



The Rice Advocate

US Rice Producers Association

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Louisiana Independent Rice Producers Association Gains New Members

Rice farmers from central and south Louisiana gathered at the NW Community Center in Eunice, Louisiana this week to attend a meeting of the new Louisiana Independent Rice Producers Association (LIRPA) in order to

gain a better understanding of the goals and objectives of the organization. The new organization joined the US Rice Producers Association in mid April after an overwhelming vote of acceptance by the USRPA board of directors.




Pictured above left to right are the board members of the LIRPA: David Landreneau, Mike Doise, Glenden Marceaux Phillip Watkins (LIRPA President), Blue Zaubrecher (LIRPA Vice-President), Chris Krielow (LIRPA Secretary-Treasurer), Mark Heinen, Aaron Lunsford and Jamie Leonards.

The meeting of some 75-80 farmers also served as an opportunity to hear from the US Rice Producers Association's president & CEO, Dwight Roberts who informed those in attendance of the challenges and accomplishments of the USRPA during their eleven years of existence. Dennis DeLaughter, the first chairman of the board and currently a marketing advisor for the USRPA gave an overview of the history of the organization and answered any questions from the audience. Jay Davis of Coastal Rice & Futures, Inc. gave a rice market update while lead-

ing a discussion on the current conditions and fielding a number of questions. The meeting gave the farmers a better understanding of the activities of the USRPA both in the legislative arena and in such areas as market promotions. Of course a meeting in Louisiana is not complete without a great crawfish boil for dinner and those in attendance were not disappointed in that regards. While the meeting started at 5 p.m., the lights in the meeting room were not cut off until almost 11:00 p.m. as folks stayed around to visit and discuss the issues affecting their farming operations. The board of the LIRPA also conducted a separate meeting after the dinner where they expressed

their satisfaction with the turnout and the new interest in membership. Phillip Watkins, president of LIRPA said, "the number of new members that signed up



tonight is a good indication that rice farmers want to be aligned with an organization run by rice farmers for rice farmers and in a structure that allows a dialog with milling interests in a different approach. We must have different alternatives for the rice farmer." 

US Agriculture Secretary Calls for Ag Carbon Credit With USDA Oversight

Earlier this week in Central Kentucky, US Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsak stated that his department would "advocate forcefully" for carbon credits to be added to the climate bill currently in the House and also for his department to provide oversight—as opposed to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He also stated his agreement with House Agriculture Committee Collin Peter-

son that ethanol's carbon footprint calculation should not include "indirect land use" such as the conversion of forest to cropland for ethanol production.

According to statistics from USDA, American Agriculture represents only 7-10% of the greenhouse emissions, but could provide up to 25% of the solution through new farming and production practices. During his address, the Secretary visited several areas including Animal ID, Conservation Funding, water, and educatio[n].

One of the areas that he [Continued on Page 2]



Vilsack—Continued from Page 1

focused on was the need for consumer education. Both he and the audience agreed that it was important for consumers to “get to know their farmer”. Education at all levels helps to raise awareness of producers and their benefits to America as well as the hardships that they must undergo to produce America’s food. This is key both at the consumer level and the non-rural members of Congress to show the departments relationship to food.

This issue remains important to rice producers as an emerging piece of legislation. The support of the Agriculture Department and its staff throughout this process is critical to help maintain a strong awareness for all segments of the agriculture industry, as well as for maintaining the viability of rice production in the U.S. USRPA will continue to monitor this issue as it progresses and keep its readers informed. 🌿

The Rice Advocate is now accepting letters to the editor. If you have a topic you would like to address, please email your submission to jessica@usriceproducers.com with “Letter to the Editor” as the subject. Letters should be 200 words or less and address a specific issue. Submissions will not be published unless signed by the original author. USRPA reserves the right to edit all letters.

Upcoming Events

June 21-24, 2009	RMA 110th Convention—The Ritz Carlton, Amelia Island, FL
June 30, 2009	Eagle Lake Field Day—Eagle Lake, TX
July 1, 2009	LSU AgCenter Rice Research Station Field Day—Crowley, LA
July 9, 2009	MFBF Region One Young Farmer Leadership Meeting—Cleveland, MS
July 9, 2009	Beaumont Field Day—Beaumont, TX
July 15-17, 2009	Postharvest 2009 Rice Conference—Bangkok, Thailand
July 16, 2009	Mississippi Rice Field Day—Stoneville, MS
July 17, 2009	MFBF Summer Rice Grower Meeting—Cleveland, MS
August 12, 2009	University of Arkansas Rice Field Day—Stuttgart, AR
August 19, 2009	Cache River Valley Seed Rice and Soybean Field Day—Cash, AR
September 16-19, 2009	12th European Rice Millers’ Convention—Venice, Italy
October 27-29, 2009	World Rice Conference—Cebu, Philippines
January 11-13, 2010	13th Annual NCS Cotton & Rice Conference—Tunica, MS



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USDA Reports Next Week

Crop Progress	Monday, May 11, 4:00 pm
World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates	Tuesday, May 12, 8:30 am
Weather-Crop Summary	Tuesday, May 12, 12:00 pm
Rice Outlook	Wednesday, May 13, 4:00 pm
U.S. Export Sales	Thursday, May 14, 8:30 am