. Early season rains and cool weather delayed the planting of many fields. This was followed by dry conditions requiring greater than normal water use. The west side of our rice belt faced hurricane Claudette, which brought with it strong wind and up to 8 inches of rain, causing many rice, sorghum, and cotton fields to lodge. The yields from fields that were ready for harvest were certainly reduced. Later planted fields that were just entering flowering likely experienced decreased grain set. It would not be uncalled for to pray for continuing increases in market prices and smoother sailing through the rest of this season.

As with the rice industry, the state of Texas and its agricultural agencies have faced their share of challenges this year. The \$9.9 billion state budget shortfall has had a major impact on our state's economy. The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, which has research faculty and staff at each of its 13 Research and Extension Centers, saw its budget decreased by 9%. Unfunded state legislative mandates resulted in the actual budget decrease being closer to 12%. Combining this with a 3% internal budget cut, means the actual budget decrease for Agricultural Research and Extension Centers exceeded 15%. As with most of the Centers, the tightening budget has resulted in a loss of several positions at Beaumont and Eagle Lake and a general tightening of our budget.

It is times like these that the importance of a strong partnership between the University and the rice industry becomes even more apparent. The Texas Rice Research Foundation stepped to the plate and provided funding to allow the Center to hire back 2 of the 6 staff lost as a result of the budget cuts. As the state legislation moves increasingly toward urban agendas, we need to work even closer together to educate our state leaders of the importance of agriculture to the people of Texas and our nation.

Decreasing budgets across the US have resulted in state universities seeking new ways to meet their responsibilities to their clientele groups. On July 22, administrators from the Texas A&M University System, the Louisiana State University System, and USDA Agricultural Research Service met at Beaumont to brainstorm on possible program sharing. The 3-1/2 hour meeting resulted in several ideas being presented, ranging from joint planning of county (parish) extension agent training programs, coordinating how each state communicates its research and extension information, discussions on possible joint positions involving cattle, forestry, rice, and sugar cane, and plans for jointly pursuing federal government funding to address critical agricultural and natural resources (water) needs. This meeting represents the front-end of what will likely be a long process, one that could help to address agricultural research and extension weaknesses in both states and further strengthen an already strong partnership between the states and the USDA-ARS. The goal of all who were involved with the meeting is to better serve the needs of agriculture in each of our states. Over the next several months, representatives from both states and from USDA will continue to work on these ideas.

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Farming Rice

a monthly guide for Texas growers

Providing useful and timely information to Texas rice growers, so that they may increase productivity and profitability on their farms.

Disease Effects on Ratoon Crop Rice

Diseases occurring in the first crop often have a significant impact on first crop and ratoon crop yield and grain quality. What are the mechanisms at work? For one, when disease is present in the first crop it follows that spores and other agents for reinfection will be present in the crop stubble. Also, foliar diseases such as sheath blight and narrow brown leaf spot can cause premature senescence of the rice flag leaf and the immediate lower leaves, which play an important role in filling the first crop rice grains, as well as providing reserve carbohydrates used by the rice plant to initiate and develop second crop tillers. If these carbohydrate reserves are significantly reduced by the impact of the foliar diseases in the first crop, the ratoon crop potential is significantly impaired.

This was supported by research conducted by Dr. Fred Turner and Mike Jund; which showed that ratoon crop yield variability is significantly influenced by the amount of non-structural carbohydrate reserves remaining in the rice stubble after harvest of the first crop. (Turner and Jund, *Crop Science*, 33: 150-153.) This reserve would be severely reduced by disease in the first crop, and thus reduce ratoon crop yields.

There are some diseases, which if they occur in moderately high levels in the first crop, should cause growers to seriously question the feasibility of going for a ratoon crop. One of these diseases is stem rot (*Sclerotium oryzae*). In the advanced stages of stem rot, the lower culms become rotted and greatly impair the rice plant's ability to send up new, healthy tillers. This has a serious impact on the potential for a satisfactory ratoon crop.

The idea of using fungicides applied directly to the ratoon crop for disease management is a frequently asked question. The label for application of fungicides containing propiconazole (Tilt, Propimax, Stratego) prohibits application of the product on ratoon or stubble crop rice. This leaves the strobilurin fungicides (Quadris and Gem) as candidates for di-

rect application to the stubble crop rice. However, the question of economics becomes more important. The relatively smaller potential yield of the ratoon crop limits the amount of yield return on fungicide investment that one might expect from a fungicide application. Thus, fungicide application on ratoon crops have less probability of being economically profitable compared to the first crop.

