



LSU AgCenter

H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station

NEWSLETTER

Volume 22 Issue 4 | December 22, 2025

Upcoming Events

- **SW LA Rice Producer Meeting**
– January 6, 2026
- **Evangeline Parish Production Meeting** – January 7, 2026
- **Acadia Parish Production Meeting** – January 8, 2026
- **Vermilion Parish Production Meeting** – January 12, 2026
- **Texas A&M Rice Belt Conference** – El Campo, TX – January 21, 2026; Winnie, TX – January 22, 2026
- **Louisiana Ag Outlook Forum** – Alexandria, LA – January 22, 2026
- **Southern Weed Science Society Annual Conference** – Nashville, TN – January 25-29, 2026
- **Northeast Louisiana Rice Production Meeting** – January 27, 2026
- **St. Landry Parish Rice Production Meeting** – January 28, 2026
- **Avoyelles/Rapides Parish Rice Production Meeting** – February 4, 2026
- **Weed Science Society of America Annual Conference** – Raleigh, NC – February 8-12, 2026
- **Louisiana Ag Consultants Association Meeting** – Marksville, LA – February 12, 2026
- **LA Rice Growers / LA Rice Council Joint Annual Meeting** – Crowley, LA – February 14, 2026

Upcoming Station Visitors New Station Personnel

- **Ricardo Tomaz** (Visiting Research Assistant – Pathology)

Wrap Up of 2025 Ratoon Rice Crop

As we close out the 2025 rice season, ratoon crop harvest has been recently completed across southwest Louisiana. With record low commodity prices and novel pest challenges, the value of the second crop is vital for producers to cross the finish line. Overall, ratoon production remains a valuable option for growers, especially when paired with crawfish operations. Many producers continue to leverage the dual-income potential of rice and crawfish, though management decisions can vary widely by parish. Based on research conducted by scientists at the H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station, harvesting the second crop can potentially harmonize well with the transition into crawfish season and maximize profitability in the rice/crawfish rotation. However, we did receive reports of some producers (accounting for ≈20% of ratoon acres) choosing to abandon harvesting the second crop and begin crawfish operations early due to low commodity prices and logistical constraints. The yield potential of these acres was likely on the poorer side, which encouraged the decision to abandon. Historically, ratoon yields average a third of the main crop, though this varies by management and environmental conditions. This year, yields were modest to exceptional with some parishes producing in the high 20's (bbl). Across southwest Louisiana, average yields were 15–18 barrels with around 60-70% of the total rice acreage being second cropped.

The success of second cropping is largely dependent on input costs and timing of main crop harvest. What makes the ratoon crop favorable is that many input costs are shared with the main crop. However, there are unique challenges that add to expenses. Early on, expectations for pest management focused on stem borers as previous years have seen seed treatment failures coupled with high pest populations. However, this year was fortunately quiet on the stem borer front and fewer applications of Vantacor went out than we expected, saving money on insect management.

Despite concerns earlier in the season, the rice delphacid did not significantly impact ratoon yields in Louisiana, although several producers reported high populations at harvest. We've received pictures showing thousands of delphacids covering the header. Much is unknown about how yield is impacted, but it's likely damage was limited by how late the insects arrived in some fields. Although the majority of rice in south Louisiana was infested, populations remained low, and we credit the work of beneficial insects for keeping delphacids at bay. It appears we dodged a bullet this year

considering greater than 30% of the ratoon crop just in west Texas was destroyed by the insect.

Additionally, there is growing concern about whether delphacids can overwinter in Louisiana. With the prevalence of rice forage for crawfish (whether green rice or ratoon stubble) across the region, the concept of the “green bridge” comes to mind and we shouldn’t put delphacid monitoring on the back burner. For this reason, I scouted several fields (Dec. 5th) in central and south Louisiana where we had high populations reported earlier in the year. Unfortunately, I did find adults and nymphs in low numbers, which is troubling after we recently had several nights in the low 30’s (Figure 1). These fields will continue to be monitored throughout the winter, and I am hopeful that future freezes will work to our benefit. No control measures are recommended where crawfish are present, but vigilance is key as we move into 2026.

