

Endowed Chair to Fund Rice Research

The Louisiana Rice Research Board has provided an additional \$500,000 earmarked for research. That brings the total to \$1.5 million set aside from Colombian Free Trade Agreement money that must be earmarked for rice research in Louisiana. Interest generated by the account will be used to fund an endowed chair position to enhance efforts at the rice station.

The board allocated \$1 million in January for the chair.

Dr. Don Groth, LSU AgCenter plant pathologist, said the money will be used to pay for research projects.

"It took years of hard work by a lot of people to get this established," Groth said.

Research money on all levels is decreasing, Groth said, and the chair funds will be a significant boost to research at the Rice Research Station.

"It will go to overall station support," Groth said, explaining that the board will be briefed on how it will be spent. "We'll keep track of what it's spent on and present that information to the board each year."

Richard Fontenot, board chairman, said planning for the chair began in 2015.

"This endowment has been in the works for a long time and now that it is official, I feel good knowing the rice industry will continue to benefit from world-class research that will come out of LSU thanks to this strengthened research program."



**Dr. Don Groth, Resident Director
H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station**

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The Louisiana Rice Research Board at the annual field day with checks for \$1 million and \$500,000 for the endowed chair funding rice research.

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Special Dates of Interest:

- **Rice Outlook Conference, December 8-10, 2019**
Little Rock, Arkansas
- **Rice Technical Working Group Meeting, February 24-27, 2020**
Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach, AL
- **H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station Annual Field Day**
July 1, 2020

2019 RICE STATION FIELD DAY HIGHLIGHTS



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Former members of the Louisiana Rice Research Board recognized for their service. From left to right are Jackie Loewer, Ronnie Sonnier, Mike Fruge, Phillip Lamartiniere, Fred Zaunbrecher, Clarence Berken, Donald Berken and Brian Wild.

Photo by: Bruce Schultz

H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station Annual Field Day

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Rice Outlook Conference

December 8-10, 2019

Little Rock, AR

38th Rice Technical Working Group

February 24-27, 2020

Orange Beach, AL

H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station

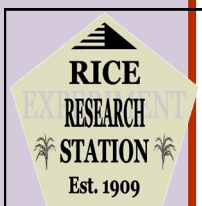
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The LSU AgCenter H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station is now on Facebook. The page will provide timely updates on research conducted at the station as well as other useful information. The page can be accessed at the link below. Simply go to the page and click on *LIKE*. Updates will then be posted to your Facebook homepage. If you are not currently a user of Facebook, signing up is easy and free.

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Dean LeJeune

Dean LeJeune grew up fixing things on his family's farm near Mowata.

He chose not to farm, but to make a career out of repair and maintenance to keep farms running. He is now farm maintenance manager at the Rice Research Station.

Previously, he was a shop technician at Sunshine Equipment in Crowley.

Dean applied for the job at the station after Glenn Schexnayder retired.

"Dean brought a wealth of agricultural repair and maintenance knowledge to the station," said Dr. Don Groth, station director. "We are very grateful he was willing to become part of our research team."

He graduated from Notre Dame High School in Crowley in 1975, then attended the Southwest Louisiana Vocational-Technical School to learn diesel mechanics and machinery.

He started working at the Case dealership in Eunice. Later, he started his own repair business to fix and maintain irrigation engines.

But as more farmers turned to electric-powered wells, his business fell off and he started working for Abel and Son dealership in Welsh, and later he went to work for Quality Equipment that got bought out by Sunshine.

Dean said working at the station is different because he's not working for a customer. "I'm lucky to have some good help with Justin (Sarver) and Nathan (Breaux)."

Dean said working on farming equipment has changed considerably since he started. "One thing is the technology that's incorporated into the equipment."

He and his wife Debra have two daughters, Dorie and Demi.



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The LSU Agricultural Center is a statewide campus of the LSU System and provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

Focus