A common disease seen in ratoon crops is brown spot (*Cochliobolus miyabeanus*). It is a foliar disease that is often more prevalent in crops that are nutritionally deficient or stressed by some adverse soil-based factor, such as nitrogen deficiency, rice water weevil injury, root rot, hydrogen sulfide build-up, and other unfavorable soil conditions. If brown spot has been a persistent problem in ratoon crops in a particular field, it might be more effective to try addressing the unfavorable soil condition than to apply a fungicide to control brown spot. Fungicide efficacy against brown spot has often been unsatisfactory, perhaps because of the frequently associated soil-related problems.

In the end, it seems the most cost-effective management of diseases in the ratoon crop is obtained by exercising excellent management of diseases in the first crop.

Panicle Blight Outbreak

Test plots at the Beaumont Center are showing significant damage from panicle blight this year. There have also been reports from producer fields in the Nome-Devers area as well as on the west side of Houston. Panicle blight, once thought to be a physiological disorder like straighthead, is caused by the bacterium *Burkholderia glumae*. It was discovered by Dr. Chuck Rush at the LSU Rice Research Station at Crowley in 1996. Since isolating the bacterium, Dr. Rush has conducted numerous tests that prove inoculation with the bacterium does indeed cause the symptoms known as panicle blight. However, severe plant stress due to high

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Grower Guide continued...

temperatures during panicle development can cause similar symptoms.

Panicle blight is difficult to control because there are currently no antibacterial chemicals registered for rice in the U.S. Dr. Rush has experimented with copper compounds, but did not get satisfactory results. The disease is known to be worse when temperatures are extremely high, especially night time temperatures.



According to Dr. Rush, the last severe outbreaks were in 1995 and '98, both years when we had record heat. The symptoms begin to show up just after flowering, when the grains are beginning to fill. Panicles have a dull appearance, and individual florets begin to turn straw colored prematurely. The secondary branch supporting the floret remains green. In severe cases, the panicle remains upright, as there is no kernel weight to tip it over, so late grain fill is when producers will first notice it in their fields.

B. glumae is also one of a number of pathogens, fungal and bacterial, that cause the disease known as seedling blight, or damping-off. The bacterium is seedborne, so care should be taken to insure a clean seed source.

The question often arises, if you had severe panicle blight in the first crop, should producers even consider a second crop? Diseases that destroy the panicle or grain in the first crop, like rotten neck blast, may significantly decrease yield in the first crop, but increase yield in the second crop as first crop carbohydrates were not depleted by grain filling and are available for the second crop panicles. The effect of first crop bacterial panicle blight on second crop yield has not yet been researched, but it seems logical that cooler temperatures at ratoon crop grain fill should lessen the incidence of the disease and make second cropping possible. *

Information on ratoon crop diseases supplied by Dr. Joe Krausz and information on panicle blight supplied by Drs. Chuck Rush, Garry McCauley and Anna McClung.

Agricultural Research in Brazil

The Beaumont Center hosted Dr. Candido Bastos, Director General of the Instituto Agronomico at Campinas for the state of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Dr. Bastos presented a seminar for the faculty and staff that described the work being conducted in agricultural research, specifically rice.

Prior to becoming Director General, Dr. Bastos led the rice breeding program for Sao Paulo state for over 15 years. His first contact with researchers at the Beaumont Center came in 1991, when he worked with Dr. Shannon Pinson learning anther culture techniques. After that he worked with Dr. Anna McClung on the development and release of specialty rices for Brazil. One such release is IAC 500, an aromatic long grain derived from the same cross that produced Dellmont, which was released from the Beaumont Center in 1998. It is currently being grown in Sao Paulo under upland conditions.

Upland rice covers about 75% of Brazil's total rice acreage, yet 75% of their total production is attributed to irrigated rice. Therefore research is being conducted in both areas to try and further maximize yield, while keeping input costs as low as possible.

All 14 states in Brazil have rice research programs. Some of them are funded by the individual states, while others are part of EMBRAPA, a national research organization equivalent to the USDA. The primary research interest in Sao Paulo is irrigated long grain rice, but they are also interested in the development of specialty rices to expand and capture high value markets. Specialty varieties include aromatic, Arborio, glutinous and exotic types - such as IAC 600, a black bran aromatic that, according to Dr. McClung, is one of the tastiest rices she has ever tried.

