

California Rice Research Board

Issue 38, Winter 2018

Assessment rate change

In 2016 the assessment rate was eight cents per cwt. Your Board of Directors recognized the very difficult pricing situation for rice and agreed to lower the assessment rate for the 2017 crop to five cents. They realized it was not a large financial

continue without reduction and your Board of Directors continue to select projects for maximum benefit.

New Releases Performance

UCCE yield tests demonstrated good yields for the just released M-210 and Calaroma-201. These new varieties were compared to

test.

M-210 is a blast resistant replacement for M-208. It is a high yielding, early maturing, glabrous, medium grain rice. M-208 began to have problems when the new blast race IB-1 was detected in California. So the breeders put a new blast resistance gene into M-210, Pi-b, that will stand up to the new blast

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Variety	type	Seedling vigor	50% heading	Height cm	Lodging %	Grain moisture	Yield @14%
CJ-201	LG	4.8	88	95	28	15.5	9725
M-206	MG	4.8	82	101	37	18.9	9230
M-209	MG	4.7	87	98	19	19.6	9286
M-210	MG	4.8	81	99	35	18.8	9191

help, but they did what they could.

During 2017-18, research continued unabated. One million dollars in Reserve funds were used to make up the difference between assessment income and what was spent on research.

For the 2018 crop, the Board chose to increase the assessment rate to 6.5 cents per cwt. This means we will still draw about \$500,000 from Reserve to fund research. Again, research will

M-206 and M-209 to give perspective. M-209 has been trending as a top contender in the recent UCCE Yield Con-



race. As you can see from the chart, M-210 performs almost identically to M-206. These results are averaged over multiple test sites.

Calaroma-201 (CJ-201) is a Jasmine type long grain. It is a high yielding, semi-dwarf, early maturing, glabrous, aromatic variety developed as an alternative to imported Thai Jasmine. It should be grown in the warmer areas of the Valley where varieties such as L-206 and A-202 have been suc-

The California Rice Research Board

Operating under the authority of the Secretary of Food and Agriculture, State of California

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cessful. You can see from the chart that yields are very impressive. It is hoped that the market will develop for this variety to diversify the California rice profile.

ROXY™ Rice Status

The progress on rice with the herbicide resistant ROXY™ trait for oxyfluorfen is slow but steady. The main delay is getting the herbicide registered for use on rice. The RES has a partner now with the company Al-

baugh. They specialize in post-patent materials and have done similar work in Colorado wheat. The CoAXium Wheat Production System combines elite varieties and a superior ACCase-inhibiting herbicide with a patented herbicide tolerant trait to bring wheat growers worldwide the most innovative and comprehensive technology for producing wheat. Albaugh will be taking the lead for getting oxyfluorfen registered on rice while RES continues to perfect the variety containing the ROXY™ trait.

was the observation of your Board of Directors when they heard about the opportunity put forward by UC President Janet Napolitano that offered a dollar for dollar match to establish a Chair for UCCE. Language for the agreement was crafted to narrowly focus the research on California rice and to have UCCE advisors and specialists eligible. Once the language was agreed to, the RRB contributed \$500,000 and the UC also chipped in \$500,000 for the

holding the Chair.

The \$1 million UC Cooperative Extension Presidential Chair for California Grown Rice has been awarded to Whitney Brim-DeForest, UCCE rice advisor for Sutter, Yuba, Placer, Sacramento and Butte counties.

Brim-DeForest said she will use the funds generated from the endowed chair to hire a full-time technician to monitor a research study at UC Davis on weedy rice. She is part of a team of UC scientists that includes UCCE advisors Luis Espino and Michelle Lindfelder-Miles, and UCCE specialists Bruce Linqvist and Kassim Al-Khatib who are conducting the five-year demonstration project to help farmers manage the problem.

“We don't know where weedy rice came from,” Brim-DeForest said. “It's a weed in every major rice growing area around the

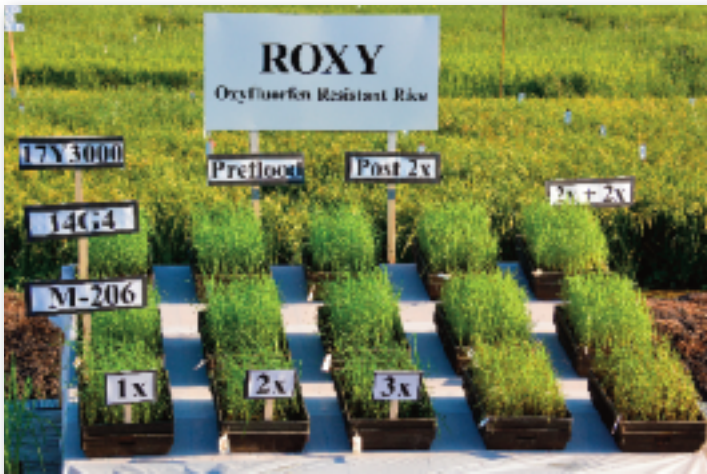
world. We were among the last areas to see it.”

In the UC Davis experiment, the scientists plan to demonstrate two potential weedy rice management strategies: rotate the rice crop with sorghum and create a “stale seed bed,” in which the field is irrigated and plants allowed to germinate, and then killed with an herbicide before the desired rice is planted.

“We want to demonstrate this in the field,” Brim-DeForest said. “In theory, it works. We want to show growers how long it will take to get weedy rice out of their fields.”

The chair appointment will be for a five-year term, and then reviewed and renewed or offered to another specialist or advisor working on California rice.

Brim-DeForest joined UCCE in 2016 after serving as a graduate student researcher in the Department of Plant Sciences at UC Davis, working at the California Rice Experiment Station in Biggs. She managed the UC Davis Weed Science field and greenhouse trials, and worked with industry and academic scientists to design field and greenhouse trials for weed management in rice.



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UCCE Presidential Chair for California Grown Rice. So now you have a million dollar fund that produces roughly \$40,000 per year to support the research of the person



Whitney Brim-DeForest, UCCE

UCCE Presidential Chair

As rice growers, you know a deal when you see one. This