



Texas Rice

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A Tribute to USDA Rice Breeder Dr. Charlie Bollich

Charles Nelson Bollich was born in the small farming community of Mowata, near Crowley, in southern Louisiana. He was the sixth of 10 children, and although he grew up during the Great Depression, Charlie remembers his childhood fondly. "We always had plenty to eat," he recalled, "with vegetables from the garden, milk and cheese from the cows, and good German smoked sausage from the hogs."

Charlie's grandfather was born in Germany and immigrated to the U.S. in 1865. His father, Anthony, was born in Nebraska and moved to Louisiana in 1885 where he farmed rice and cotton. Charlie's mother, Edna Boudreaux, had ancestors that traced back to Nova Scotia and was the epitome of the fine Cajun farm wife. She kept a meticulous home, cared for her 10 children and assorted farm animals, and tended the family garden. Their home had no running water or electricity, and the only heat was the wood-burning stove in the kitchen. Edna was an excellent cook, and spent long hours "putting up" the summer harvest in preparation for the lean months of winter. Charlie recalls



A picture of Dr. Bollich holding panicles of Lemont, his most successful release. At the peak of its popularity, Lemont was grown on more than a million acres of land in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

that during the worst years of the Depression, vagrants would wander from the highway to their farmhouse in search of a meal. Edna would never turn anyone away, and she often packed sandwiches for the unfortunate travelers to take along with them.

Although times were hard, life was good for young Charlie Bollich. The children spent many hours in the fields to help bring in the crops. Back then the rice was cut with a binder and stacked in shocks to dry in the field. They would drive the mule team out to collect the rice and bring it up to the thresher for processing.

Charlie's favorite part about this was the great mountains of straw left behind. "Those piles were an endless source of entertainment," said Charlie, "and when we got tired of playing king of the hill, we would all lie exhausted on the huge pile and watch the stars come out." Charlie loved to spend time with his older brothers in the woods and bayous around the family home. They would go hunting or fishing or trapping almost every day, most often bringing something home for the supper table.

It is said that for every individual there is a person with such a tremendous influence that they define your personality and your life. For Charlie, that would have been his older brother Andrew. Andrew was an artist, a philosopher and a great humanitarian – but to Charlie he was simply Andy, a tolerant and caring brother who always had time, and patience and love for his younger sibling.

Charlie was barely a teenager when WWII loomed on the horizon and brought his childhood to a close. His older brothers, James, Stephen and Andrew, all left home to serve their country.

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From the Editor...



This month's cover story of *Texas Rice* highlights Dr. Charlie Bollich. Charlie ranks in the top 4 or 5 rice breeders of the 20th Century. Charlie's most famous release was Lemont. Released in 1983, Lemont remained a mainstay of southeastern rice production until the mid-1990s. From 1983 to 1990, rice yields in Texas increased by 29%, largely as a result of Lemont's release. At its peak, over 1 million acres of rice in the US were planted to Lemont. Although Charlie 'retired' in the early 1990s, he remains active with the rice industry, serving on numerous industry and university committees.

This issue also highlights our crop consultants. In my pre-administration days, I had the pleasure of working with several consultants across a wide range of crops. I have a great respect for the crop consultant profession. Sound integrated crop management practices serve as the basis for a top-notch consultant management approach and can save a producer large amounts of money through increased yields and better-timed management actions. A good consultant literally lives and breathes each and every crop they help produce. In the course of several years of working individual fields, the best consultants learn how to push and tweak each field's performance.

Some people equate crop consultants with insurance premiums. This interpretation could not be further from the truth. Although hiring a consultant and buying an insurance premium are both proactive, hiring a consultant is much more. Insurance premiums provide a degree of monetary relief after a disaster has occurred. A good crop consultant helps producers avoid problems, in the process steering a crop towards greater profitability, by controlling costs while at the same time pushing for better yields.

Crop consultants provide a full range of services to producers, working with them on a daily basis, helping to determine the best time to plant the crop, which varieties to plant, how best to manage and in some cases avoid pest problems, when and how much fertilizer to apply, and when to pre-flood and permanent flood each individual field. In some cases, a consult-

ant will also provide management recommendations regarding crop harvest scheduling and off-season land preparation. During a growing season, a crop consultant will visit his fields two or more times per week. Over several years, he will learn the unique characteristics of each field, and how best to manage each field's particular problems.

This issue of *Texas Rice* also commemorates the 29th Eagle Lake Rice Field Day and the 56th Beaumont Rice Field Day. Please plan to join us to hear about the latest research being conducted on rice in Texas by our scientists. Also, plan on hearing our keynote speakers. Larry Falconer and Steve Balas will discuss the current Farm Bill at the Eagle Lake Field Day. Kay Simmons with USDA/ARS in Washington DC, will discuss future directions for the USDA small grains research program at the Beaumont Field Day, while Cliff Mock will give an update on the Rice Industry Vision 2020 planning process. The Rice Vision 2020 planning process is rice industry driven and originated with an informal group getting together to discuss what the industry is likely to look like by 2020. As part of this process, the Vision 2020 planners have addressed rice production and management, marketing, legislative needs, and natural resources (water and environment) as they impact potential profitability. The rice production and management group brought together industry leaders and rice researchers to begin to "crystal ball" what our industry has the potential to look like by 2020 and has identified issues addressing rice variety and production management needs. The marketing group has begun to identify the type and quality of rice we will need to produce to compete on the world market. The legislative group has begun to address what policy changes is likely to be impacting our industry's competitiveness on the world market, and the natural resources group has begun to identify water and environmental issues.