As a result of the collaboration with Dr. Bastos, Dr. McClung has received germplasm from several Brazilian upland varieties that are being tested in Beaumont for possible use in a breeding program to develop a low water use variety for the Southern United States.

For more information on the development of upland rice varieties contact Dr. McClung at 409-752-5221 ext. 2234 or email amclung@ag.tamu.edu. *

Grower Profile...

Broussard's Rice and Crawfish Farms

Rice farming is a tradition in the Broussard family, and since 1987, crawfish have contributed to their business success.

J.H. “Sonny” Broussard was just not cut out to be in the grocery business like his dad. He craved the outdoors with its fresh air and sunshine, and longed for a job that would provide some measure of independence. Born and raised in Nome, Sonny was no stranger to rice farming, so when he turned 18 he hooked up with Ray McDermand and in 1948, planted his first rice crop. It was this same year that he married Nona Mae Gatlin, his high school sweetheart, whose family also farmed in the Devers area.

Sonny's first tractor was a Model D John Deere, which cost him a whopping \$2,400.00! In 1951, the year Joe was born, the couple moved to Dayton and Sonny farmed with Nona Mae's brother. They eventually found their way back to Nome in 1955, and Sonny began farming rice with the Long family. In 1959 their second son, Gene, was born and by this time Sonny was farming on his own land. He began constructing dryers in 1968 and by 1973 had a total of 20 bins with a 63,000 cwt capacity.

The boys grew up immersed in the rice farming culture. They worked after school and on weekends helping their dad in the fields, and gradually took on more and more responsibility. Today Sonny is in “semi-retirement” and leaves most of the work to Joe and Gene, with help from Gene's middle son Cade. Cade is 20 years old, and like his granddad, prefers to be outside in the open air. He's leaning towards farming as a career, although Gene has never pressured him to follow in the family business. “If he decides to farm,” said Gene, “it will be his own decision, not mine.” Cade said he prefers to work in the rice fields rather than the crawfish ponds, but he is learning all aspects of the business.

This year the Broussard's have 450 acres in rice and 350 acres in crawfish. They also raise cattle on land badly infested with red rice, and have about 65 acres in hay fields. Some years they may have as many as 800 acres in rice, depending on the outlook. They are growing CL 161 this year to try and get control of



L to R: Joe, Cade, Sonny and Gene Broussard. If Cade decides to follow in the family business, he will join an elite group known as “young farmers”.

the red rice problem, and Cocodrie on the fields that are free of the noxious weed.

They generally plant into a stale seedbed, with a Round-up application just prior to planting to knock the weeds back. For fertilizer applications, 90% is flown on, but they have also tried knifing in liquid fertilizer at planting time. This requires special equipment, though, which must be contracted out and they didn't really see that the benefits outweighed the costs.

Joe and Gene have their own laser leveling equipment, and try to do at least 2 of their fields every season. This year they leveled 180 acres. They also do contract work for other farmers in the fall and winter, to offset the cost of the equipment.

When I asked what is their worst pest, Joe said they occasionally have to spray for stinkbugs but not much else. Although they don't have a need for many insecticides, treating the seed with Icon is standard procedure. Fungicide applications to control sheath blight and kernel smut are also standard. Gene said it's like an insurance policy.

On the Clearfield rice, they start with an application of Newpath alone, but then for the second weed control application they may add Basagram. Since Gene is mostly in charge of weed control, he wants the fields to look really clean, or his dad may think he's not doing a good job. Gene also coordinates activities at the dryers, while Joe is responsible for

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Grower Profile continued...

groundwork, planting and water management. These are very loose divisions though, as the brothers work closely together, and are interchangeable for any given task.

Once the rice is harvested, they may sell some right away but often store large quantities on the farm. Nearly all their rice is sold to Beaumont Rice Mill. This year they will store some organic rice for a local producer, and the day I was there, they were busy cleaning out the bins to get them ready. Joe said he is very interested in organic rice production, and may seriously consider trying it out in the next couple of years. His main concerns are the bulk of fertilizer that is required, and effectively controlling weeds.

