



LSU AgCenter

H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station

NEWSLETTER

Volume 22 Issue 2 | June 13, 2025

Upcoming Events

- **Rice Production School** – H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station - June 16-17
- **H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station Field Day** – June 24 (See Flyer)
- **Vegetable Garden Evening** – H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station, June 25
- **Rice Production School** – H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station – July 14 – 15
- **Rice Production School** – H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station – August 11 -12

Upcoming Station Visitors

- **Representatives from Adecoagro (Agro-Industrial Company with operations in Argentina, Brazil, & Uruguay)**– June 16
- **Grand Canyon FFA: Wellsboro, Pennsylvania**– June 17

New Station Personnel

- **Jennifer Manangkil**
(Postdoctoral Researcher – Breeding)

An Update on the 2025 Rice Crop

Rice remains an extremely important crop in Louisiana agriculture, ranking among the top four in acreage and value. Approximately 470,000 acres were planted in 2025. Louisiana per acre rice yields continue to show steady increases due at least in part to research activities funded by the Louisiana Rice Research Board. Implementation of new technology developed through research efforts continues wide scale use in Louisiana rice production. This is critical in maintaining yield and quality increases, as well as increasing the economic viability of Louisiana rice production. With the increasing emphasis on sustainability in rice production, the implementation of environmentally sound production practices takes research results through the verification program directly to the farm and puts them into practice. The verification program is also used to evaluate the economics of production and foster increased profitability in production practices.

Planting early is desirable for high-yield potential, good milling quality and the option to produce a second crop (in southwest Louisiana), but extremely early planting can be detrimental in some cases. Early cold weather delayed planting for most producers. South Louisiana got off to a late start. After the first wave of planting, two heavy freezes stopped planting. Slow emergence and reduced seedling vigor in cold conditions lead to stand reductions. Rice herbicide injury also affected some acres due to rice not growing because of cold weather during the early season. North Louisiana stayed cold and wet and didn't start planting until later than normal.

The frequent rainfall continued causing many of the newly emerged seedlings to become submerged. Frequently I received calls during this time asking, "How long can seedling rice stay submerged before dying?" We felt confident that in most situations' seedlings could survive for eight to ten days. In many cases rice had germinated but not emerged when the rain started again, and the result was a few less than adequate stands having to be replanted.

Another problem with the early season rainfall was with pre-flood nitrogen (N) fertilization. The pre-flood N fertilizer should be applied on dry ground and then the field should be flooded as quickly as possible to maximize the efficiency of the fertilizer. Wet soil conditions also caused a lot of problems

for mid-season N applications. This was due to the airplanes, in many cases, inability to use the muddy grass strips to take off or land and therefore, had to use paved air strips. In many cases, if a producer's field was not near the paved strip, an additional taxi fee was charged. Since producers did not want to pay the additional charge, they often asked, "How long can I wait to apply mid-season N before I start to lose yield?"

Rice insect control using seed treatments have been great in the past, but we are starting to see increased rice water weevil and stem borer damage in treated fields. Several fields have reported less than optimal control of rice water weevils. It is still early to know how much damage rice will sustain from the different stem borers.

As rice begins to head, rain and wet conditions are promoting disease development. We are starting to see blast in some varieties and sheath blight in others. Hopefully favorable conditions will assist producers harvest a bumper crop. It seems far away, but we with probably start harvest rice in about a month.

Article by Dr. Ronnie Levy (Rice Production Specialist)

2025 Weed Management Issues: Barnyardgrass, Weather, Novixid, and Sedges

Every year presents its own unique set of challenges, and this year was no different. Between the wind and the rain many people got behind on weed control, especially with barnyardgrass and Amazon sprangletop. Years like this year make me anticipate the release of the new herbicide Keenali Complete, which will be a co-pack of Keenali (Tetflupyrolimet) and Command. The Weed Management Program has been evaluating this new herbicide since 2021, and we have seen consistent advantages of using Keenali Complete over using Command by itself, primarily for the residual control of barnyardgrass and Amazon sprangletop.

Much like most of the production fields in the region, my research plots sat under water multiple times which resulted in very uneven stands. This and the wind forced me to push back some of my application timings which showed me the importance of getting Keenali Complete to the market. The trials/treatments that contained Keenali Complete remained manageable whereas the barnyardgrass in other conventional trials/treatments reached sizes that were not manageable with our typical herbicide applications. Some of these plots were on display at the South Farm/Acadia Parish Field Day on June 11th.

