



## Assessment Rate Unchanged

As you know, the RRB is led by growers like you. They have the same concerns over production and profitability that you do. During the recent election to raise the assessment ceiling to eight cents, I heard many of the Board members state that they wanted to keep the rate as low as possible while still keeping necessary research. Concern was expressed by a number in the grower community that the assessment rate would automatically go to eight cents.

At their August meeting, the Board voted to keep the assessment rate at five cents for the 2004 crop. They deliberated over the size of the crop and the number of acres, deciding that there was a large expected crop. The research needs were estimated and preliminary amounts set to carry out the research for 2005. These estimates led them to believe that five cents would adequately cover the research needs for this budget.

What does this mean

for the future? Nothing more than it means every year. A number of factors impact the income of the RRB. The extra funds (TRQ) that had allowed a reserve to be established will be ending in 2005. The crop size and yield will need to be evaluated for 2005. Research needs



will also be evaluated, especially if new disease or pest issues come up. Ultimately, the RRB Board of Directors must look at all these factors each year and decide what assessment rate to use, up to the eight-cent limit. Of this I am confident - that your Board of Directors

are very interested in keeping the assessment as low as they can.



## Board Election

The RRB has conducted its annual election of Board members in June. Members serve a three-year term as either a member or alternate on the Board. About one third of the Board is elected each year. Those elected for the 2004-2007 term are:

### •••District 1•••

- Eric Larabee, Butte City, member
- Drew Rudd, Gridley, alternate
- George Sligar, Jr., Gridley, member
- George Swaner, Glenn, alternate

### •••District 2•••

- Burt Manuel, Yuba City, member
- Greg Massa, Hamilton City, alternate
- Zachary Dennis, Maxwell, member
- Jeff Miller, Arbuckle, alternate

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## Rice Systems Research

Weed resistance to herbicides and the high cost of weed control has prompted rice farmers to try alternative stand establishment methods. Incorporating alternatives for establishing rice such as drill seeding, stale seedbeds, or reduced tillage enables growers to partially manage weeds as well as introduce alterna-



tive herbicides within a rice-only rotation. However, these techniques may also affect stand density, growth and development, and perhaps most importantly, nitrogen management. Because of these many variables, a large field experiment was established at the Rice Experiment Station to evaluate weed population dynamics, herbicide efficacy, and optimal nitrogen



This area is also being used for weed control experiments, integrating cultural



management in five rice establishment systems.

- Conventional water-seeded (WS)
- Spring-till drill-seed (DS)
- Spring-till, flood, Roundup and delayed water-seed (DWS)
- No-till, flood, Roundup followed by water-seed (NTWS)
- No-till, flood, Roundup followed by drill-seed (NTDS)

Each rice establishment treatment was replicated four times (20 plots total). The experiment was begun in the fall of 2003 with independent water inflow and drainage for each basin. Each basin was large enough (about 0.6 acres) to allow for the simultaneous study of several management factors and to accommodate tillage and planting equipment.

and provide additional options for weed management in continuous rice and offer much needed tools for managing herbicide resistant weeds. Drill seeded rice followed by an early post-emergence application of pendimethalin (Prowl) may effectively reduce seed banks of grass species biotypes that are resistant to conventional herbicides. Adding a stale seedbed component to this system allows for the use of non-selective herbicides that control herbicide-resistant weeds, and reduces post-emergence weed pressure in highly infested fields.

efficiency of weed management through the reduction of herbicide resistant weed populations, delayed evolution of herbicide resistance, or timely reduction of weed seed banks. The work thus far suggests that integration of cultural and chemical weed control practices



## Mission of the RRB

What does the RRB do? I am sure you can name a number of things, but what is the core of their mission? Here is a brief statement of their intent: "The Rice Research Board's purpose is to help assure the continuing competitiveness and prosperity of the California rice industry by soliciting, evaluating, funding and overseeing research projects and programs that address the needs of producers, industry and society as a whole."

This basic statement was created in 1999 and only slightly modified since then. It shows that the purpose of the RRB is to perform a wide-ranging variety of research to benefit the rice industry and society. This is the reason the RRB works in many different areas of research and hopes to continue working on a diverse range of problems for the industry.