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Consultants in the News...

Crop Consultants Providing Valuable Services

for Texas Farmers

What qualifies a person to be a crop consultant? What are the common practices or guidelines that all consultants go by?

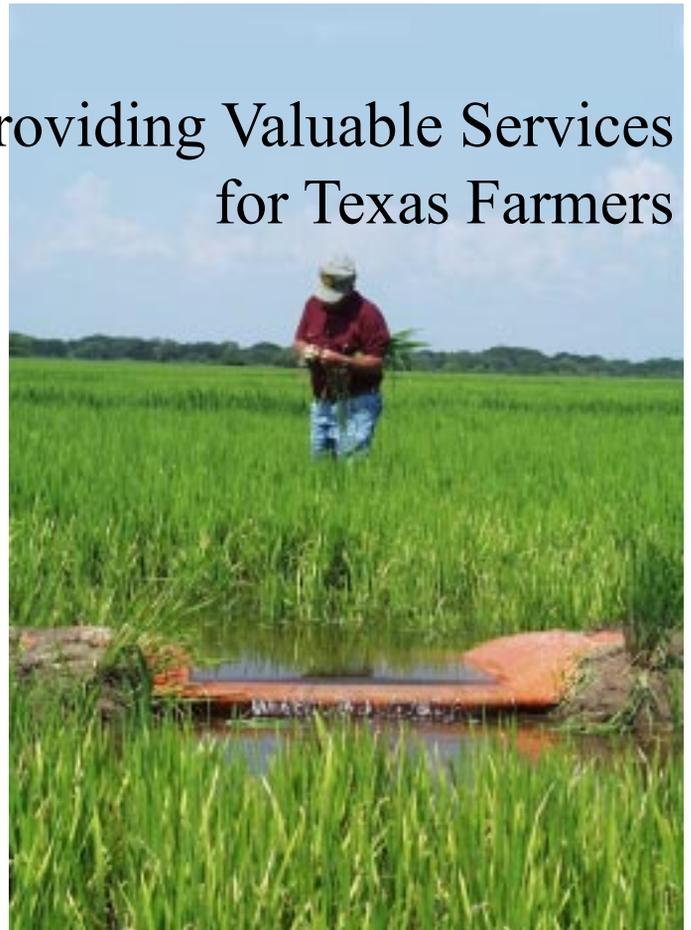
We explored these questions and many others for this month's Profile story to learn more about the world of rice consulting.

It was 10 o'clock on a Monday night when I finally reached the last person on my interview list, and he was just sitting down to supper. Although there were only seven names to contact, it took weeks of phone tag to finally get all their stories. These guys start at daybreak, and often don't leave the fields until well after dusk. Our independent rice consultants wear many hats in their profession – all having expertise in agronomy, soil fertility, entomology, plant physiology, weed science, plant pathology and variety selection. Not only that, but they must also stay abreast of the latest information on crop chemicals, environmental regulations, economics, equipment and conservation practices.

As for qualifications, all the consultants I interviewed were involved in agriculture growing up, and all had gained university degrees in a science related field. Many had worked for Extension or large fertilizer, seed or chemical companies before moving in to private consulting, gaining valuable experience along the way. Crop consultants provide a full range of services to growers in integrated crop and farm management programs, working directly with farmers on a daily basis, advising them in areas such as watershed management, integrated pest management, animal waste management, global information systems technology, and research trials. The primary mission of these professionals is implementing scientific and technological advances to enhance environmental sustainability and profitability on clients' farms.

There are several different certification programs for crop consultants. These are administered through the American Society of Agronomy and the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants.

While they are all fiercely independent, they are at the same time dependent on other professionals in extension, research, agribusiness and private practice



By carefully monitoring plant development, consultants can make the best recommendations to their farmer clients.

to provide information, ideas and observations. Questions don't automatically come categorized by discipline. They recognize they don't have all the answers, but know it is up to them to be able to ask the right question of the right "expert." Clearly then, crop consulting is a dedicated profession and requires much in the way of experience and education.

Independent crop consultants do not sell or benefit from the sale of any product used or recommended to their farmer clients. They charge a fee for their services, recognizing that they must provide a good return on investment for their services just as other ag inputs must return a positive dividend. They realize they have to keep their farmer clients in business and profitable for the consultant to stay in business. Some of the farmer/consultant relationships have lasted upwards of 20 years.

Many of our rice producers don't use consultants. They do their own scouting, often have extensive experience in rice production and know the history of their fields as well as they know their children's birthdays. When expert advice is needed they rely on their

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Crop Consultants continued...

county agents, Experiment Station personnel or local chemical representatives.

So why do some producers opt to hire professional consultants? Many have farming operations that are extremely large or diversified, and they rely on the experience and knowledge of these professionals to make the best decisions for their farm. The consultants help producers keep a vigilant watch on their fields, and bring years of experience to bare when facing critical production decisions that will ultimately determine yield and profits. Consultants see more fields and situations in a year than most farmers see in a lifetime. And consultants often share ideas and observations with their peers, learning more collectively than they can individually on their own.