According to Gene, they have more trouble with insects in the storage bins than in the fields. They tried using diatomaceous earth one year, but didn't put enough on to get effective control. With the expense of phostoxin, the brothers have looked at other alternatives. They worked with an Arkansas research team consisting of John Murdock, Dr. Terry Howell and Dr. Terry Seibenmorgan, to evaluate controlled aeration as a way to keep insect populations under control. Joe said the technique was very effective, but electricity to run the fans for extended periods of time began to get costly. They are still in the process of evaluating the cost/benefit to determine if the process has long-term feasibility for their farming operation.

On the crawfish side, the season begins in August when they water seed rice into the ponds. The crawfish have burrowed down in the mud to escape the summer heat, so the young rice has a chance to put on some growth before the fields are flooded and the crawfish come up and start feeding. Ideally, the females come out of the burrows with fertile egg sacks and begin to release baby crawfish by November. The reason the rice is planted so late is because they don't

want it to have time to head out before winter, as this just attracts geese and ducks to their ponds. Joe said geese are the worst hazard to their crawfish population.

In the spring, when the water temperature reaches 65° the crawfish really start growing fast. At this time, they may supplement their diet with stored rice, to insure the young have adequate intake to reach good market size.

They have improved their facilities since they began raising crawfish in 1987, and now have first rate purging tanks to insure that the customers receive the cleanest catch possible. Another improvement on the horizon is retractable covers for the flat boats that they use for harvesting. Cade is really pushing this innovation, as he knows first hand what the blistering sun feels like for 8 hours in a boat on the water.

Besides Cade, the Broussard's have 3 full time employees that work in the rice and crawfish, one dedicated strictly to the rice and a full-time mechanic to

keep things running properly.

Gene and his wife Becky have another son, Kyle, that is pursuing an engineering degree at Lamar, and one daughter, Maddie, who will soon be 12 years old. Joe and his wife Sharon have two daughters that attend Texas A&M. Alisa is pursuing a degree in Civil Engineering and Hanna, a Bio-medical Science degree.

So what started as a new venture in 1948, has grown into a very successful and diversified family farming operation today. Sonny remembers the good times of the early '70's when one bin of rice (3000 cwt) sold for \$68,000 - with very little in government subsidies. He hopes those days will come again for Joe and Gene, and that a stronger market will encourage his grandson to follow in the family business. *

The crawfish season runs January through July and anyone interested in buying clean, Texas grown crawfish can call the Broussard's at 409-253-2144 to place an order.



While Cade would rather work with the rice than the crawfish, these state-of-the-art purging tanks streamline production and insure a cleaner catch, which is preferred by consumers.

TAES Mourning the Loss of a Great Leader

Dr. Charles J. Scifres, Associate Vice Chancellor and Associate Dean for Agriculture and Life Sciences and Deputy Director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station of The Texas A&M University System, died at his home Monday morning (July 28) of an apparent heart attack.

Scifres, 62, was named to his Agriculture Program position on Jan. 1, 2001. He was formerly Dean of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences at the University of Arkansas.

“Charley was a key member of our leadership team,” said Dr. Ed Hiler, Texas A&M Vice Chancellor for Agriculture and Life Sciences and Director of the Experiment Station. “All of us will deeply miss his leadership, his wonderful attitude, and his tremendous contributions to TAES and the Agriculture Program.”

At the time of his death, Scifres was responsible for statewide oversight and management of the Experiment Station’s agricultural research programs throughout Texas.

At the University of Arkansas, Scifres served as the lead administrator for both academic programs in the College of Agriculture, Food and Life Sciences, and for the statewide Experiment Station research system. He is credited with restructuring the Arkansas college’s academic departments, establishing a distance education program and helping build an effective development program.

Before his tenure in Arkansas, Scifres spent seven years at Oklahoma State University, first as professor and head of the agronomy department. From 1990 to 1994, he was associate director of the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station.

In his first stint with Texas A&M, Scifres rose from assistant professor to full professor in seven years, and in 1982 became the first Thomas M. O’Connor Professor of Range Science, a post he held for five years until his appointment at Oklahoma State.

Scifres authored two books on range improvement and fire ecology and published nearly 150 articles in his field. He has long been an advocate of integrated brush management systems and their ecological impacts. He led an interdisciplinary research team that studied a spectrum of economic, environmental and managerial aspects of range ecosystems in South Texas.