Getting behind on barnyardgrass and the amount of Brook paspalum that is present across our southwest Louisiana rice fields forced many growers to use "Novixid", which is our only tool for controlling Brook paspalum. The reason I put Novixid in quotations is because Corteva had a shortage of Novixid early in the year, which forced us to mix our own Loyant and Grasp to make what would be Novixid. I have been called to several fields with injury symptoms from either Loyant (Figure 1), Grasp (Figure 2), or both herbicides (Figure 3) and all but one instance was after the grower made their own Novixid. At first, I was thinking something was going on with mixing our own Novixid and possibly the adjuvant load, but the more I investigate these situations the more I think the environment and varieties are playing a bigger role. Almost all instances of injury are on varieties that are known to be more sensitive to herbicide injury such as our aromatics, medium grains, and Avant. Much of



Figure 1. "Fish hooking" of tillers from Loyant



Figure 2. Root pruning ("bottle brushing") from Grasp



Figure 3. "Fish hooking" and leaf rolling of tillers from Loyant and "bottle brushing" (root pruning) from Grasp

our rice has been stressed this year due to excess rain which I believe is playing a big role. That being said, I would proceed with caution using Novixid on some of these varieties in the future if the rice is stressed. As with most herbicide issues, this injury is on a very small portion of the total rice acres in Louisiana but is still on our radar. Novixid is a very good tool for us, but when we put an herbicide on as many acres as we have this year, we are bound to find the holes.

Another issue that we have faced this year is a variety of different sedges. ALS resistant rice flatsedge has become more prevalent this year than in previous years. I have received numerous phone calls regarding Permit/Gambit failures due to resistance. Luckily, we do still have some tools to combat ALS resistant rice flatsedge and it starts with using Sharpen behind the drill. In order to maximize the residual activity of Sharpen, we need to be using 2 oz/A acre on a silt loam soil for residual on rice flatsedge. Once the Sharpen breaks, which it will, our best options are Basagran when the rice flatsedge is less than 4 inches tall or Loyant and/or Rogue when the rice flatsedge gets too big for Basagran.

In addition to ALS resistant rice flatsedge, we have received more reports of green flatsedge this year, which is naturally tolerant to Permit/Gambit. In some cases, the green flatsedge has been misidentified as ALS resistant rice flatsedge, which is also common for Fimbristylis. The main vegetative differences that I am observing with green flatsedge vs rice flatsedge and yellow nutsedge is that green flatsedge tillers profusely (Figure 4), whereas rice flatsedge and yellow nutsedge do not (Figure 5). Green flatsedge is also more robust and has sharper angled stems compared to our other sedges. The only control option that we know of to date is 2,4-D



Figure 4. Green flatsedge tillering



Figure 5. Rice flatsedge

Article by Dr. Connor Webster (Rice Weed Scientist)

Carryover of ALS -inhibiting Herbicides in Louisiana Rice Production

In recent years, Dr. Connor Webster has received numerous questions regarding the impacts of Newpath/Preface carryover on rice growth and development. These carryover situations have increased with the increasing acres of crawfish and rice rotations in southwest Louisiana and the large-scale transition to the Provisia rice production system or a conventional variety. The extended period of flooded field conditions required for the crawfish rotation creates an anaerobic soil environment in these fields. The lack of oxygen in the soil profile inhibits the degradation of the residual Newpath/Preface in the soil profile. Therefore, carryover outside of the 18-month labelled plant back restriction can be observed when a non-Clearfield/Fullpage rice variety is planted after a Clearfield/Fullpage-crawfish rotation.

Injury symptoms consist of general chlorosis or “yellowing” of plant tissue primarily beginning in the newest growth (Figure 1). Stunting of young rice plants is observed, as well as early-season stand loss after emergence. However, most symptoms don’t occur until rice roots contact the residual Newpath/Preface in the soil. Because of this, growers often have a full stand of rice before the symptoms begin to appear. Symptoms typically appear within 7-14 days following rice emergence or when the rice reaches the 2 to 3 leaf growth stage. These carryover issues are prevented with a rice/soybean rotation system because of the aerobic nature of soybean production, which allows adequate time for herbicide breakdown. The active ingredient, imazethapyr, in Newpath/Preface is labelled as Pursuit in soybean production systems so there are no concerns of carryover to soybeans.