The work and contributions of consultants does not end when their client's crop is harvested. They are often on the cutting edge of rice technology, and play a positive role that often benefits the entire Texas rice industry, not just their farmer clients. In our discussions, numerous examples of their leadership and public service activities were noted.

- In the late 90's, Wilde, Crane and Bradshaw saw the potential benefits of Command in the Texas rice weed control system. They took the lead in requesting a Section 18 label for the use of Command a full two years before the full federal label was approved.
- A fall armyworm outbreak hit the Texas rice crop during a rainy spring in 1992. Many fields could not be sprayed with methyl parathion or sevin because propanil had been applied to the fields a few days earlier. BT insecticides, the only remaining alternative, were being used with less than satisfactory results. Glenn Crane contacted Dr. M.O. Way and TDA. Other consultants were mobilized and faxes from farmers were submitted to TDA documenting the situation. A crisis exemption was granted for the use of Ambush within 12 hours, and thousands of acres of rice were sprayed before the outbreak was over.
- In 1983-84, Bradshaw and Crane noticed colonies of barnyardgrass that had not been killed by propanil. Barnyardgrass plants in each of these spots had physical characteristics different from those in other spots. Each spot appeared to be the progeny of a single resistant plant that had increased in number as an isolated colony. Both consultants independently recognized this

as the classic symptoms of resistance. Each collected seed of barnyardgrass, submitted it to USDA researcher Dr. Ray Smith in Arkansas. The collected biotypes proved to be resistant to propanil, one sample submitted by Crane was the most resistant sample tested by Dr. Smith.

- Information from the propanil resistant barnyardgrass effort was essential to getting a Section 18 approved for Facet for Texas before a full federal label was granted. Consultants saw the need, had the information to document the request and worked with their farmer clients to put together the packet to be submitted to TDA.

Rice consultants are closely watched by the farming community, and many of the concepts and procedures they develop are adopted outside their client base. They play an important role in the rice production team. Obviously, they are concerned about the cutbacks in agriculture in recent years. They wonder with fewer people in agribusiness, extension and research, how will problems of the future, those the Texas rice industry is sure to face, be dealt with and resolved.

Common Ground

While there are many differences between individual consultants, there are several issues they all agree on. The concepts that form the basis of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) or more appropriately Integrated *Crop* Management best describes how consultants deal with the rice crops of their farmers. Each field and situation is treated individually, but is ultimately part of the whole farm. Basic guidelines are used but these guidelines can only provide a framework. Each field is different, every year brings varying weather conditions, pest pressures and fertility requirements. This is when the experience and education of professional consultants is called to task. They make recommendations based on years of observations, in hundreds of different fields, so that their clients can bring in the biggest crop for the least amount of money.

Without exception, the consultants agreed that economics played a major role in every decision. And, as many pointed out, using the least amount of material

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to achieve the desired result also translates to less chemicals escaping into the environment.

They also agreed that soil testing was very important, and many collect samples for lab evaluation every year. At the very least, they run soil test every time a field comes out of the rotation and into rice. A&L Labs out of Memphis and Lubbock were the clear favorites for accurate and consistent results. None of the consultants interviewed use the chlorophyll meter, as it does not have an advantage over trained eyes and it takes much more time. They start with standard fertility guidelines, but ultimately rely on years of experience to determine if a field needs additional nitrogen and other elements of fertility.

Regarding the practice of laser leveling, they acknowledged that it was important in reducing water and labor cost, as well as achieving consistency throughout the field. Still, precision leveling may not be appropriate for every client in every field. The cost of the equipment is still quite high, and many growers would have to contract out for the work to be done. And in some cases, especially on the sandy loam soils, optimum grading is not possible due to the shallow depth of available topsoil. If you cut too deep, subsoil is exposed and you sacrifice yield potential for optimum grade. All the consultants reported noticing significant yield decline in areas that had been deeply cut, and many recommend either municipal sludge or poultry litter to alleviate this problem.

One last generality on our rice consultants in Texas is the frequency in which they monitor their fields. Each said that they sample a minimum of twice weekly to check for insects (sweep nets), fertility problems, weed pressure and water levels. In special situations, or during critical times during the season when things are changing rapidly, they may even visit the fields 3 or 4 times a week. This insures that they stay ahead of the game, and can deal with potential problems before they reach crisis level. They prefer to be proactive, rather than reactive, to insure that their clients are getting the most for their money.

Crop Aid Ag Consultants - Dan Bradshaw

Dan grew up in the Lubbock area where his dad farmed cotton and sorghum. They also raised cattle and hogs. With just one younger sister, Dan spent many hours on the farm helping his father. After high school,

he went on to Texas Technological College (now Texas Tech University) and acquired a BS in Agronomy in 1964. His first job out of college was with Pfister Associated Growers, (now part of Cargill) where he worked in Kansas as a sorghum research assistant. Afterwards he came back to Texas and went to work in the TDA's Seed Certification Program. He coordinated seed inspectors statewide and became familiar with many seed rice producers. In 1975, he went to work for Henderson Farms Seed Rice Company in El Campo, which is now part of Rice Belt Warehouse.

