



PRODUCERS

Rice Letter

P.O. Box 1248 - Stuttgart, Arkansas 72160 - (870) 673-4444 EOE M/F/Vet/Disabled Volume 40, No. 12 July 2026

2026 Calendar of Events

August 6 Ark. Rice Field Day, Rice Research & Ext. Center,
Stuttgart, AR
September National Rice Month

ARKANSAS RICE FIELD DAY TO BE HELD AUGUST 6

The University of Arkansas Extension service will be hosting the Arkansas Rice Field Day on Thursday, August 6th at the Rice Research and Extension Center in Stuttgart. On-site registration opens at 7:30 a.m. There is no cost to attend.

There will be two field tours which start at 7:30 a.m. at the Foundation Seed Facility and will repeat at 9:30 so attendees can see all stops.

GLOVER RECOGNIZED FOR USA RICE CHAIRMAN TERM



On July 8-10th, more than 100 USA Rice volunteer leaders gathered in Dallas for annual membership meetings. During the meetings, Keith Glover, President

& CEO of Producers' Rice Mill, was recognized for his two years as serving as USA Rice Chairman.

The USA Rice Board of Directors elected John Owen to be chair beginning August 1, succeeding Glover.

2026 U.S. Rice Acres Planted

	2026 March 31 Intentions	2026 June 30 Survey	Lowest Acres Since	2025 Actual Acres	Difference 2026 vs. 2025
Arkansas	1,001,000	851,000	1977	1,284,000	(433,000)
Louisiana	430,000	400,000	2017	482,000	(82,000)
Mississippi	80,000	45,000	1961	164,000	(119,000)
Missouri	175,000	153,000	2011	213,000	(60,000)
Texas	125,000	113,000	Prior to 1929	145,000	(32,000)
The South	1,811,000	1,562,000	1972	2,288,000	(726,000)
California	508,000	455,000	2022	524,000	(69,000)
Total U.S.	2,319,000	2,017,000	1972	2,812,000	(795,000)

Source: USDA/NASS Quick Stats

YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE ARKANSAS RICE DEPOT IS NEEDED!!

Producers' members have proudly supported the work of the Arkansas Rice Depot and Arkansas Food Bank since its inception 43 years ago. The Arkansas Food Bank provides food for 428,000 people across the state through backpack programs for children, emergency assistance and food delivery to the elderly. Hunger never stops and the need for food never ends.

A big "thank you" to all Producers' members for their support of the Arkansas Rice Depot and Arkansas Food Bank.

If you would like to help the Arkansas Rice Depot and Arkansas Food Bank, just fill out the form below and return it to the Stuttgart main office. If you wish to contribute later, an authorization form will be included with your first advance.

ARKANSAS RICE DEPOT DONATION FORM

I authorize Producers Rice Mill, Inc., to donate the following quantities of brown rice to the Arkansas Rice Depot and charge my account accordingly:

_____ 200 pounds valued at	\$ 60.00	_____ 2,000 pounds valued at	\$600.00
_____ 400 pounds valued at	\$120.00	_____ 3,000 pounds valued at	\$900.00
_____ 700 pounds valued at	\$210.00	_____ 4,000 pounds valued at	\$1,200.00
_____ 1,000 pounds valued at	\$300.00	_____ 5,000 pounds valued at	\$1,500.00

Account Number: _____ Account Name: _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

MANAGER'S MESSAGE

On June 30th, USDA released an updated estimate of 2026 U.S. rice acres based on farmer surveys conducted in early June. Due to rising fuel and fertilizer cost as a result of U.S. military action against Iran, as expected 2026 U.S. acres in the USDA's June 30th report dropped significantly from its March 31st Prospective Plantings Report. With the revised acreage estimate, U.S. planted rice acreage will be the smallest in 54 years. In this Manager's Message, I will share our thoughts on USDA's latest acreage estimate for the 2026 rice crop and the potential market implications for the 2026-27 marketing year.



2026 Planted Acreage Report

Not surprising, 2026 U.S. rice acreage was reduced 302,000 acres from USDA's March Prospective Planting Report. In the south, the drop in overall rice acres from the March USDA report was 249,000 acres, with Arkansas losing the most at 150,000 less acres and second by Mississippi losing an additional 35,000 acres. Even though Arkansas' total 2026 rice acres are now estimated by USDA at only 851,000 acres, some industry leaders think that final acreage number could be adjusted even lower once FSA certified rice acres reports are released beginning in August. For California, USDA lowered its estimate for that state to 455,000 acres, which was a 53,000-acre decrease. However, most of the California industry leaders believe a more correct 2026 number for the state is likely 475,000 acres.

In analyzing the June 30th data by grain class, 2026 U.S. long grain acres are now projected to be down a whopping 723,000 acres, or 34% from 2025. Once again Arkansas' long grain acres will be down the most with a drop of 450,000 acres, followed by Mississippi down 115,000 acres and Louisiana down 70,000 acres. Medium and short grain acres in 2026 are also expected to be down 72,000 acres over 2025. Nearly all of the net decrease in 2026 medium and short grain acres will come from California.

Supply and Use Projections

On July 10th, USDA released its revised Supply and Use projections for the upcoming 2026-27 marketing year to reflect the new rice acreage data. Based on the new June 30th data, USDA lowered its current 2026 U.S. long grain production estimate to only 104.1 million cwts. If USDA's current crop estimate holds true, the 2026 U.S. long grain crop will be down a whopping 49.2 million cwts, or 32% from the 2025 U.S. long grain crop. This would make the 2026 U.S. long grain crop the smallest since 1993.

With the significant decrease in California acres, USDA now has its overall 2026 medium and short grain production estimate at 49.2 million cwts, which is 4.2 million cwts. lower than the 2025 crop and the smallest medium and short grain crop in 4 years. With the decrease in 2026 production, U.S. medium and short grain ending stocks are projected to decrease 2.0 million cwts. from the start of the 2026-27 marketing year.

Market Implications

Since last fall, the 2026-27 marketing year for the U.S. rice industry has been shaping up as one for the history books. The USDA estimated June 30th Acreage Report, and July Supply and Demand only confirm what an extraordinary marketing year is likely ahead of us. Southern rice acreage in 2026 will be the lowest since 1972 when the US Farm Bill acreage allotment program dictated to the farms that had a rice allotment exactly how many rice acres could be planted each year.

Expectations of a much smaller 2026 U.S. long grain rice crop have rallied Chicago rough rice futures above \$14.00 per cwt. However, due to the largest long grain rough rice carryover stocks since 1986, spot cash long grain rough rice prices have not kept pace and are currently trading \$2.00 to \$3.00 per cwt below Chicago futures. This wide gap between futures and cash rough rice prices will eventually converge once the industry works through the larger-than-normal carryover stocks.

The larger carryover stocks may not be all bad. Given the sharply reduced 2026 long grain crop, the largest long grain carryover stocks in 40 years will hopefully allow the U.S. rice industry to continue serving both domestic and traditional international customers throughout the 2026-27 marketing year. Beyond the risk of permanently losing rice infrastructure during 2026-27, there is also concern that limited supplies could cause some traditional customers to look to non-U.S. suppliers for their rice needs. History shows once customers are lost, winning them back can be a very difficult challenge.

Nevertheless, we believe the long grain price prospects going into the 2026-27 marketing year are the best we've seen in several years. In our August newsletter, I will have a more detailed market analysis as we share our annual potentially bullish and bearish price factors for the start of the upcoming 2026-27 marketing year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Keith Glover". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Keith Glover