Figure 1. Observed Newpath carryover to Jupiter

These carryover situations influenced a large part of my graduate research under Dr. Webster. Since 2024, we have evaluated the growth and yield response of conventional rice varieties and PVL03 to a simulated Newpath/Preface carryover situation. We create carryover by incorporating (flushing) pre-plant applications of Newpath ranging from 0-2 fl oz/A, in 0.25 fl oz/A increments to evaluate rice growth and yield response. In 2024, preliminary results consisted of negative impacts to the rice stand, early-season growth, and rice maturity (Photo 2). However, grain yield has been inconsistent in these trials when compared to nontreated rice. The maturity delays were observed within PVL03 and conventional rice varieties Avant and Jupiter. However, Avant appears to be more sensitive when compared to the other two varieties. We are optimistic for the 2025 growing season to further depict rice growth and yield effects from these simulated carryover situations. Rainfall accumulation for 2025 has been greater than 2024 from the time of application to the time of planting. This could potentially allow for greater incorporation of Newpath into the soil profile compared to 2024

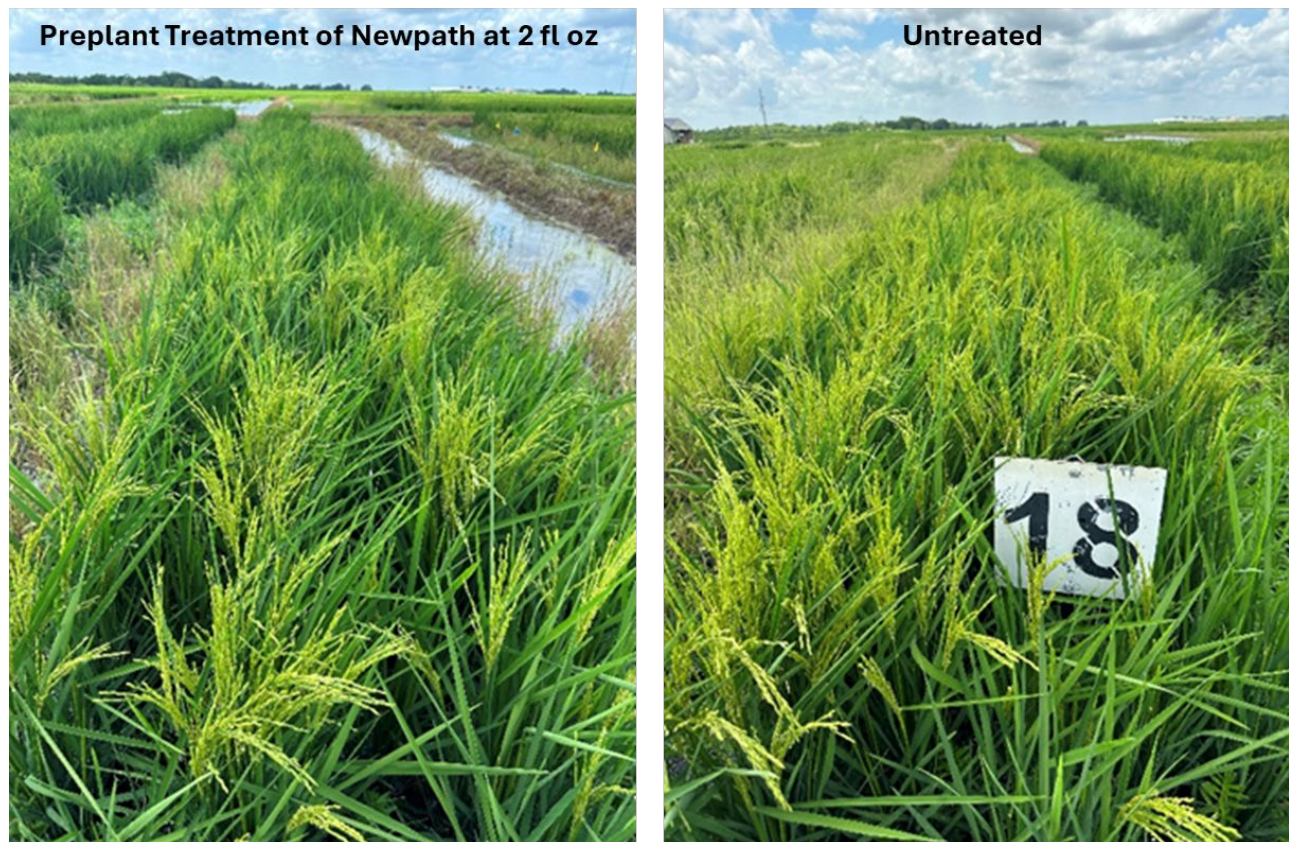


Figure 6. Observed effects on panicle development to Avant from simulated Newpath carryover.