In 1977, he partnered with Drs. Reed Green and Fred Miller to start Ag Services of Texas consulting business. His first year to work in rice was 1978, and he went on to start his own company in 1980.

During this time, Dan had been actively involved in several professional agricultural organizations. He first joined the American Society of Agronomy in 1967, while working for Pfister Associated Growers. In 1980, he was certified by ARCPACS as Certified Professional Agronomist and Crop Specialist. For several years during the late 80's and early 90's he served on the ARCPACS Certification Board. From 1990-94, he served on the ASA Board of Directors. Dan joined the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants in 1979 and was President in 1989-90.

Dan is especially proud of his efforts to develop a doctors level degree program in crop agriculture. This is comparable to the DVM in animal agriculture. In 1990, he co-authored a paper *American Agriculture Needs Doctors of Plant Health* and presented it to the National Research Council - Board on Agriculture. Dan has spent years trying to convince scientists and university administrators that there was a pressing need for a degree program for practitioners that would integrate all the different agricultural disciplines. He presented papers and talks at agronomy, pathology and entomology meetings across the country. Working with other like-minded individuals in the NAICC and other organizations, Dan was extremely pleased and proud to see the new Doctor of Plant Medicine degree program started in 1999 by the University of Florida. Three students from Texas make up the 40 students in the program. There is already a long waiting list of potential students. Dan serves as an advisor to one of the students, Elizabeth Huff, who will graduate from the

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Crop Consultants continued...

program in 2005. This is yet another example of the tremendous effort Dan has made to improve the crop consulting profession.

In spite of all the time volunteered in leadership positions in service to the different industry organizations, Dan logs the majority of his hours in producer fields. He likes the term 'Integrated Crop Management' to describe his crop consulting philosophy. "You can't just go by a list of prescribed practices," said Dan, "but instead, should concentrate on the crop and determine what is most advantageous to the farmer." While Dan is very supportive and appreciative of our university research, he pointed out that test plots often do not reflect what will happen in a producer field. Part of the consultant's role is integrating research findings with real life situations, and there have been many examples over the years where consultants and their clients have 'led the charge' in new areas of research. Consultants spend so much time in the fields, they can often identify problems early and alert scientists when there is a problem that needs to be investigated further.

Dan also commented that crop consultants are especially valuable for rice producers, as rice is one of the most management intensive crops grown in Texas. This is due to the fact that water must be closely monitored and can thus be regulated as it is used to manipulate plant growth and development, manage weed populations, fertilizer uptake and diseases. Dan also works in soybeans, grain sorghum, corn and turf grass.

Dan's wife Myrtle plays a key role in his business success, as she keeps the books in order and makes sure everything gets paid on time. Dan and Myrtle also have a beautiful garden at their home in El Campo, where they grow a variety of vegetables, herbs and fruit. One special interest of Dan's is native forage grasses, and after years of collecting specimens, he has an impressive collection of Eastern Gammagrass in plots at his home. Just recently, Dan identified an unusual specimen that produces bright, yellow flowers. When time allows, he plans to begin making selections and purifying the different lines.

Dan and Myrtle have two children, Gary (who also works in rice consulting) and Anita, whose husband works for an ag chemical company. Anita and Troy Miller have two daughters, Abby 2 years and Ella 4 months. Since they live in Dan's hometown of Lub-

bock, the Bradshaw's make frequent trips out west to visit the grandchildren.

Dan can be reached on his cell phone at 979-541-7560 or email ricepro@wcnet.net.

Bradshaw Agricultural Consulting – Gary Bradshaw

Gary grew up in the rice business, under the close tutorship of his father Dan. As early as junior high he was helping scout the fields, and continued to work with his father through high school. He was very interested in science and enjoyed working outdoors. Like his dad, Gary also graduated from Texas Tech University with a BS in Agronomy.

In 1993, Gary started his own consulting business, and today has 9 large rice farming operations on his client list. He works in other crops occasionally, but prefers to focus most of his efforts in rice. He believes in the principles of ICM and IPM, and uses thresholds to determine when a chemical needs to be applied to protect yield. Still, his overall philosophy encompasses more than just IPM, as he sees the crop as the focus rather than the pest. He also believes that economics play a major role in his recommendations, and the bottom line has to be his client's profit margin.

With regard to the performance of laser-leveled fields, Gary has seen definite yield reductions on heavily cut areas. By using yield monitors, he has seen a substantial benefit from using the Houactinite product on these areas, which he attributes to increased microbial activity, higher organic matter, and more trace elements and organic carbon. "The product is readily available," said Gary, "and the company will haul it to the farm and spread it according to our directions." He generally recommends a rate of 1500 – 2500 lbs/acre, depending on how deep the cut.

Precision-leveled fields brought up the issue of more ground rig application of chemicals versus aerial applications. Gary believes it's not only that precision leveling makes ground rig application more economical, but also that liability issues come into play. "More of our rice acreage is bordering sensitive areas, like neighborhoods and business districts," said Gary "and producers have to be very sensitive about drift." Plus he finds ground rig applications to be more precise, which increases the efficacy of the chemical that is being applied.