With input costs rising and pest dynamics evolving, growers should weigh the benefits of ratoon rice carefully. For those considering ratoon production, timely main crop harvest and proactive management remain the foundation for success.



Figure 1. Rice delphacid adults and nymphs were detected on December 5th in several locations including Mamou (pictured)

Article by Tyler Musgrove (Rice Production Specialist)

Ratoon Rice Production Research in 2025

Ratoon rice, or harvesting a second crop from stubble, is a valuable strategy to enhance income and optimize land use in southwest Louisiana. Growers frequently practice ratooning under favorable conditions, especially following early harvests. Many factors in first crop production can positively or negatively affect ratoon crop performance, including harvest date, weed and disease control, stubble management, and soil condition at harvest.

Research indicates that if the main crop is harvested before August 15, conditions are generally suitable for producing a ratoon crop. Ratoon yields typically average about 30 percent of the main crop, with best-case outputs exceeding 20 barrels per acre. Over time, Louisiana yield trends have improved thanks to better cultivars and cultural management practices.

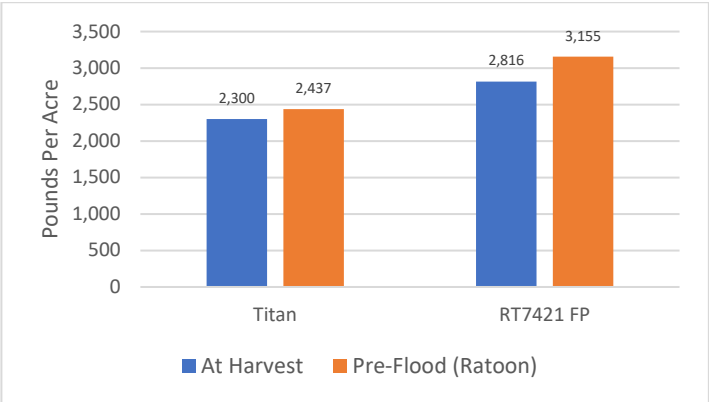


Figure 1. Response of Titan and RT7421 FP on Ratoon Nitrogen Timing of Application, HRC Rice Research Station, 2025.

In 2025, multiple trials were conducted at the H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station to investigate various factors influencing ratoon rice yield. One study examined the timing of nitrogen application before flooding the ratoon crop and found that applying nitrogen

prior to flooding resulted in yield increases of 6 percent for Titan and 12 percent for RT7421 FP compared to applying nitrogen immediately after harvesting the main crop (Figure 1). This improvement may be due to nitrogen fertilizer being exposed to the atmosphere for a longer period, which reduces nitrogen use efficiency.

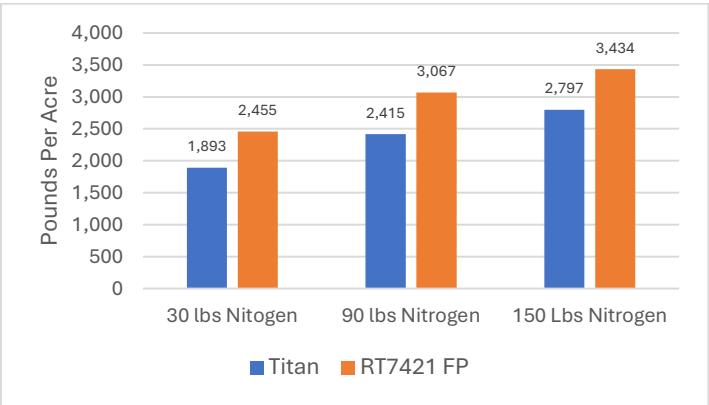


Figure 2. Response of Titan and RT7421 FP on Ratoon Nitrogen Rate When Applied Before Ratoon Flooding, HRC Rice Research Station, 2025.

Another study evaluated ratoon rice response to nitrogen application rates and found that higher rates produced better yields, with the optimal rate identified at 90

pounds of nitrogen per acre (Figure 2). A third study explored stubble manipulation techniques such as rolling and mowing, which increased ratoon yield but also delayed crop maturity (Figure 3).