Dr. Scifres in attendance at the 2001 Beaumont Field Day. Charley was a familiar face at all the TAES Centers, as his “roll up your sleeves and get to work” management style put him on the front lines of the organization.

Teamwork was definitely one of his strong suits, and Scifres was known throughout the organization for his direct and honest approach. “You never had to wonder where Charley was coming from,” said USDA rice breeder Dr. Anna McClung, “or that he would say one thing to your face and then go in another room and say something else. That’s a good quality for an administrator.”

The funeral service held in Bryan drew hundreds of colleagues and friends and the family requested that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Charles J. Scifres Memorial Scholarship. Anyone wishing to contribute should send a check made payable to the Texas A&M Foundation with the memo line stating "Scifres Memorial Scholarship". Mail donations to the Agriculture Program Development Office, Texas A&M University, 2142 TAMU, College Station, Texas 77843-2142. *

Contributions by Dave Mayes, Kathleen Phillips and Jay Cockrell.

I was scheduled to travel to College Station on Monday August 4th and spend the day with Charley as he carried out his regular duties at the office. The idea was to tag around behind him and write ‘a day in the life’ type profile for our September issue of Texas Rice. I will forever grieve this missed opportunity. JC

History and Traditions continued...

cept for the military academies. In fact, over 200 of its graduates have become generals or admirals, and more Aggies were commissioned and fought in World War II than men from West Point or Annapolis.

Gig ‘em

Pinky Downs, class of '06 and a member of the Board of Regents from 1923 to 1933 is credited with the Gig'em hand sign. Downs was at the 1930 Yell Practice before the TCU game and shouted out "What are we going to do to those Horned Frogs?" His muse did not fail him as he improvised, borrowing a term from frog hunting. "Gig 'em, Aggies!" he said as he made a fist with his thumb extended straight up.

Reveille

Reveille, the first lady of Aggieland, is the official mascot of Texas A&M University. Reveille I came to Texas A&M in January 1931. A group of cadets hit a small black and white dog on their way back from Navasota. They picked up the dog and brought her back to school so they could care for her. The next morning, when "Reveille" was blown by a bugler, she started barking. She was named after this morning wakeup call. When Reveille I died on January 18, 1944, she was given a formal military funeral on the gridiron of Kyle Field. She was then buried at the north entrance to the field, as all Reveilles are, facing the scoreboard so that she can always watch the Aggies outscore their opponent. The most current Reveille is Reveille VII and was inducted in 2001.

Twelfth Man

The tradition of the Twelfth Man was born on the second of January 1922, when an underdog Aggie team was playing Centre College, then the nation's top ranked team. As the hard fought game wore on, and the Aggies dug deeply into their limited reserves, Coach Dana X. Bible remembered a squad man who was not in uniform. E. King Gill was called from the stands, suited up, and stood ready throughout the rest of the game, which A&M finally won 22-14. When the game ended, Gill was the only man left standing



The first Bonfire was held in the early morning hours of November 18, 1907 to welcome home the football team and celebrate their victory.

on the sidelines for the Aggies. Gill later said, "I wish I could say that I went in and ran for the winning touchdown, but I did not. I simply stood by in case my team needed me." Today, the entire student body at A&M is the Twelfth Man, and they stand during the entire game to show their support.

Aggie Ring

One of the greatest moments in the life of any Aggie is the day that they receive their Aggie Ring. Traditionally, students wear their ring with the class year facing them to signify the fact that their time at A&M is not yet complete. During Senior Weekend at the annual Ring

Dance, the student's ring is turned around to face the world proudly, just as the Aggie graduate will be ready to face the world.

Bonfire

Bonfire was first created as a pile of wood and trash to welcome the victorious Aggie football team home after a game. This first Bonfire was held in the early morning hours of November 18, 1907.

There have been two years that Bonfire has not burned. First, in 1963, following the death of President John F Kennedy, the senior class made one of the most difficult decisions of their time at Texas A&M. In honor of their president, they decided to dismantle the Bonfire, which had been recently completed. The second time that Bonfire was built and did not burn was November 18, 1999 when the structure collapsed, taking the lives of 12 students. This day was one of the most trying days for Aggies everywhere, and alumni from around the world united to mourn the terrible tragedy. At this time, Bonfire has been postponed indefinitely.