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Gary is a member of the NAICC and Texas Association of Agricultural Consultants. He serves on the TRRF industry research review panel, and has served as a contributor to Dr. Way's Mexican rice borer research for the past 3 years.

Gary can be reached on his cell phone at 281-703-7097 or by email at gcbadshaw@txu.net.

Coastal Ag Consulting – Glenn Crane

Glenn practically grew up in the rice fields, as his father was the superintendent of the Texas A&M Research Center at Beaumont from 1955-1964. After that, Dr. Crane went to work for the Chocolate Bayou Land and Water Company and worked in the Rosharon area. After high school, Glenn went on to Texas A&M and acquired a BS in Plant and Soil Science. In 1984 he went to work for Coastal Ag Consulting, and has now been active in rice consulting for over 19 years.

When I asked Glenn about BMPs, IPM, ICM, etc. he said it all boils down to the grower making a profit. "Economics is very important," said Glenn, "and I make recommendations based on economic thresholds determined by research and extension staff. A few weeds in the field may hurt a farmers pride, but if they don't hurt his yield then we leave them alone."

Glenn serves around 16 clients each year, working in rice, sorghum, and soybeans. He said about 40% of his rice growers use a 1 in, 1 out rotation, while the remaining 60% prefer a 1 in, 2 out rotation. Regarding early season water management, he generally waits until the plants are tillering before applying permanent flood, as this seems to work better on the sandy loam soil.

Glenn and his wife Karen have been married for 30 years, and they have two children, Amber and Danny. To Glenn and Karen's delight, Amber gave birth to twins last October, so now they have a grandson and granddaughter to spoil.

Glenn can be reached on his cell phone at 979-531-9302 or by email at crane@wcnet.net.

Ag Services of Texas – Dr. Reed Green

Reed was born and raised in the Texas panhandle in the farming town of Hereford, where his dad raised corn, milo, cotton and wheat. He acquired his BS in Entomology at Texas Tech University and then went on to Texas A&M for his MS and PhD in Entomology,

with minors in Plant Nutrition and Plant Pathology.

After college, Reed went to work for Texas Cooperative Extension as the State Survey Entomologist. In 1975, he started Ag Services of Texas with Dr. Fred Miller, and began his career in crop consulting. Dan Bradshaw joined their consulting partnership in 1977.

Reed is quite active in the service organizations, and has been a member of the ESA since 1967. He was also a charter member of the NAICC and served as the fifth president of the organization in the early 80's when environmental issues were becoming more pressing.

Reed has 15 clients and works in rice, cotton, milo and soybeans. Many of his farmers practice conservation tillage, and a few of his rice farmers have multiple inlet irrigation systems. Reed says this works well, especially since they depend on well water, which can often be slower getting into the fields.

He is very cost conscious, and tries to save his growers money in chemical costs whenever possible. "Given the situation with the Farm Bill, we have to be very efficient with inputs," says Reed, "and figure out how to minimize costs without sacrificing yield."

Reed and his wife June have two sons, Trent and Jerral. He can be reached at 979-532-5951 or email jrgreentrestx@earthlink.com.

McAnally Ag Consulting, Inc. – Larry McAnally

Larry grew up in SE Missouri on his family's farm where they raised rice, corn, soybeans, sorghum and wheat. He attended the University of Missouri at Columbia where he obtained a degree in Agricultural Business. After that, he went back home and worked for several years with his brother in farming.

In 1986 Larry took a position as Farm Manager at Ring Around Research Farm in East Bernard to work on hybrid rice. The farm closed in 1991, a year after Larry went to Coastal Ag Consulting, and sold most of their material to RiceTec, Inc. in Alvin.

After 3 years at Coastal Ag, Larry took a position as a consultant with SF Services; which merged with Farmland and then Farmland formed a joint venture with Land 'O Lakes, and Cenex to create Agriliance. In 2000 he became independent, keeping much of his client base the same. He serves around 20 – 25 growers, working in rice, cotton, soybeans, milo and corn.

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Crop Consultants continued...

On precision-leveled fields, Larry tries to encourage his clients to use poultry litter on the cut areas, as this was a practice that worked well for them on the family farm in Missouri. Without some type of organic matter amendment, Larry has observed the heavy cut areas have shorter plants and sparse stands. They also have less weed pressure, because the weed seed bank got scraped away in the topsoil, but yields still suffer.

When I asked Larry if his clients always act on his recommendations, he said most of the time but not always. "If a client is reluctant, I try to talk to them about the benefits of a treatment," said Larry, "but in the end, economics drive the decision."

Larry and his wife Doris have two children, Renee and Chris, and three grandchildren. Both children and their families live just across the street, which makes grandpa and grandma very happy.

Larry can be reached on his cell phone at 979-479-1869 or by email at riglet@wcnet.net.

Cliff Mock Consulting – Cliff Mock

Cliff grew up on the family farm in Montgomery County where they raised rice, feed grain and cattle. His dad also managed other rice farms in the area, so Cliff had early hands-on experience in rice production. After high school, he attended Texas A&M University and obtained a BS in Animal Science.

After college, he took a job with Extension and was the CEA in Brazoria County for two years. He then went on to work at the Chocolate Bayou Land and Water Company as an agronomist from 1979-84. The company managed 30,000 acres of rice on halves, and Cliff worked as a consultant.