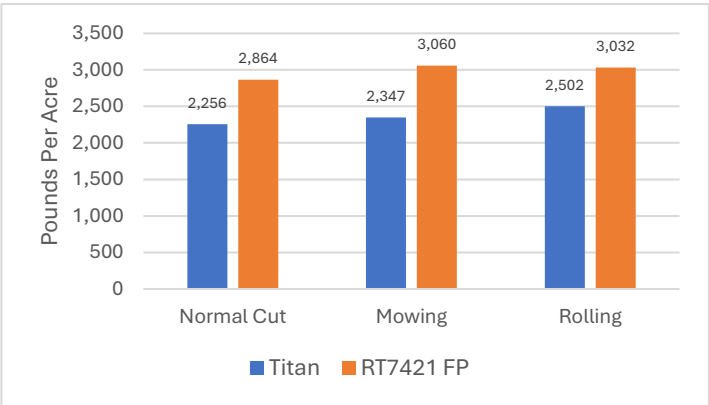


Figure 3. Effect of Stubble Manipulation on Ratoon Yield of Titan and RT7421 FP, HRC Rice Research Station, 2025.

Future research will focus on evaluating rice cultivars for ratoon performance, phosphorus and potassium application strategies, and additional stubble management techniques such as using stripper headers or rolling baskets.

Article by Manoch Kongchum (Rice Agronomist)

New and Pending Variety Releases from the LSU AgCenter Breeding Program

The Breeding Program plans to release several new market class varieties by 2026. These include PVL05, a long-grain Provisia line with enhanced first-crop yield and consistency; Venus, a conventional medium-grain variety that surpasses Jupiter and Titan in both yield and stability; and LA1008, a conventional long-grain option similar to Avant, offering modest yield gains, robust milling performance, and resistance to blast. There are additional lines under evaluation, such as LA22-1082, an imi-tolerant long-grain type (comparable to Clearfield and FullPage) with exceptional yield, stability, better milling quality, reduced chalkiness, and increased disease resistance. Additionally, LA21-1331, an aromatic Della-type variety that preserves Della grain standards while delivering a more competitive yield.

Provisia Long Grain: PVL05 is an upcoming long-grain variety that presents new opportunities for growers. Compared to PVL03, PVL05 generally produces higher yields, especially in environments where PVL03 does not perform well, while offering similar performance elsewhere. This greater yield consistency hints at PVL05 potentially having slightly better *Cercospora* tolerance, though more monitoring is needed to confirm this. Both PVL05 and PVL03 contain the Pi-ta gene, which provides robust blast disease resistance. However, PVL05's milling yield is consistently lower than that of PVL03, and it appears more sensitive when harvested at lower moisture contents. Additionally, PVL05 exhibits a broader range of ratoon (second crop) outcomes—it can yield as well as, or sometimes less than, PVL03 for ratoon crops. Despite these factors, PVL05 stands out as a valuable option for growers using the Provisia system and will be available for commercial production in 2026.

Conventional Medium Grain: Venus is a recently developed conventional medium-grain variety that has consistently exhibited enhanced yield and stability relative to Jupiter and Titan. Notably, Venus has maintained robust performance during seasons when Jupiter and Titan yields declined, demonstrating reliability under adverse conditions. The grain size, maturity period, and milling quality of Venus are intermediate between those of Jupiter and Titan. Milling performance has generally been favorable across multiple years of evaluation, although occasional samples have shown reduced milling values. Testing with Kellogg's is underway and the initial stages of evaluation have been favorable. Venus is scheduled for commercial release in 2026 and will offer growers a dependable medium-grain option supported by comprehensive multiyear research.

Conventional Long Grain: LA21-1008 is a new long grain rice variety that improves on Avant, mainly by adding strong blast resistance thanks to the Pita gene. This tackles a major weakness found in Avant and similar varieties, which are often vulnerable to blast disease. LA21-1008 offers reliable grain quality and agronomic traits, plus good ratoon potential, just like Avant. It's a semi-dwarf type and is a couple of inches taller than Avant. Although it flowers a few days later, it's ready to harvest at a similar time as Avant. With its mix of disease resistance, yield, and quality, LA21-1008 could become a valuable option for conventional varieties and should be available for commercial cultivation starting in 2027.