Howdy

Walk across the Texas A&M University campus and you are sure to be greeted with the word "Howdy" several times. The word "Howdy" has come to symbolize the friendliness of the A&M campus.

History and Traditions continued...

Muster

Aggies gathered together on June 26, 1883 to live over again their college days, the victories and defeats won and lost upon the drill field and in the classroom. By April 21, 1903, this annual gathering evolved into a celebration of Texas' Independence on San Jacinto Day. It was not until 1922, however, that April 21 became the official day of events for all Aggies, thus, the annual tradition of Muster was born.

Silver Taps

By far, one of Texas A&M's most honored traditions is Silver Taps. Silver Taps is held for a graduate or undergraduate student who passes away while enrolled at A&M. This final tribute is held the first Tuesday of the month when a student has passed away the previous month. The first Silver Taps was held in 1898 and honored Lawrence Sullivan Ross, the former governor of Texas and president of A&M College.

Midnight Yell

Yell Practice began as a post dinner activity in 1913, when different corps companies would gather together to "learn heartily the old time pep." However, it was not until 1931, that Yell Practice as is known today, was held before the game against the University of Texas (TU in Aggie speak). Today, Midnight Yell is held the night before a home game in Kyle Field and at the Grove on Thursday nights before away games. Also for away games, a site is designated for a Midnight Yell in the city of their opponent on the night before the game. For a yell at Kyle Field, yell leaders lead the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band and the Twelfth Man into the stadium.

Yell Leaders

Although nationally known for their spirit, the Texas Aggies have no cheerleaders. This is because they have no school cheers. Instead, there are a variety of school yells used by the 12th Man team (the student body) in support of the team on the field or court. Each year 5 students (three seniors and two juniors) are elected by the student body to serve as Yell Leaders.

Maroon Out

Becoming one of Texas A&M's newest traditions, the 1998 Maroon Out led to a temporary national shortage of maroon t-shirts, when 31,000 Maroon Out shirts were sold at low cost to ensure that tens of thousands of Aggies attending the Texas A&M vs. Nebraska foot-

What is a Land Grant Institution?

A land-grant college or university is an institution that has been designated by its state legislature or Congress to receive the benefits of the Morrill Acts of 1862 and 1890. The original mission of these institutions, as set forth in the first Morrill Act, was to teach agriculture, military tactics, and the mechanic arts as well as classical studies so that members of the working classes could obtain a liberal, practical education.

Passage of the First Morrill Act (1862) reflected a growing demand for agricultural and technical education in the United States. While a number of institutions had begun to expand upon the traditional classical curriculum, higher education was still not widely available to many agricultural and industrial workers. The Morrill Act was intended to provide a broad segment of the population with a practical education that had direct relevance to their daily lives.

The Second Morrill Act (1890) sought to extend access to higher education by providing additional endowments for all land-grants, but prohibiting distribution of money to states that made distinctions of race in admissions. However, states that provided a separate land-grant institution for blacks were eligible to receive the funds. The institutions that, as a result of this act, were founded or designated the land-grant for blacks in each of the then-segregated Southern states came to be known as "the 1890 land-grants." The 29 Native American tribal colleges are sometimes called the "1994 land-grants."

Today, America's land-grant universities continue to fulfill their democratic mandate for openness, accessibility, and service to all people, and many of these institutions, such as Texas A&M, have joined the ranks of the nation's most distinguished public research universities.

Through the land-grant university heritage, millions of students are able to study every academic discipline and explore fields of inquiry far beyond the scope envisioned in the original land-grant mission.*

History and Traditions continued...

ball game would create a sea of maroon spirit throughout the stands. Even the Nebraska fans acknowledged after the game that the intensity of the Maroon Out spirit made a difference in the game leading to A&M's 28-21 victory. Each year one football game is specially designated for Maroon Out.

Aggie Band

When the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band steps off on the heavy beat of the Aggie War Hymn during half time of football games, Aggies respond with an emotional "Whoop!" The world's largest military marching band has "never lost a half-time."

Ross Volunteers

The oldest honor guard and drill team of its kind in the state, the Ross Volunteer Company is the Honor Guard for the Governor of the State of Texas. Beginning in 1876 as the Scott Volunteers, they were renamed in honor of former governor and president of the college Lawrence Sullivan Ross upon his death in 1898.

Senior Boots

Members of the Corps of Cadets look forward to Final Review at the end of their junior year when they can finally step into their Senior Boots, which they will continue to wear throughout their senior year.