Next, he spent two years at Crescent Chemical Company, where he worked as a fertilizer representative before going on the BHC Chemical Supply Company in East Bernard. In 1998 BHC sold to Helena, and he worked for them until he became an independent consultant in 2003.

Cliff works only in rice, and has 10 clients in 4 counties. Soil types range from heavy clay to sandy loam and he insists on running soil tests every year. Some of his clients have very innovative and diversified farms. One has done back-to-back rice successfully for the past 5 years, with some fields using no-till techniques. They also raise crawfish, which figure in to the rice rotation.

Cliff stressed the importance of economics in his decisions saying "I want my clients to have at least a 2 to 1 return on every dollar they invest in their crop." He is careful to make sure that everything put out stays on the field so growers get the most for their money.

Serving the rice industry in leadership positions is also important to Cliff. He is a member of the Texas Rice Improvement Association Board of Directors, and also serves on the Texas Rice Research Foundation industry review panel. Recently, Cliff also participated in the Vision 2020 planning meetings as chairman of the production committee.

Cliff and his wife Beth have three children; Wade (15), Jana (13) and Haley (10). The family lives in Alvin, where Beth works as an Interior Designer. Cliff can be reached on his cell phone at 713-724-9470 or by email at agman@ev1.net.

Schmidt Crop Care - J.J. Schmidt

J.J. grew up learning all aspects of rice farming. When he was not working for his dad and uncle in the rice fields, he worked at the local commercial dryer part time while in high school. After high school, he attended Texas A&M University where he acquired a BS in Soil and Crop Management with a minor in Entomology. In the summer before he graduated, he did an internship with Coastal Ag. After graduating, J.J. went to work for Coastal as a field scout. After his first season he was offered a job with BHC Industries as an agronomist/salesperson. Here he gained vast knowledge of crops, other than rice, various chemicals and different types of fertilizer and blending properties. He continued work there until January of 1998, when Helena Chemical Co. acquired BHC. After that he worked with Helena as an agronomist for one year. In the early part of January of 1999, he had an opportunity to farm and work on a larger farm assisting with management decisions. After three years of good crops, he could not find the farmland to expand. So, he decided to become an independent consultant, where he could still be involved in the profession he loves.

J.J. serves 12 clients in Wharton, Colorado and Jackson counties. The three counties offer various soil types, so soil samples are very important to get a grasp on conditions and fertility of each year's crop ground.

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Crop Consultants continued...

There are also various weed and grass pressures that require different treatment. All of these matters are considered in the growing year and are dealt with, but it comes down to one thing, J.J. said, putting money in your grower's pocket.

J.J. and his wife Susan have two children, Tanner (4) and Dalton (2), and live in Chesterville. Susan works as a veterinarian technician and helps with the books, when needed. He can be reached on his cell phone at 979-758-4800 or by email at schmidtcropcare@elc.net.

Coastal Ag Consulting – David Wilde

David was raised on their family farm in Lyford, Texas, the third of seven children. His dad grew cotton and milo, and David remembers long hours working in the fields with his brothers. He graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in Agronomy in 1974, and then went on to Officers Basic Training course as a 2nd Lieutenant. He served in the reserves for 8 years.

His first job in agriculture was for Chem Agro, which is now a part of Bayer Crop Science. He started in private consulting in 1978 in East Bernard and has partnered with Glenn Crane at Coastal Ag Consulting since 1985.

David also owns Coastal Ag Research, an 80-acre research farm in East Bernard. They work mostly in chemical registration, but do some variety and production trials as well. The facility has offices, labs, greenhouses and underground irrigation. Next to the research farm, David owns 100 acres where he grows row crops and milo.

On the consulting end, David works only in rice but has one full-time employee that covers cotton also. He has experience in cotton production from their family farm, but prefers to concentrate on rice.

David and his wife Laura have two children, Jennifer (16) and Barret (12). You can reach David at 979-335-4451 or by email at car@intertex.net. *

For more information about the organizations that offer certification programs for crop consultants see the American Society of Agronomy at www.agronomy.org or the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants at www.naicc.org.

Charlie Bollich continued...

Two years passed and letters were faithfully exchanged. Andrew kept close tabs on Charlie, and made sure the yard was mowed and the old crude oil pump was maintained and kept the irrigation water flowing for the rice. Andrew would often enclose dollar bills in his letters for Charlie to have or share with his sisters.

In the end, James came home, one of the few survivors of the Bataan Death March. Stephen, a naval bombardier, was killed in an automobile accident in Italy, and Andrew's plane was shot down over Sardinia. For months the family prayed that he would be found, but this was not to be. Charlie grieved his brothers' deaths, and in spite of all his mother's protests, he left home at 17 to join the fight.

Charlie was sworn in to the Navy on July 5, 1944 and went on to basic training at the U.S. Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, Florida. He was eventually assigned to Patrol Bombing Squadron 144 and stationed in Tinian and then Guam. Charlie recalls an incident there that made him quite popular among his fellow servicemen. One day he came upon the bar-rack bully in a boxing match with a smaller, less experienced opponent. Charlie made his presence known so that the bully would leave the unfortunate man and challenge him instead. Little did the man know that Charlie had been boxing since grade school, and had successfully competed in numerous matches throughout Southern Louisiana. Needless to say, the bully took a sound beating, and was reluctant after that to challenge *anyone* to a boxing match. Charlie was a member of the boxing team at the various bases where he was stationed.

