



The Rice Advocate

US Rice Producers Association

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Western Hemisphere Rice Industry Gathers in Cartagena for TRT Rice Americas 2010

If you have not done so already, there is still time to register and make plans to attend the TRT Rice Americas 2010 conference, April 21-22 in Cartagena, Colombia at the Hotel Hilton Cartagena. Current registrations indicate this year's conference will be the largest attendance ever since the annual event began in 2007 as evidenced from the sold out block of rooms.



However don't let this keep you from coming as the beautiful Caribbean coastal city of Cartagena has plenty of other hotels. Check with your local travel agent or go to www.Cartagenainfo.net for information. Participants from throughout Latin America including representatives of numerous rice trade organizations are scheduled to attend. The Central American Rice Federation (FECARROZ) will conduct their board meeting in conjunction with the conference again this year. Representatives from the Andean and Mercosur markets will be well represented also.

Networking is just one of the great benefits of the conference and several special receptions are planned, but a great line-up of speakers and program topics are of key interests to all participants. Particularly, Mr. Gilberto Wageck Amato (pictured right), a chemical engineer from Porto Alegre, Brazil and the coordinator of the Center for Excellence in Rice at



the Rice Research Institute (IRGA). Mr. Amato is considered a pioneer in the field of parboiled rice research in Latin America with an impressive resume as an international consultant regarding parboil rice technology not only in the Western Hemisphere but in Europe, Asia and Africa also.

Enthusiasm for this year's TRT Rice Americas 2010 event is overwhelming. This conference is quickly becoming the rice convention of the Americas as anticipated four years ago and is expected to grow in the years ahead. "Our focus is on both the commercial and production aspects of the rice marketplace for the Western Hemisphere and our plans to enlist the involvement of a steering committee (Comite de Consejo) from throughout the region will give us the necessary guidance for future success," comments Dwight Roberts, President & CEO of the US Rice Producers Association.



Rice trade organizations from throughout the Western Hemisphere will be represented in Cartagena next week. Pictured above are Benjamin Toledo (left), President of the Honduras National Rice Millers Association with Dwight Roberts of the USRPA and Mr. Jose Enrique Mejia, a trade and government policy specialist for the Honduran rice industry and a member of the FECARROZ board of directors during a meeting last week in Tegucigalpa.

Inside this issue:

Still Time to Register for TRT Rice Americas 2010! ... pg. 1
General Market Update pg. 2

Arkansas Dedicates New Rice Research Centerpg. 2
2012 Farm Bill Hearings Begin.....pg. 3

Arkansas Dedicates New Rice Research and Extension Center

Located 9 miles east of Stuttgart on Hwy. 130, the center has 34,000 square feet of space, in four buildings including four new state of the art main labs in the clean lab building and seven labs in the field lab building, in addition to administrative space. Faculty and staff moved in the new facility in January 2010.

The Center was designed by Witsell Evens & Rasco, PA and built at a cost of \$12.4 million. \$2.3 million was from the Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board that came from Tariff Rate Quota funds. These TRQ funds were monies derived from the sale of certificates



enabling exports to the European Union. "The use of Arkansas's TRQ funds for this building is a good example of why we do not need to restrict the use of future TRQ funds. I am proud to be a part of this effort to provide a facility to allow farmers to be more productive," said John Alter, a member of the Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board and the USRPA.

Another construction project is just beginning which will add two new greenhouses to the field labs. They are expected to be completed at the end of the summer. 🌱



Milo Sultz Vice President of Agriculture for the University of Arkansas discussing the facility with John Alter board member US Rice Producers Association.

General Market Update

USDA left WMP unchanged this week – no surprise there. The weekly export sales report showed a pick up from last week's somewhat disappointing numbers with registrations of 52,300 metric tons being posted. As a bit of particularly welcome news, well over half of the tonnage was long grain milled weighing in at slightly over 28,000 tons spread amongst various countries. Next on the list was just under 10,000 tons of rough rice bought by Mexico, Venezuela, and Honduras to be followed closely by nearly 9,000 tons of medium/short milled to Taiwan, Israel, and others. Taiwan was also a buyer of 3,000 tons of medium brown. With a good bit of new crop in the ground now, this week's sales tonnage was very respectable and will help keep us on track for the lower carry expected by the trade. Actual exports for last week were a solid 91,400 tons with 37,000 plus tons being rough to Venezuela, Mexico, and Jamaica. Turkey was the destination for 22,000 tons of medium rough, and right at 20,000 tons of long grain milled primarily to Haiti, Canada, Ghana, and Saudi Arabia (parboiled) added to 9,600 tons of medium milled to several countries made up the bulk of the balance. Some small optimism is being expressed for the Iraqi tender announced for about a week from now, and longer term the ideas that Europe will start buying in greater quintiles and that

Texas A&M AgriLIFE Research Center

The latest Texas Rice Crop Survey reports (updated through Friday April 16, 2010) are available through the Beaumont Center web site at: <http://beaumont.tamu.edu/CropSurvey/>

The crop survey provides detailed data on rice acreage across the Texas rice belt, including information on varieties and crop development.