The making of boots dates back to 1914 when the Corps changed from the West Point style uniforms to the national cadet wardrobe. In 1925, the English style of boot became traditional. During World War II, boots could not be made due to the rationing of leather so incoming seniors had to buy their boots from former students.

Boot Line

As the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band leaves the field after each home game half-time performance, seniors (giving evidence either by their Senior Boots or Aggie Ring) line up at the north end of Kyle Field to welcome the team back onto the field for the second half.

Class Gifts

Each year, the graduating class selects a gift for its alma mater to benefit the experience of those who come behind them to Texas A&M University. Past gifts have



The Aggie Spirit burns bright in College Station, Texas.

included monuments, facilities, endowments and equipment. Price tags have ranged from \$10,000 to \$120,000.

Elephant Walk

Elephant Walk marks the end of the usefulness of the Aggie seniors to the student body. Like dying elephants, which wander the jungle looking for a place to die after their value to the herd is over, thousands of seniors will join hands and wander

aimlessly about campus visiting landmarks for the symbolic "last time."

The event occurs annually prior to the last regularly scheduled football game. Seniors meet at Kyle Field for a yell practice and presentations. Afterwards, senior yell leaders will lead the group through campus. This Aggie tradition is known to underclassmen as "E-Walk" since it is bad for underclassmen to say the word elephant as it is classified as a "senior word."

Aggie Replant

Replant is one of the largest student-run, environmental service projects in the nation. At this event, hundreds of trees are planted each year by thousands of Texas A&M students. They are coming together to make a difference, one that people for hundreds of years will be able to realize and enjoy.

Trees are planted at local parks, schools, and other public lands. Replant is sponsored by Texas A&M University, the National Tree Trust, and the Army Corps of Engineers at Lake Somerville.

The Big Event

The Big Event is a one-day service project that provides the students of Texas A&M an opportunity to say "thank you" to the local community and residents for all their loyal support. The Big Event originated at Texas A&M in 1982, and has since become the largest, single-day, student run, service project in the nation. From its humble beginnings of six people cleaning a local cemetery, The Big Event has expanded to include over 470 jobs and five thousand students.

Clearly, Aggies are proud of their long history of academic excellence and hold dear the traditions that unite students and alumni around the world. *

State, National and International News...

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS UNDER THE KNIFE

USRPA - Under this year's Congressional Budget Resolution, resources available to fund more than \$17 billion in "discretionary" programs of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration, and a number of related agencies are \$843 million below last year's levels. This represents a 4.8% *reduction* in funds below last year's levels.

As a result, spending for many Farm Bill conservation programs has been reduced in the House and Senate versions of the Agriculture Appropriations Bill, including:

In the House passed bill

- \$53 million Eliminate the Conservation Security Program (CSP)
- \$56 million Wetlands Reserve Program
- \$25 million Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

In the Senate Committee approved bill

- \$18 million Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program
- \$69 million Wetlands Reserve Program
- \$ 9 million EQIP Ground and Surface Water Program

Clearly, producers can expect some conservation programs to be cut. However, they can take some comfort that these "cuts" are primarily reductions from increased spending levels already authorized in law. There will still be net increases over last year's spending levels.

Unfortunately, the biggest loser may be the Conservation Security Program. This program has great promise to provide significant assistance to rice farmers for many of the environmental practices that they already carry out.

If rice farmers want the CSP implemented and funded at significant levels next year, they need to let their Senators and Representatives hear from them loud and clear as soon as possible! The bill is likely to go to conference after both houses return in early September, so time is short for farmers to get the message to Washington.

Article by Dwight Roberts.

RETAILER OF THE YEAR AWARD PROMOTES NATIONAL RICE MONTH

The USA Rice Federation awarded the H.E. Butt Grocery Company of San Antonio, Texas, the Rice Retailer of the Year Award at the 104th Rice Millers' Association Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., on June 17, 2003. H-E-B is one of the nation's largest retailers with an estimated \$9.8 billion in annual sales with 304 stores in Texas and Mexico.

The company was singled out for their promotional efforts in 278 stores, including: directing a chain-wide program of retail displays and newspaper advertising, and featuring National Rice Month in their monthly circular during September.