As an Aviation Radioman, Charlie flew on many missions while stationed on Guam. The patrol bombers were Lockheed PV-2's, which were massive aircrafts, but only had space for 4 crewmen. The bombing of Hiroshima in August of 1945 ended the war, and Charlie was discharged a year later.

Soon after returning home Charlie enrolled at Louisiana State University and began his studies in Agronomy. It was during this time that he met Peggy Austrum, who was also attending LSU in pursuit of a degree in education. In 1950, Charlie graduated from college, got a job at the Rice Research Station at Crowley, and married Peggy, in that order, as it was

continued on next page

Charlie Bollich continued...

most important back then to have a good job before you asked for a girl's hand in marriage.

Charlie continued on with his education while working in Crowley, with plans to get his Masters degree. In 1955 he transferred to the Red River Valley Station in Bossier City and began working on upland crops. Because of the caliber of his research, Charlie's professor suggested he go straight on for his PhD, which he completed in 1957. The next year he was hired by the USDA-ARS to develop a rice variety resistant to Hoja Blanca, so he returned to the Crowley Station. In 1963, Charlie was transferred to the Rice Research Unit at Beaumont to replace Hank Beachell, and thus began his breeding career in Texas.

During the 30 years Charlie was in Beaumont he developed or participated in the release of 23 varieties. Among Charlie's releases LaBelle was the earliest success, covering as much as 95% of the acreage in Texas. His most significant variety was Lemont, and for several years it was grown on over a million acres in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

Charlie was quite dedicated to his work, and would often come in on weekends when things needed to be done. His approach was clear-cut and simple, determine the traits that you want and focus your efforts in that area. He usually did no more than 12 to 15 crosses a year, and carefully evaluated the progeny lines for desirable traits. He took meticulous notes, and was careful to record any observations that might be of value later on.

Charlie spent much more time in the field than he did in his office. In fact, this often got him in hot water with his USDA supervisors, as he didn't see that administrative paperwork and meetings should take precedence over his work in the field. Jodie Cammack, USDA Biological Science Research Technician in

Varietal Improvement, is the only employee remaining at the Center that worked in Charlie's crew. Jodie remembers a number of times when they would have to locate boots for a USDA "bigwig" who came to see Charlie, because he wouldn't leave the field.

Jodie said Charlie (they called him Dr. B) worked his crew as hard as he worked himself. "He was a tough boss," said Jodie, "and he wanted things done a certain way. There was no arguing with him." One of the

things he was most particular about was the timing for harvesting milling samples and panicles. Charlie would go out the day before and make his notes on what was to be cut the following day. That morning when the crew arrived Charlie would be waiting with the tags ready, and no matter how late they had to stay, the work had to get done that day. Jodie said when things didn't go as Charlie thought they should, someone was in for a tongue-lashing. "But only to the men on his crew," Jodie chided, "when he went in that front office where the ladies worked, he was all sweetness and light."

In spite of the fact that he worked them hard, Charlie's crew had a tremendous amount of respect for him. They took pride in the fact that the Varietal Improvement fields looked better than any on station. They also knew that Charlie would go to bat for them, and see to it that they were fairly compensated for their work.

Charlie was also well respected and admired among his peers. This is evident by the list of honors and awards that he received throughout his career. Though too numerous to list, the most notable include: Fellow, American Society of Agronomy and Crop Science Society of America; RTWG Distinguished Rice Research and Education Award; Honoree, International Rice Festival in Crowley; C.N. Bollich Endowed Pro-



Charlie explains about the pottery fragments he collected on one of many excavations in SE Texas. The unfinished painting in the background indicates yet another one of Charlie's talents.

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Charlie Bollich continued...

gram for Rice Improvement, Texas A&M. In 1994, Charlie was inducted into the USDA-ARS Science Hall of Fame and the following year the LSU Alumni Hall of Distinction.

Given all the time and energy Charlie spent on breeding rice, you wouldn't think there would be room for anything else, yet there was an alternative career that he still only refers to as a hobby. Charlie has been a member of the Texas Archeological Society for over 50 years, even serving a term as President. He has participated in numerous excavations in the Sabine Lake area, and co-authored several papers. Many consider him an expert on Tchefuncte pottery, which dates back nearly 2600 years when Indian tribes roamed the woods and swamps of Southeast Texas. Recently, he was selected to author a chapter on Sabine prehistory in the book *Port Arthur's Centennial History*. Charlie presently serves as a volunteer archeologist for the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network, and gives numerous presentations to clubs and organizations in our area. He is still quite active in the field excavations, and has a trip planned for later this summer.

As a volunteer for VOCA, Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance, Charlie made a trip to the Ukraine to work with a rice breeder, who was trying to develop new varieties for that region. Also since his retirement, Charlie has served as a consultant for the International Atomic Energy Agency, a branch of the United Nations concerned with the peaceful application of this resource. In this capacity he has traveled to Vienna, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Columbia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru, Brazil and Argentina. He plans to return to the Amazon jungle next year for a river trip with friends and fellow archeology enthusiasts. Still, the rice industry is an important part of his life. Charlie served on the search committee for the Beaumont Center's new rice breeder, and he continues to serve on the Texas Rice Improvement Association board of directors.