Two lines are currently under consideration for release and are in the seed production phase. The first, LA22-1082, is an imi-tolerant long-grain variety (comparable to Clearfield and FullPage) that has demonstrated marked improvements in yield, milling quality, ratoon potential, and long grain length. LA22-1082 yields are on par with CLL18—the inbred variety with the highest yield potential—and notably superior to those of CLL19. Beyond yield performance, LA22-1082 offers significant improvements on some of the limitations of CLL18, by offering excellent milling characteristics, low chalk content, and robust ratoon capability, representing advancements across all key economic traits. Currently, a 7-acre seed increase is underway in Puerto Rico, with commercial release anticipated in 2027.

Another rice variety under consideration for release is LA21-1331, classified as an aromatic Della-type. Similar to Jazzman, Della grains possess aromatic qualities; however, while Jazzman features low amylose content resulting in a stickier, medium-grain texture post-cooking, Della varieties have intermediate amylose levels and exhibit cooking characteristics akin to southern long grain types such as PVL03 or Avant. The original Della was introduced in 1973, with “Della-2” following in 2012. LA21-1331 aligns with these categories in terms of grain quality and additionally offers higher yields and incorporation of the Pita blast resistance gene. Although it exhibits low chalk, it is marginally higher than that of Della-2 and demonstrates enhanced milling performance. The Rice Research Station provides samples to current and prospective growers who wish to assess LA21-1331's grain quality and offer feedback.

Article by Adam Famoso (Resident Coordinator and Rice Breeder) and Brijesh Angira (Rice Breeder)

Outlook for Rice Acres in 2026 and Farmer Bridge Assistance Program

In its latest Supply and Demand report, the USDA projected the average U.S. rice price for the 2025/26 marketing year at \$11.60 per hundredweight (\$18.79 per barrel) and \$10.50 per hundredweight (\$17.01 per barrel) for long-grain rice. This would mark the lowest marketing-year average price for rice since 2016/17. While that outlook is concerning on its own, current rough rice futures prices paint an even bleaker picture. The January 2026 futures contract is trading below \$10 per hundredweight, in the mid-to-upper \$9 range, while the March and May contracts hover just above \$10.

Although rice prices are at historically low levels, input costs tell a different story. Prices for fertilizer, chemicals, machinery, and repairs remain significantly elevated, creating severe financial strain for farmers and the rice industry. As producers manage the financial challenges tied to the 2025 crop, they must also look ahead to 2026 and assess whether conditions will improve.

At the recent USA Rice Outlook Conference, representatives from each rice-producing state shared a recap of the 2025 crop and offered insight into prospects for 2026. Table 1 shows USDA’s estimates for 2025 planted acres alongside the projected range for 2026 from state representatives. The prevailing trend for 2026 is fewer acres. With some producers exiting agriculture and others shifting to alternative crops, sentiment strongly suggests a reduction in rice acreage—particularly for long-grain varieties.

Table 1. 2025 Rice Acres and Projections for 2026 (1,000 Acres)

State	2025 Planted Acres	Projected 2026	Projected 2026
		Planted Acres Low	Planted Acres High
Arkansas	1,284	1,000	1,100
California	533	500	535
Louisiana	482	420	450
Missouri	214	190	200
Mississippi	165	90	110
Texas	145	100	130
Total	2,823	2,300	2,525

If these lower acreage projections materialize in 2026, the key question becomes whether the reduction will be enough to push rice prices higher. Based on historical relationships between planted and harvested acres and applying trendline yields, rice production could decline from the 207 million hundredweight projected for 2025 to between 170 and 190 million hundredweight. Assuming imports remain near 50 million hundredweight, total supplies would fall from 311 million hundredweight in 2025 to between 270 and 292 million hundredweight in 2026. If demand holds steady, this acreage reduction could move ending stocks from nearly 53 million hundredweight projected for the 2025/26 marketing year to at or below 30 million hundredweight for 2026/27. That would bring ending stocks closer to 2022/23 levels, when the average price was \$19.80 per hundredweight. While such a dramatic price rebound is unlikely, this scenario does suggest a more positive outlook for 2026 compared to the current year.