Cuba will be resolved hopefully in the next few months are adding a mildly positive tone to the market. US rice is blocked from both of the latter markets solely because of political sentiment, regardless of what other excuses may be given by those in charge.

Rough rice is virtually unchanged from last week – the market all over the South continues to be slow. Stocks still in first hands are slowly but steadily dwindling, but buying interest is light at low levels and selling interest is light at higher levels. The mills seem to have positions sufficient to carry them for a while, but what little buying that is being seen appears to be mostly for prompt shipment. Planting in Texas and South Louisiana is practically complete and now getting underway in north Louisiana and parts of the Delta. Texas reports no bids in the market, and South Louisiana buying/selling interest is as mentioned above. Small quantities have supposedly moved in the Delta, but selling interest there is noted to be very

(Continued on page 3)

General Market Update (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

limited without seeing higher prices. All risks are higher for farmers today – perhaps more so now than in the last 30 years – and that fact will eventually command higher/safer returns.

Asia is still very quiet and seeing price quotes slip a little more but thankfully at a much slower rate. At some point sellers in the Far East will recognize that their price drops are not getting the attention of potential buyers who will only return when they have solid demand and/or see prices bottoming and starting to rise. The same hand-to-mouth buying we have seen in the US over the last couple of years is being seen internationally now. In the meantime, Thai 100% Grade B is quoted in the \$480/\$485 range per ton fob vessel with Thai parboiled at \$480. Viet 5% is noted around \$450/\$460 per ton, and Pakistani 5% is in the \$380/\$385 area.

Futures acted pretty much as could have been expected per the technicals this week. After last week's 81 cent jump from the previous week's close, rice futures gave back 38.5 cents over the last five sessions, settling Friday at 1280.5 in the May contract. Certain technical points and patterns have been reached, and now we'll just have to see if support is found in this area. There was a decrease of 670 contracts from last Thursday's to this Thursday's open interest, but that looked like profit taking rather than new shorts. Volume for the week averaged about 1,620 contracts per day – fairly heavy volume that seemed to be mostly spread trading from the May to the July.



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Additional Resources

For economic analysis on agricultural efficiency, efficacy, and equity issues: www.ers.usda.gov

Texas Rice from A&M AgriLife Research Ctr. at Beaumont: http://beaumont.tamu.edu/eLibrary/eLibrary_default.htm

AgFax - Editor: Owen Taylor:
www.agfax.com

USRPA News & TRA Archives:
www.usriceproducers.com/news

US House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture Kicks Off 2012 Farm Bill Hearings



On Wednesday, April 21st the House Committee on Agriculture will hold a hearing "to review U.S. agriculture policy in advance of the 2012 Farm Bill." Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, has been invited and is expected to testify. Although no one expects the Administration to present their proposal for the 2012 farm bill, it is intended to begin the farm bill review process. Additional hearings are expected in May, with multiple field hearings anticipated for the end of April and mid-May. The hearing will be held as follows:

Wednesday, April 21st at 11:00 a.m.
1300 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC

Full Committee on Agriculture – Public Hearing
RE: To review U.S. agriculture policy in advance of the 2012 Farm Bill.

*Live audio and video will be available at the start of the hearing, and can be accessed at:

<http://agriculture.house.gov/hearings/audio.html>

Upcoming Events

April 21, 2010

April 21-22, 2010

May 11-13, 2010

June 20 - 21, 2010

June 29, 2010

July 1, 2010

July 8, 2010

July 15, 2010

July 27 - 29, 2010

August 26, 2010

February 1 - 2, 2010

Exporting to Cuba Workshop, Houston, TX

Rice Americas Conference; Cartagena, Colombia

Food Marketing Institute (FMI) Show; Las Vegas, NV

2nd Middle East-Africa-Asia Rice Summit 2010, Dubai

Eagle Lake Field Day; Eagle Lake, TX

Rice Research Station Field Day; Crowley, LA

Beaumont Field Day; Beaumont, TX

Agronomic Crops Field Day; Stoneville, MS

The 3rd Africa Rice Outlook, Cape Town, South Africa

Missouri Rice Council Field Day, Glennoville, MO

14th Annual NCSCRC "Tillage Conf."; Baton Rouge, LA

For more information visit the USRPA's online calendar at: www.usriceproducers.com/calendar

USDA Reports Next Week

Crop Progress (NASS)

Monday, April 19, 4:00 pm

Weather Crop-Summary (NASS)

Tuesday, April 20, 12:00 pm

U.S. Export Sales (FAS)

Thursday, April 22, 8:30 am

A new Rice Outlook is available at: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/WhatsNew/>

All USDA reports are available by visiting http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/?navid=AGENCY_REPORTS=RT.

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