Since his wife's death in 1999, Charlie has further increased his volunteer efforts, to fill the void left by her passing. He adored Peggy, and is very proud of the legacy she left behind. A teacher for over 20 years, Peggy had a tremendous impact on her students. Two of her former students ran into Charlie at a civic event recently, and told him how Mrs. Bollich changed their lives. They were having a difficult time, and through

her care and attention, they turned things around. Both are now teachers, and credit her with their success.

Charlie has two sons, Andrew (named after his brother) and Paul. His four grandchildren, Alyson, Stephen, Kathryn and Susan are the light of his life, and luckily for Charlie, they all live in Beaumont. The family is very close, and Andrew stops in to eat lunch with his dad nearly every day.

When I commented on the tremendous impact Charlie has made on the rice industry, he was quick to point out that he couldn't have done as well without the help of his hard working crew, and his professional teammates Dr. Bill Webb, Dr. Toni Marchetti and John Scott. He also feels grateful for the support he received from the USDA, Texas A&M University and the Texas Rice Improvement Association. "Without them," he emphasized, "my program would have been a failure."

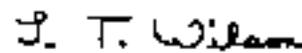
With all the contributions Charlie has made over the years, he remains a modest and unassuming man. He would call himself lucky, and even blessed, but not brilliant. On this last point, Charlie, we must agree to disagree. *

Editor continued...

As part of this process, the Vision 2020 planning committee is beginning the process of setting up meetings across the Texas Rice belt to get broad input from producers, extension agents, and research scientists alike. I hope you will take time from your busy schedule to help with this process to develop a plan for our industry's future. The Vision 2020 planning group has developed a general framework for the future, but it needs broad industry input to tie it all together.

I look forward to seeing you at the Eagle Lake and Beaumont Field days. Please continue to send us your ideas and suggestions for *Texas Rice*.

Sincerely,



L. T. Wilson

Professor and Center Director
Jack B. Wendt Endowed Chair
in Rice Research

Wanted Alive!! Blackhull Red Rice Seed



The Texas Department of Agriculture has funded a survey to determine if a specific type of red rice (*Oryza rufipogon*) is found in Texas rice fields.

If you find a plant with blackhull seed, as shown in the photograph, please collect at least 100 seed, dry for 3 days, enclose in a ziplock bag, and place in an envelope with the form below. Mail to:

Mike Chandler
Dept. of Soil and Crop Science
2474 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-2474

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Location sample was collected: _____

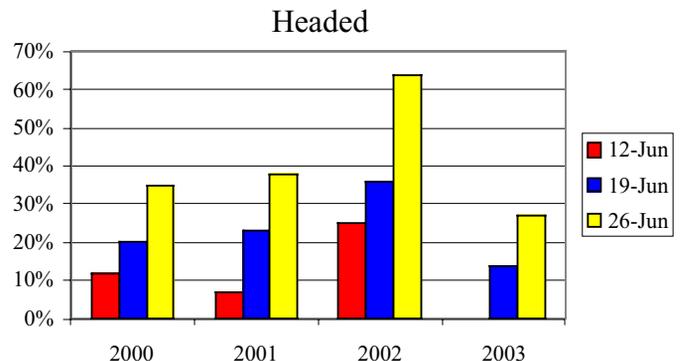
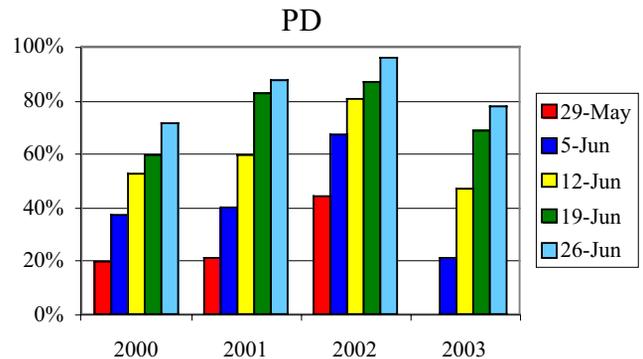
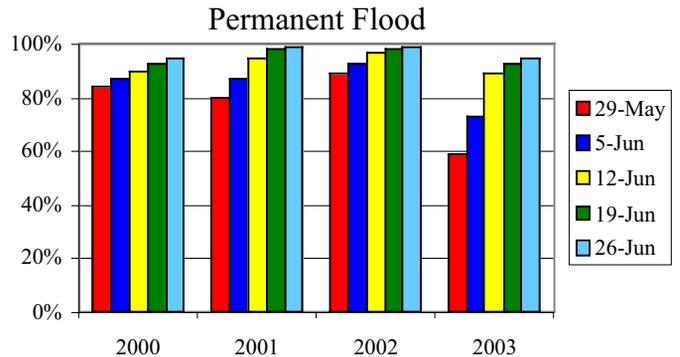
Producers will be reimbursed for postage costs.

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Rice Crop Update

As of June 26th, 95% of the Texas rice crop was in permanent flood, 78% at PD, and 27% was headed. These numbers are well behind 2002, but on average only 8% behind 2000.



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