When planning to rotate to conventional or Provisia/MaxAce rice following a Clearfield/crawfish rotation, Beyond/Postscript should be considered as a pre-flood option. Beyond/Postscript does not have the same residual capabilities as Newpath/Preface but provides similar weed control. Thus, alleviating the chance of herbicide carryover prior to the rotation of a non-Clearfield rice variety.

Article by Ben Stoker (PhD Student – Weed Science) and Dr. Connor Webster (Rice Weed Scientist)

2025 Rice Market Update

As is the case in each production year, rice prices are influenced by several factors. Chief among these are the supply and demand conditions that characterize the production year. How many acres have been planted in the United States, what is the current condition or status of the crop, how are domestic consumption and exports trending. These are basic questions that must be answered to give some inclination of where prices might go in the future. Added to these basic fundamental supply and demand conditions are other factors like trade policy and

general economic conditions (inflation, strength of the US dollar) that can also play important roles in influencing supplies and the overall demand for rice.

The USDA’s Planting Intentions report gave the market the first glimpse at the potential size of the 2025 rice crop. The March 2025 report showed that rice acres in 2025 were projected to be essentially the same as 2024 acres with a year-over-year change of half a percent (See Table 1). However, a closer look shows that long grain acres were projected at about 2 percent lower than 2024 with Arkansas being the only state that showed a year-over-year increase. Changes in long grain rice acres in other states ranged from half a percent reduction to a 4 percent reduction. Offsetting the reduction in long grain acres was a 3.5 percent increase in medium grain acres with increased acreage in Arkansas and Louisiana more than offsetting the expected small decline in California acres.

Table 1. 2025 U.S. Rice Planting Intentions (1,000 acres)

State	Long Grain	Medium Grain	Short Grain	Total Acres	As Percent Of Previous Year
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Year
Arkansas	1,320	140	1	1,461	100.90%
California	10	420	27	457	97.86%
Louisiana	410	60	0	470	99.37%
Mississippi	150	0	0	150	96.77%
Missouri	210	5	0	215	98.17%
Texas	140	2	0	142	95.95%
US	2,240	627	28	2,895	
Percent of Previous Yr	98.46%	103.64%	93.33%	99.48%	

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

As the rice market continues to deal with substantial rice supplies remaining from the previous year (rice stocks), the expectation of relatively flat acres from 2024 to 2025 would not, at first glimpse, be interpreted as a supportive factor for rice prices. However, the March estimates are just estimates of what USDA believes to be the acres that producers want to plant. Given weather conditions and changing market signals, what producers initially think they will plant and what they actually plant can be, sometimes, drastically different. Over the past 10 years, planting intentions have overestimated actual planted acres in 6 of those years by an average of 200,000 acres. For 2025, there is sufficient evidence that planting intentions for Arkansas are likely over estimating acres in 2025. Reports out of the University of Arkansas have suggested that excessive rains have likely reduced the total number rice acres from the 1.46 million planting intentions to somewhere in the 1.1 to 1.2 million acres. And while actual acres may differ from planting intentions in other rice producing states, any shifts in acres in those states are likely to be small in comparison to the changes being reported in Arkansas.

The reduction in planted acres from the March intentions would be a welcomed site for the rice market that has struggled to maintain prices. The USDA’s first projections of supply and demand conditions for the 2025 crop was released in May 2025 and showed larger supplies and increased ending stocks over the previous year. This would be expected to put downward pressure on prices, and, in fact, the market trended lower for much of 2025 and particularly after the release of the March planting intentions. However, USDA’s initial projections of supply and demand conditions are based on those March planting intentions and on trend line yields. As has already been suggested, actual planted acres are likely to be lower and perhaps significantly lower than planting intentions. And over the last 10 years, the initial trend line yield used by USDA has overestimated actual yield in 6 of the 10 years by an average of 2.6 percent. With the planting delays experienced by Arkansas, statistically there would be suggestions of lower yields. And while crop ratings released by USDA have shown to have little correlation to final yields, latest crop ratings show 64 percent of the Arkansas crop in good to excellent condition versus the 5 year average of 71.5 percent. In addition to Arkansas, the Mississippi rice crop is also currently rated at 60 percent in good to excellent condition versus the 5 year average of 67.5 percent. All other rice producing states have current ratings that are at or above 5 year averages.

