

California Rice Research Board



Issue # 16, Summer 2005

A Nickel Again

The Rice Research Board met in early August and established the assessment rate for the 2005 crop at five cents. You will remember that in 2004 you approved an increase in the assessment ceiling to eight cents and many of you fully expected a significant increase. Were the calls for an increase misplaced? No.



The Board made a conscious choice to hold the rate at five cents, as some members said, "even though we shouldn't". The Board is composed of growers like yourself that have the same interests and concerns. They believed that the current conditions justified holding the line.

What are the conse-

quences of this action? The present budget shows the Board using up over \$233,000 of its reserves. This is just the sort of consequence that prompted the call for an increase to the assessment ceiling. Obviously, this sort of spending cannot be sustained. So prepare yourself for a change to the 2006 rate when the Board may say, "even so, we must".

New
web address
www.carrb.com

New Members

The election results for the 2005 to 2008 term are

in. Replacing Terrill Knight and Richard S. Rominger are new members Steven Jones of Willows and Ron Brekenridge of Woodland. The complete results for that portion of the Board up for election are:

Member / Alternate

Kurt Meyer / Steven Jones

James Webster / Robert Van Dyke

Bill Baggett/Brett Scheidel

Tom McClellan / Ron Brekenridge

Research Program Renewed

In the recently completed referendum, California rice growers approved the continuation of the California Rice Research Program. Of the 649 growers who voted in the referendum, 612 growers (94.3%) voted in favor of continuing the operation of the Program.

This means that the RRB may continue to operate for another five years before it must be submitted to California growers for another reapproval referendum. The Rice Research Board, which is the Program's administrative body, conducts research under the authority of the California Department of Food and Agriculture on behalf of California rice growers. These activities are funded by a mandatory assessment on all California rice affected by the Program.

In This Issue

A Nickel Again1

New Members1

Research Program Renewed.....1

2005-06 Budget ..2

Rice Breeder2

The California Rice Research Board
Operating under the authority of the Secretary of Food and Agriculture, State of California

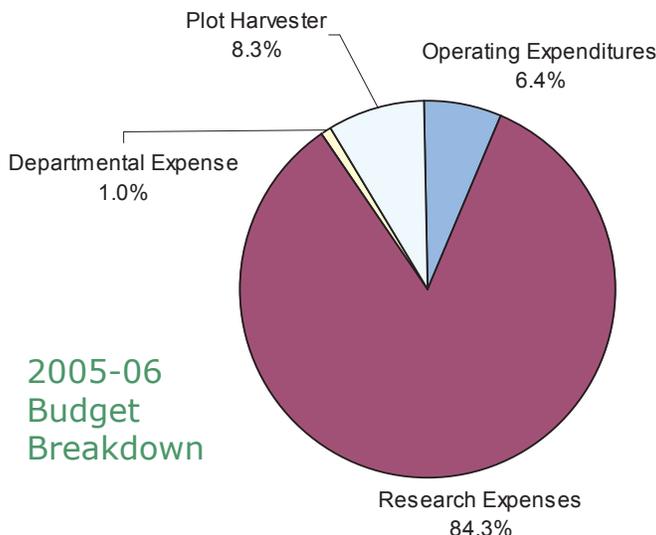
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2005-06 Budget

A couple of notations on the budget. First, this is a preliminary budget and it always changes in March when the Board has a more complete knowledge of what money is available for research. The final amount for research always changes, often increasing. Second, the Board has been setting aside money to replace the current, 20+ year old plot harvester for several years. Your funds will pay for 2/3's of the cost and the researchers using the harvester will finance 1/3.

Budget Summary:

Assessments and interest	\$2,158,000
Administrative expenses	\$166,500
Research	\$2,199,361
C DFA expense	\$26,000
Plot harvester	\$217,000
Total Expenditures	\$2,608,861



2005-06 Budget Breakdown

New Rice Breeder

The CRRF recently hired Dr. Junda Jiang as a new rice breeder at the California Rice Experiment Station. He will be assuming project leader responsibility for the premium quality and short grain areas of the rice breeding program from Dr. Kent McKenzie who is the station director.

He joins the 15 member staff at the 93 year old research facility. The California Rice Experiment Station maintains and produces the foundation seed for the state's public rice varieties that are grown on over 90% of the California rice acreage.

A rice grower's son, Dr. Jiang received his B.S. in Agronomy from Zhejiang Agricultural University,

China in 1987, a M.S. in Plant Breeding and Genetics in 1990, and Ph.D. in Rice Breeding and Genetics from Louisiana State University in 1999 where he studied inheritance of the herbicide resistant *pat* gene in rice. As a Post-Doctoral Researcher for the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Junda developed transgenic rice lines with enhanced tolerance to sheath blight disease from *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation of the 'Cocodrie' and 'Earl'



varieties. Most recently, Dr. Jiang has been a Post-Doctoral Associate for the University of Arkansas Rice Research & Extension Center, where he established a productive anther culture breeding system. Junda is also experienced in marker-assisted selection, effectively using DNA markers in breeding for desired cooking quality and blast resistance through anther culture.

"JJ", his wife Ying, and daughter Jessie Grace have settled in Chico, California. Ying taught kindergarten in China and has a degree in business administration. Jessie is a first grader.