One major assumption in this analysis is that demand remains relatively flat in 2026. Domestic demand has shown steady growth over the past decade, but export demand has been far more volatile and, in fact, has trended downward during that same period. Currently, exports for the 2025/26 marketing year are more than 26% lower than the previous year. While uncertainty surrounding tariffs and trade policy has likely contributed to this decline, another key factor is the availability of rice from competing exporters at significantly lower prices. December trading data showed U.S. rice prices near \$600 per ton, while major competitors—including Thailand, Vietnam, India, Argentina, and Pakistan—were all below \$400 per ton. This roughly \$200 price premium for U.S. rice is a major reason exports have struggled to gain traction in global markets. As tariffs are reduced or new trade agreements help level the playing field, there is hope for improved export sales in the future.

While concerns remain about demand and the growing trend of imports, the projected reduction in 2026 acreage offers a glimmer of hope for stronger prices in the coming year. However, that optimism does little to ease the financial strain associated with the current 2025 crop. In response, USDA has announced \$11 billion in payments under the Farmer Bridge Assistance (FBA) program. This program will provide direct payments to producers based on a per-acre rate, calculated from certified planted and prevented planted acres for 2025. Payments will be capped at \$155,000 per person or legal entity, and eligibility requires an adjusted gross income (AGI) below \$900,000. Producers are expected to receive payments by the end of February 2026.

Although exact per-acre payment rates have not yet been released, USDA is expected to announce them before the end of 2025. According to USDA, the FBA program will apply a uniform formula to cover a portion of modeled losses during the 2025 crop year. This national loss average is based on FSA-reported planted acres, Economic Research Service (ERS) cost-of-production estimates, World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) yields and prices, and economic modeling.

The University of Illinois recently attempted to estimate potential payment rates. Using ERS cost-of-production data and WASDE yield and price estimates, and applying a proportional share of 30% (i.e., payments covering 30% of estimated losses), they project a payment rate of \$134 per acre for rice and \$25 per acre for soybeans. Figure 1 compares payment rates received under the Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP) earlier in 2025 with these projected FBA rates. It is important to note that these figures are only estimates—the actual USDA rates may differ significantly. Nonetheless, these projections provide a useful indication of how payments might look based on anticipated economic losses.

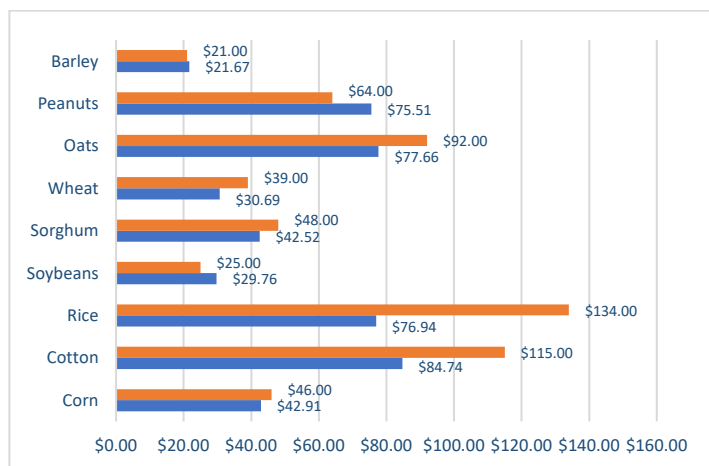


Figure 4. ECAP Payment Rates and PROJECTED FBA Payment Rates for Selected Commodities (Source: University of Illinois)

In addition to the FBP program, the ARC/PLC program is also expected to provide significant payments to producers later in 2026. With the reference price for rice increased to \$16.90 per hundredweight under the Big Beautiful Bill and the current marketing-year price projection for long-grain rice at \$10.50 per hundredweight, the PLC payment rate would be \$6.40 per hundredweight. Assuming an average PLC payment yield of 5,000 pounds (50 hundredweights) and factoring in that payments are made on 85% of base acres, the resulting PLC payment would be approximately \$272 per base acre.