So, there is some evidence that the USDA’s current picture of the supply and demand conditions for the 2025 rice crop (see Table 2) is likely overly pessimistic. Current projections show large increases in overall rice supplies offsetting increases in demand and pushing ending stocks (the amount of rice left over at the end of the year) higher

and prices lower. However, if the supply and demand estimates are adjusted to reflect lower Arkansas acres and potentially lower yields, long grain production could fall by 10 - 15 million hundredweight and medium and short grain production could fall around 4 – 8 million hundredweight. These reductions would reduce ending stocks for both, leaving the long grain ending stocks much closer to the 3 year average and taking the ending stocks for medium and short grain to even tighter levels. This would be a much more supportive picture for future price movement.

Table 2. US Supply and Demand Estimates (in Million Hundredweights)

	Long Grain 3 Year Average	Long Grain 2024/25 Year	Long Grain 2025/26 Year	Medium Grain 3 Year Average	Medium Grain 2024/25 Year	Medium Grain 2025/26 Year
Item						
Beginning Stocks	21.70	19.30	35.30	12.90	18.90	8.00
Imports	37.07	42.00	43.00	7.10	6.00	6.20
Production	151.43	172.00	167.20	48.60	50.10	52.10
Total Supply	210.20	233.30	245.50	68.77	75.00	66.30
Domestic Consumption	121.97	133.00	140.00	34.70	37.00	32.00
Exports	62.97	65.00	68.00	22.83	30.00	26.00
Total Use	184.93	198.00	208.00	57.53	67.00	58.00
Ending Stocks	25.27	35.30	37.50	11.23	8.00	8.30
Avg. Market Price (\$/cwt)	\$15.60	\$14.20	\$12.00	\$16.93	\$15.40	\$12.50
Avg. Market Price (\$/bbl.)	\$25.27	\$23.00	\$19.44	\$27.43	\$24.95	\$20.25

Source: USDA, World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, May 2025

Certainly, this improved picture of the rice market would be contingent on demand conditions remaining at the levels currently being projected by USDA. There are really no indications that domestic consumption would need to be lowered. Since COVID, domestic rice production has experienced strong year-over-year increases. During the 5 years prior to COVID, domestic long grain rice consumption averaged 99.5 million hundredweights while it has averaged nearly 120 million hundredweight in the 5 years since COVID. So, again, there is no indication of a decline in that demand source.

The real question would be about export demand with lower supplies from lower acres and lower yields. Export demand is influenced by the available supplies of major export competitors. Production in countries such as India, Pakistan, Thailand, and Vietnam is expected to be slightly higher in 2025 and significantly higher than the 3 year average. This is expected to lead to export sales in 2025 that are similar to 2024 and are 6 percent higher than the 3 year average. So, the export competition is not expected to decline much in 2025 which will make maintaining or expanding export share difficult. In addition to the larger exportable supplies expected for major competitors, the uncertainty related to trade policy and tariffs also likely adds to the difficulty of maintaining or expanding export shares. Currently total rice export sales are running about 9 percent below last year (See Table 3). As shown, the top purchases of rice during the current marketing year are also those countries that have been at the forefront of the tariff discussion. To this point, negotiations have prevented significant increases in the tariffs levied against US rice, but it will be something that needs to be monitored and could play a significant role in the total amount of rice that can be sold during the 2025/2026 marketing year. In addition, questions regarding the continuation of USAID and the related food programs brings uncertainty for programs such as the PL480 (Food for Peace) program that has been a predominant driver of food sales to Haiti, one of the largest users of US long grain rice.