Category Manager Jody Hall accepted the award on behalf of the H.E. Butt Grocery Company. In recognition of the honor, USA Rice Federation President and C.E.O. Stuart Proctor presented Hall with a Tiffany-designed crystal award. Hall stated, "H-E-B views National Rice Month as a mutual benefit to both the American rice industry and the retailing industry. Most importantly, through raising awareness and offering consumers solutions, National Rice Month helps our customers in their decision to buy U.S. grown rice. During September we promoted U.S. grown/milled rice in 17 ads that garnered over 110.5 million viewings with 2,120 in-store displays that drove sales to record levels."

USA Rice Federation, the national trade association for the rice industry, conducts several retail promotional programs each year in celebration of National Rice Month. The USA Rice retail program impacted U.S. rice sales nationwide during 2002, generating nearly 7,500 displays and resulting in a six percent lift in U.S. rice sales from August to September, according to A.C. Nielsen data.

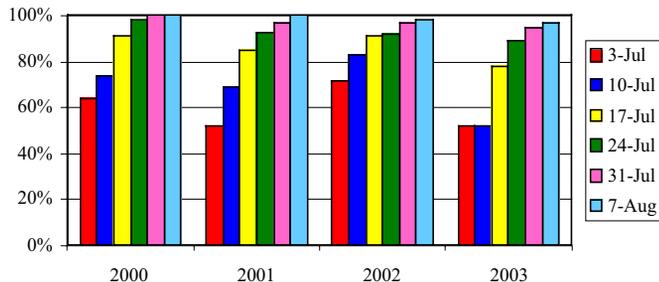
In addition to the retail programs there are cook-offs, recipe contests and a National Rice Month Scholarship contests. Last year Grant Stoesser of Dayton, TX won a \$2000 scholarship for his efforts to promote rice awareness and increase consumption

For more information about National Rice Month, along with information on how to enter the retailer of the year contest, visit www.nationalricemonth.com or call Molly Johnson at 713-270-6699.

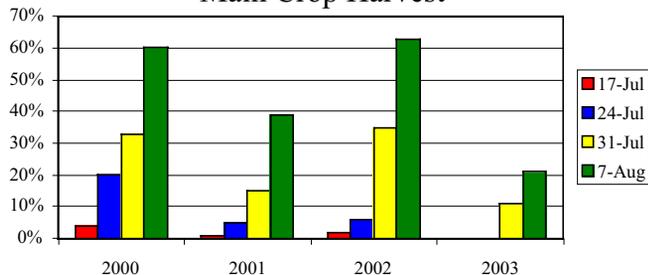
Rice Crop Update

As of August 7th, 21% of the main crop was harvested. Hurricane conditions delayed harvest west of Houston in fields that were drained and ready to cut. Hopefully, milder conditions will prevail and farmers can get rice out in time to try for a second crop.

Headed



Main Crop Harvest



34th Annual Texas Rice Festival

September 20 - October 5

Winnie-Stowell Chambers County Park

Winnie, Texas

Fun rides and great food!

Entertainment by Jerry Jeff Walker, Roger Creager, Wayne Toups and Charlie Robinson.

For more info call 409-296-4404

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<http://beaumont.tamu.edu>

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From the Editor continued...

An extremely sad event that affected the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station is of a much more personal nature. On July 28, Dr. Charles Scifres died unexpectedly from a heart attack. I first received notice of Charley's death while on annual leave. It took me several minutes before I would finally admit to myself that his death had really happened. As Deputy Director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Charley was the immediate supervisor of the 13 Center Directors, from Beaumont in the Southeast to Amarillo in the Northwest. Charley was a staunch supporter of agricultural research in Texas. He was an extremely dynamic person. Charley was a tough but fair taskmaster, with a strong vision for the future of agricultural research. He was also an extremely personable individual who deeply loved and appreciated the people he worked with. I sensed that Charley most enjoyed working with our agricultural clientele.

Many in our rice industry had the opportunity to work closely with Charley during the past several months as we began the process of developing the Rice Vision 2020 plan. His enthusiasm will be dearly missed. In honor of Charley's contribution to Texas agriculture, the Charles J. Scifres Scholarship has been established. Mail donations to the Agriculture Program Development Office, Texas A&M University, 2142 TAMU, College Station, Texas 77843-2142.

Sincerely,

L. T. Wilson

Professor and Center Director

Jack B. Wendt Endowed Chair

in Rice Research

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