Article by Kurt Guidry (Assistant Resident Coordinator and Economist)

Graduate Student Research Highlight: Getting Rice Off to a Strong State – A Look at Starter Nitrogen Trials

In South Louisiana, early-season weather doesn't always cooperate, and that can slow the growth of seedling rice. Could a small nitrogen boost at or near planting help rice seedlings get ahead? This question has led me to my graduate research project under Dr. Kongchum, where I'm planning to get a better understanding of starter nitrogen applications in rice.

Nitrogen (N) is the most limiting nutrient for rice and crucial for grain yield. Its management can vary depending on planting and water management practices. For drill-seeded rice with delayed flooding, most nitrogen is applied at the 4–5 leaf stage before permanent flood establishment, followed with the remainder at midseason (green ring). In some cases, one single preflood application is used where 100 percent of N is applied.

Recommended planting dates in southwest Louisiana are February 25th to March 20th. Rice planted in this time frame provides the potential for the highest yields and grain quality, while also increasing the potential of producing a second (ratoon) crop. However, in South



Figure 1. Seedling Rice with Clomazone Injury Prior to 2-3 Leaf Application

Louisiana, weather during these months can fluctuate dramatically, shifting from ideal conditions for rice growth to unfavorable ones. Variability in temperature and soil moisture, which is often paired with herbicide injury, slows early growth, delaying time from emergence to the 4–5 leaf stage (Figure 1).

In anticipation of these possible unfavorable growing conditions, the idea of applying a small amount of N fertilizer (Starter N) at or near planting could potentially give young rice plants an early boost. The idea is simple: help seedlings grow faster, compete better with weeds, and possibly allow permanent flood earlier, potentially reducing herbicide applications.

Applying starter N adds additional cost to current recommended rice management practices, raising some important questions. The main question is whether this application will lead to higher yields? To answer this question a preliminary starter N trial was conducted at the Rice Station in 2024 and 2025. Yield results differed for each year. In 2024 we saw moderate yield increases in the range of 6-12% (3 to 7 barrels per acre) in response to starter N applications. Yield increases in 2025 were none too slight with increases of 1-4% (1-3 barrels per acre). In both years trials were planted the second week of march, but early growing conditions in the 2024 season presented several challenges compared to 2025.



Figure 5. Plots Showing Response to 2-3 Leaf Applications of Starter Nitrogen

More days of cooler temperatures and multiple 2-plus inch rains delayed permanent flooding until mid-May which was 64 days after planting. The growing conditions for 2025 were much more favorable and a permanent flood was established the second week of April just 37 days after planting. While the variable results may raise questions about whether the additional cost of starter N is justified from a yield standpoint, a noticeable agronomic response to starter N applications was observed, which could offer potential benefits to a rice crop. As you can see in Figure 2, plots that received starter N, specifically ammonium sulfate, showed to be greener in color and have a greater canopy when compared to no starter plots.

Based on these results and observations, moving forward we plan to take this research further. By collecting and analyzing key plant and soil variables, and conducting this study over multiple years to capture a range of environmental conditions, this research aims to answer some important remaining questions:

- How efficient are these early N applications, and should they count toward total season N needs?
- What is best growth stage for starter N applications?
- Do starter N applications pair better with single pre-flood applications or a split application?
- Which source of starter N provides the best results?
- Does it provide increased canopy cover and earlier flooding, providing weed control advantages?

By answering these questions, it will allow us to provide information rice producers need to determine whether starter nitrogen applications can offer measurable agronomic benefits that lead to economic returns.

Jacob Fluitt (Research Associate and PhD Student – Agronomy)

Project Highlight – Entomology Project

The LSU Rice Breeding Program has supported rice growers for over a century and has released 67 varieties, 37 of which were released since 2000. The program's mission is to develop improved rice varieties that meet the evolving needs of farmers and the industry, ensuring long-term profitability and sustainability for Louisiana's rice sector. By addressing the key market segments, grain types, and herbicide classes, the program strengthens the resilience and profitability of Louisiana's rice industry. The varieties released by the program typically account for 60-70% of the Louisiana rice acreage.