Table 3. US Rice Exports Through May 29, 2025 (in Metric Tons)

Type	Cumulative		Percent Change	Largest Customer To-Date 2024/25	Percent Change In Top Customer's Purchases from Last Year
	Exports	Exports			
	Sales This Year	Sales Last Year			
Long Grain - Rough	1,148.7	1,543.0	-25.55%	Mexico	-19.95%
Medium/Short Grain - Rough	74.6	40.3	85.11%	Mexico	15.63%
Long Grain - Brown	16.7	14.4	15.97%	Canada	-28.17%
Medium/Short Grain - Brown	111.1	57.8	92.21%	Korea	87.07%
Long Grain - Milled	679.3	741.5	-8.39%	Haiti	-20.69%
Medium/Short Grain - Milled	480.2	362.7	32.40%	Japan	40.19%
All Rice Exports	2,510.7	2,759.6	-9.02%		

Source: USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service

On the flip side, the tariffs that have been put into place or are planned to be put into place may impact the amount of rice imported into the US. The two largest importers of rice into the US are Thailand and India, representing nearly 80 percent of the total value of rice imported into the US. While tariffs on those two countries have been paused, they are scheduled to go to 37 percent for Thailand and 27 percent for India on July 9, 2025 if a trade deal cannot be made. While the US rice sales to those countries are essentially none, purchases of rice from those countries have increased steadily over the last several years. Those higher tariff levels, if levied, could alter the amount of rice from those two countries that comes into the country.

Despite some challenges resulting from large beginning stocks and uneven and uncertain export demand, the potential for lower acres and yields along with the potential of higher US tariffs limiting rice imports would all help improve the overall supply and demand conditions for rice. If materialized, this should help push prices higher. This sentiment seems to be supported by the recent movement in rough rice futures prices. After struggling to maintain for much of 2025, new crop (September 2025) rice futures have been in an upward trending pattern since the middle of May. After reaching a low of \$12.58 per hundredweight (\$20.38 per barrel), the September 2025 future contract has gained more than one dollar and is currently trading at \$13.78 per hundredweight (\$22.32 per barrel). While the concerns and uncertainty over demand will likely keep prices from reaching levels seen in 2022 and 2023, this latest price movement holds some promise for improved prices from projections earlier this year.

Article by Dr. Kurt Guidry (Assistant Resident Coordinator and Ag Economist)

Project Highlight – Maintenance Crew

The H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station is fortunate to have a strong support system that ensures smooth and efficient operations. A vital part of this system is the station's Maintenance Crew. Led by Maintenance Manager Mr. Dean LeJuene, the team also includes Mr. Nathan Breaux and Mr. Justin Sarver, both serving as Maintenance Repairers. Under Mr. LeJuene's direction, the crew plays a crucial role in keeping the station's buildings, equipment, and infrastructure in top working condition. The Maintenance Crew supports all aspects of the station's operations. Their responsibilities include maintaining and repairing equipment for research projects, servicing the station's vehicle fleet, caring for the greenhouses, maintaining buildings and residences, and installing new equipment. When specialized assistance is needed, the crew coordinates with outside vendors to ensure repairs are completed efficiently.

In addition to handling routine maintenance, the team proactively monitors facilities and equipment to address potential issues before they escalate. When unexpected problems arise, they respond quickly to minimize downtime and ensure research activities continue without delay. In short, the Maintenance Crew is essential to the station's success. Their hard work and dedication allow researchers and staff to focus on advancing the rice industry through high-quality research.



H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station Maintenance Staff. Pictured from left to right are Mr. Justin Sarver, Mr. Dean LeJuene, and Mr. Nathan Breaux

Faculty, Staff, and Student News

The faculty, staff, and students of the H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station are actively involved in outreach, professional and industry events. The following is a list of the activities and events people from the Rice Station participated in over the last 3 months:

March 2025

- Dr. Kurt Guidry (Assistant Resident Coordinator and Economist) presented at the LSU AgCenter's Master Cattlemen Programs in Franklin, Bossier, and Vermilion parishes.
- Dr. Kurt Guidry (Assistant Resident Coordinator and Economist) presented at the Lafayette Parish Cattlemen Association's Annual Meeting.
- Dr. Connor Webster (Rice Weed Scientist), Dr. Felipe Dalla Lana (Rice Pathologist), Dr. Ron Levy (Rice Production Specialist), and Dr. Adam Famoso (Resident Coordinator and Rice Breeder) all gave presentations in their respective areas at the North LA rice production meeting in Delhi, Louisiana.

- Dr. Connor Webster (Rice Weed Scientist) participated in the first session of the USA Rice Leadership Program which covered rice production in Texas and Louisiana. Dr. Webster is a member of the 2025 Rice Leadership Development Class.

April 2025

- Dr. Ron Levy (Rice Production Specialist), Dr. Connor Webster (Rice Weed Scientist), Dr. Felipe Dalla Lana (Rice Pathologist), and Dr. Kurt Guidry (Assistant Resident Coordinator and Economist) all presented during the first session of the Rice Production School
- Dr. Kurt Guidry (Assistant Resident Coordinator and Economist) presented information on the Dairy Tax Credit program to the Louisiana Farm Bureau's Dairy Advisory Group.
- Dr. Kurt Guidry (Assistant Resident Coordinator and Economist) presented at the LSU AgCenter's Master Cattlemen Programs in Rapides Parish.

May 2025

- Dr. Kurt Guidry (Assistant Resident Coordinator and Economist) presented at the LSU AgCenter's Master Cattlemen Programs in St. Helena Parish.
- Dr. Kurt Guidry (Assistant Resident Coordinator and Economist) participated in the LSU AgCenter's Statewide Livestock and Forage Agent Training.
- Dr. Kurt Guidry (Assistant Resident Coordinator and Economist) developed an exam used in the state FFA's Farm Management Career Development Experience (CDE) program.
- Dr. Connor Webster (Rice Weed Scientist) presented information on herbicide drift and symptomology at the EPA Region 6 inspector training in Baton Rouge.
- Dr. Ron Levy (Rice Production Specialist), Dr. Connor Webster (Rice Weed Scientist), Dr. Felipe Dalla Lana (Rice Pathologist), and Dr. Adam Famoso (Resident Coordinator and Rice Breeder) all presented during the SW La Rice Field Day held at McNeese State University
- Dr. Ron Levy (Rice Production Specialist), Dr. Connor Webster (Rice Weed Scientist), Dr. Felipe Dalla Lana (Rice Pathologist), and Dr. Adam Famoso (Resident Coordinator and Rice Breeder) all presented during the Central La Rice Field Day held in Mamou, Louisiana.
- Ms. Jennifer Manangkil (PhD Student – Breeding) completed her PhD in May 2025. Jennifer worked in the Breeding Program with Adam Famoso and Brijesh Angira and her research focused on breeding and genetic for blast and sheath blight diseases.
- Mr. Gavin Sparks (MS Student – Weed Science) was awarded the Southern Weed Science Society Travel Enrichment Scholarship which funds a one-week job shadowing experience with a member of the society.
- Mr. Wesley Carr and Ms. Maranda Hains (MS Students – Weed Science) both successfully defended their MS thesis under supervision of Dr. Connor Webster.
- Ms. Maranda Hains began a PhD program and Mr. Morgan Boone started a MS degree, both in Weed Science, under supervision of Dr. Connor Webster.

Station Events

The Rice Station hosts a variety of events each year. These events range from agricultural education for youth to training for LSU AgCenter personnel. During the last quarter, the following is a list of the events hosted by the Rice Station:

- March 19, 2025 – Dr. Kurt Guidry (Assistant Resident Coordinator and Economist), Dr. Ron Levy (Rice Production Specialist) and Mr. Todd Fontenot (Crawfish Extension Specialist) discussed rice and crawfish production with a group involved in an economic development program in South Africa.
 - March 27, 2025 – Dr. Adam Famoso (Resident Coordinator and Rice Breeder) and Kurt Guidry (Assistant Resident Coordinator and Economist) discussed research at the Rice Research Station and the Station's relationship with the Louisiana Rice Research Board with participants of the USA Rice's Leadership Development Class.
 - May 1, 2025 – Dr. Adam Famoso (Resident Coordinator and Breeder) and several of the faculty and staff of the Rice Research Station hosted a group of students from Myrtle Place Elementary School in Lafayette.
 - May 19, 2025 – The Rice Research Station hosted LSU AgCenter Administration and AgCenter employees from throughout the Southwest Region to discuss details of the AgCenter's newly released Strategic Plan.
 - May 20, 2025 – The Rice Research Station hosted a LSU AgCenter's Southwest Region 4-H Agent Professional Development Meeting
 - June 3-4, 2025 – The Rice Research Station's Breeding Program hosted a visiting scholar, Chandima Ariyaratna, from North Carolina State University. Dr. Ariyaratna is from Bangladesh and visited station for two days to learn about the breeding program and other research activities at the station.
- June 9, 2025 – Several faculty members at the Rice Research Station hosted a group of rice producers from Brazil. The group was here to learn more about rice production in Louisiana and about the research being
- June 11, 2025 – The Rice Research Station South Farm hosted its annual field day. This event is coordinated by Dr. Connor Webster (Rice Weed Scientist) and Mr. Jeremy Hebert (ANR Agent – Acadia). More than 100 rice producers and rice industry personnel participated in the field day which has a primary focus of highlighting weed science research being conducted on the South Farm. In addition, several Rice Research Station Faculty provided updates on current conditions and research in their respective areas of expertise.
 - June 11, 2025 – The Rice Research Station hosted a Camp Crisp meeting. The Camp Crisp program provides an opportunity for participating youth to learn more about agriculture production and, in particular, rice production. The program is funded through a grant titled, "Climate Resilient Innovations for Sustainable Production of Rice", otherwise known as CRISP Rice.