Research operations are driven by a dedicated team of researchers, students, and faculty committed to advancing rice breeding. Through collaborations with experts in associated fields, as well as partnerships with public and private breeding programs, LSU Rice Breeding Program leverages diverse expertise to deliver impactful results. These efforts are supported by the Louisiana Rice Check Off fund, administered by the LA Rice Research Board, along with contributions from the LSU AgCenter, private industry partners, and competitive grants, ensuring sustained innovation and progress for Louisiana's rice industry.

Developing new rice varieties is a multi-step process that integrates science and innovation. The first stage, population and line development, creates new breeding materials. Next, comprehensive field testing evaluates and advances promising lines under real-world conditions. Data analytics enhances efficiency by providing tools and methods to guide decision-making. Seed activities focus on increasing and purifying research seed, while characterization assesses advanced lines to determine best practices and performance. Finally, genetic marker technology is utilized throughout all the breeding stages, improving accuracy and accelerating progress. Together, these components ensure the delivery of superior varieties that meet the evolving needs of Louisiana rice growers.

The Breeding Project is led by Dr. Adam Famoso and Dr. Brijesh Angira. Dr. Famoso oversees long-grain and specialty types and provides overall program leadership, while Dr. Angira directs medium-grain variety development and leads the genetic marker lab. Breeding project staff include Research Associates (Valerie Dartez, Blaise Frey, Madeline LeJeune, Andrew Thibodeaux, Jessica Thornton, and Brady Williams), Postdoctoral Researchers (Karina Lima Reis Borges, Jennifer Manangkil, and Jomar Punzalan), Research Farm Specialists (Jennifer Dartez and Tara Vanicor), and Students (Flavia Furlan- PhD Student and Student Workers - Bennett Dartez, Miller Hicks, Garrick Ronkartz, Jase Simon, Leland Thibodeaux, Bryce Trahan, and Bailey Young).



Breeding Project Personnel. Back Row (Left to Right): Jomar Punzalan, Leland Thibodeaux, Garrick Ronkartz, Andrew Thibodeaux, Brady Williams, Jennifer Dartez, and Adam Famoso. Front Row (Left to Right): Miller Hicks, Blaise Frey, Bennett Dartez, Jase Simon, Karina Lima Reis Borges, Jessica Thornton, Jennifer Manangkil, and Brijesh Angira. Not pictured include Valerie Dartez, Madeline LeJeune, Tara Vanicor, Flavia Furlan, and Bryce Trahan.

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:

October 2025

- Dr. Kurt Guidry (Assistant Resident Coordinator and Economist) attended the LSU AgCenter's statewide Ag Advisory Meeting held in Alexandria, Louisiana.
- Dr. Connor Webster (Weed Scientist) presented at the Southwest Region's Drone Workshop held in Jennings, Louisiana.
- Dr. Connor Webster (Weed Scientist) presented at Rice Production School held at the Rice Research Station.

- Dr. Adam Famoso (Resident Coordinator and Rice Breeder), Dr. Connor Webster (Weed Scientist), and Dr. Tyler Musgrove (Rice Production Specialist) traveled to Cuba as part of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture's trade promotion initiative.
- Dr. Kurt Guidry (Assistant Resident Coordinator and Economist) served on the LSU AgCenter's Awards committee.

November 2025

- Several faculty members with the Rice Research Station participated in the Acadia Parish and Southwest Louisiana Rice Advisory Committees.
- Dr. Adam Famoso (Resident Coordinator and Rice Breeder) visited Corteva Agriscience research facilities in India to discuss research collaborations between LSU and Corteva.
- Flavia Furlan (PhD Student – Breeding) attended the Crop Science Society Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.
- Dr. Adam Famoso (Resident Coordinator and Rice Breeder), Brent Theunissen (Farm Manager-Rice Research Station), Brady Williams (Research Associate – Breeding), Valerie Dartez (Research Associate – Breeding), Blaise Frey (Research Associate – Breeding), Dr. Manoch Kongchum (Rice Agronomist), and Bradley Beard (Research Associate – Agronomy) visited the Wintersteiger Research Equipment Field Day in Elkhart, Iowa to observe new seed and field equipment demonstrations.
- Dr. Kurt Guidry (Assistant Resident Coordinator and Economist) presented at the Southeast Region ANR Agent Training meeting held in Hammond, Louisiana.
- Dr. Kurt Guidry (Assistant Resident Coordinator and Economist) attended the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation's Crawfish Advisory Meeting and presented a study he conducted examining crawfish imports and the potential for a Tariff Rate Quota.
- Dr. Kurt Guidry (Assistant Resident Coordinator and Economist) attended the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation's Sugarcane Advisory Meeting to discuss analysis that had been conducted to show the impact of the 2023 drought on sugarcane production.