New Employee Highlight

Caden Benoit joined the team at the H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station in February 2023. A native of Crowley, Louisiana, Caden did not grow up in a farming family, but he found his way into agriculture by working with local farmers in the surrounding area. His first job, he recalls, was pulling red rice for a nearby grower. He also gained hands-on knowledge of crawfish production, helping friends and area farmers with everything from building traps

and fishing to boiling crawfish. Before joining the Rice Research Station, Caden worked in roofing and flipped houses with his father.

At the station, Caden manages South Farm's production crawfish ponds and assists with Dr. Connor Webster's Weed Science Program. Beyond those primary responsibilities, he supports the farm crew in various tasks such as land preparation, grass cutting, and equipment maintenance.

While the job can be physically demanding, Caden appreciates and has developed a deep respect for the research process. One of the most surprising things to him was realizing how much work goes into generating reliable recommendations for producers. He was particularly struck by the need to replicate field trials over several years to ensure the accuracy and effectiveness of the data being shared with the agricultural community.

One of the unexpected joys of the job for Caden is his interaction with local wildlife. A self-described animal enthusiast, he welcomes the frequent surprises that come with working in and around

crawfish ponds—from baby ducks and bullfrogs to eels and even snakes. He's identified seven different snake species since joining the station, including three he'd never seen before. So, while most would be alarmed to pull up a crawfish trap and find a snake inside, Caden sees it as a positive of his position.

Outside of work, Caden enjoys a mix of active and relaxing pastimes. He works out regularly, plays pool and guitar, and often gets together with friends just to hang out or play video games. Recently, he's found a new appreciation for movies, making film-watching a more regular part of his downtime.



Mr. Caden Benoit is a Research Farm Specialist that works with both the Crawfish Demonstration Project as well as Dr. Connor Webster's Weed Science Research Program



For more information, contact us at the H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station
1373 Caffey Road | Rayne, Louisiana 70578 | Phone: 337-788-7531 | Fax: 337-788-7553
Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

The LSU AgCenter and LSU provides equal opportunities in employment and programs.

For more information, visit our website at:

[H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station \(lsuagcenter.com\)](http://lsuagcenter.com)

Follow us on FACEBOOK:

<https://www.facebook.com/HRCRicerresearchstation>



H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station Field Day Program

June 24, 2025



FIELD TOURS

7:00 A.M. – 8:30 A.M.

Rice Breeding and Genetics Drs. Adam Famoso & Brijesh Angira
Rice Pathology Drs. Felipe Dalla Lana & Camila Nicolli
Rice Entomology Dr. Blake Wilson
Rice Weed Science Dr. Connor Webster
Rice Agronomy & Extension Drs. Manoch Kongchum & Ronnie Levy, Mr. Jacob Fluit

The last tour will depart no later than 8:30 A.M.

SCIENTIFIC POSTER SESSION/TRADE SHOW

7:15 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.

PROGRAM

10:30 A.M.

Welcome and Introductions **Dr. Adam Famoso**
Resident Coordinator & Rice Breeder
H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station

Activities of the Louisiana Rice Research Board **Dr. John Dennison**
Chairman
Louisiana Rice Research Board

Agriculture Update **Dr. Mike Strain**
Commissioner
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry

Farm Bureau Update **Mr. Richard Fontenot**
President
Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation

USA Rice Federation Comments & Update **Mr. Peter Bachmann**
Chief Executive Officer
USA Rice Federation

..... **Dr. Steve Linscombe**
Director
The Rice Foundation

Remarks **Dr. Mike Salassi**
Interim Vice President for Agriculture & Dean of College of Agriculture
LSU AgCenter

Remarks **Dr. Tara Smith**
Associate Vice President and Director of Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service
LSU AgCenter

BENEDICTION

LUNCHEON