December 2025

- Dr. Adam Famoso (Resident Coordinator and Rice Breeder) gave a guest lecture on rice breeding on campus in the AGRO4064 Plant Breeding Course.
- Several faculty and staff members from the Rice Research Station attended the USA Rice Federation's Annual Rice Outlook Conference held in New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Dr. Ron Levy (Retiring Rice Extension Specialist) received the Rice Lifetime Achievement Award at the USA Rice Federation's Rice Outlook Conference.
- Dr. Kurt Guidry (Assistant Resident Coordinator and Economist) presented at the Northwest Region ANR Agent Training meeting held in Coushatta, Louisiana.
- Dr. Kurt Guidry (Assistant Resident Coordinator and Economist) presented at the Central Region ANR Agent Training meeting held in Washington, Louisiana.

- Mr. Jacob Pruitt (Research Associate and PhD Student – Agronomy) received the LSU AgCenter’s Research Associate Award at its Land Grant Summit Meeting.

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:

- October 13 -14, 2025 – The Rice Research Station hosted the final sessions of the Rice Production School.
- October 16, 2025 – The Rice Research Station hosted the LSU AgCenter’s Wastewater Management Workshop.
- October 21, 2025 – Several faculty and staff at the Rice Research Station participated in the Youth Rice Field Day hosted at the Rice Research Station. The Youth Rice Field Day welcomed 47 high school students from across Louisiana to discover the wide range of career opportunities within the rice industry. Through interactive workshops and hands-on skill-building activities, participants explored key sectors such as research, production, processing, marketing, and sustainability. Students had the opportunity to engage directly with industry professionals and mentors, gaining valuable insight into educational pathways and building connections that support long-term career development.
- October 30 – The Rice Research Station hosted the Louisiana Rice Research Board’s Committee meetings.
- November 12, 2025 – The Rice Research Station hosted meetings for the Louisiana Rice Research Board and the Louisiana Rice Promotion Board. During the Louisiana Rice Research Board, several research projections of station faculty were funded for 2026.
- December 1, 2025 – The Rice Research Station hosted a Southwest Region Quarterly ANR Agent Training meeting.
- December 11, 2025 – The Rice Research Station hosted the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation’s Rice Advisory Committee.

New Employee Highlight – Karen Bodoïn, Administrator Coordinator 3

Rooted in Roberts Cove, LA, Ms. Karen Bodoïn brings a unique blend of agricultural heritage and administrative expertise to the Rice Station and the Southwest Region. Growing up on her family’s third-generation rice and soybean farm, she spent countless hours in the fields, gaining firsthand experience in farming life. Alongside that, she built a successful career in administration, while continuing to lend a hand on the farm whenever needed.

At the Rice Station, her primary role is administrative, but she also enjoys being involved in programs and events such as Rice Field Day, Garden Field Day, 4-H initiatives, youth educational activities, and community meetings. When asked what she enjoys most about her work, she highlights the positive atmosphere and strong work ethic at the station, as well as the opportunity to connect with local farmers, rice industry professionals, and visitors. She's also been pleasantly surprised by the station's extensive community service, noting the dedication of employees who share their knowledge and provide invaluable support to the community.

Outside of work, she spends quality time with family and enjoys outdoor activities whenever possible.



Karen Boudin
Admin. Coordinator 3, SW Region



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 program

For more information, visit our website at:
[H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station \(lsuagcenter.com\)](http://lsuagcenter.com)
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