

ARKANSAS RICE RESEARCH AND PROMOTION BOARD MEETING

Minutes

December 7, 2024

5:00 p.m.

The Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board meeting was held at the Little Rock Marriott, 3 Statehouse Plaza, Little Rock, AR.

Member(s) present: Becton Bell, Jay Coker, David Gairhan, Scott Matthews, Carl Phillips, Jeff Rutledge, Paul Schwarz, Jim Whitaker, Charles Williams

Chair Whitaker called the meeting to order and welcomed all members and guests.

Minutes of the November 6, 2024, Rice Research and Promotion Board meeting were presented for review and approval.

Moved by Phillips, seconded by Gairhan to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

Inoussa Zaki, Chief Fiscal Officer, presented the financial report for July 1, 2024, through November 31, 2024, shown as **Attachment 1**.

Moved by Williams, seconded by Coker to approve the financial report as presented.

Motion carried.

Chair Whitaker stated Wayne Wiggins has served as the Col-Rice representative for the state of Arkansas for approximately 15 years and is stepping down from that position. A replacement needs to be elected by the board.

Matthews nominated Bill Weeks. Rutledge stated Dow Brantley had expressed interest in the position.

Moved by Matthews, seconded by Schwarz to elect Bill Weeks as the Col-Rice representative for the state of Arkansas.

Motion carried.

Chair Whitaker stated the issue of designating ex officio members for the board was tabled at the last meeting. Chair Whitaker stated in 1993 the board voted to have three industry

advisors. This practice has been carried forward since 1993, and the positions have often been referred to as "ex officio" positions. Currently serving are Colin Holzhaeuer and Keith Glover.

Chair Whitaker spoke with the Department's legal counsel, stating the practice does not violate the board's authorizing statute since the industry advisors cannot vote and the board has the authority to enact governing rules.

Much discussion followed.

Moved by Gairhan, seconded by Rutledge to untable the motion.

Motion carried.

Moved by Schwarz, seconded by Matthews to remove all ex officio members.

By roll call vote, the motion carried. Voting no were Coker, Whitaker, Gairhan, and Rutledge. Voting yes were Matthews, Williams, Bell, Phillips, and Schwarz.

Peter Bachmann, President and CEO, and others gave presentations on USA Rice. Presentations are shown as **Attachment 2**.

Bachmann stated each USA Rice member organization has its own board of directors, consisting of USA Rice Council, USA Rice Farmers, USA Rice Millers' Association and USA Merchants' Association. Further background is shown in the attachment.

Other staff gave updates on USA Rice activities. Sarah Moran, Chief Operating Officer; Cameron Jacobs, VP, Domestic Promotion; Josh Hankins, Director, Grower Relations and Rice Stewardship Partnership; Michael Klein, VP, Communications and Strategic Development; Steve Linscombe, Director, The Rice Foundation; Jamison Cruce, VP, Government Affairs; and Shelby Young, Manager, Government Affairs/PAC.

Chair Whitaker stated the next board meeting is scheduled for February 5 and 6, 2025 at the Arkansas Department of Agriculture. These will be funding proposal meetings.

Chair Whitaker recognized Cap Phillips who will be traveling to Guatemala on a trade mission, representing the board.

Meeting adjourned.



Jim Whitaker, Chairman

**Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board
Income, Expenses, and Accumulated Revenue
July 01, 2024 Through November 31, 2024**

REVENUE:

Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 1,065,930
Gross Collections	\$ 2,666,772
Producer	\$ 1,333,324
Buyer	\$ 1,333,324
Audit penalties and interest	\$ 124

DEDUCTIONS:

Less Revenue and Treas. (3.1%)	\$ 80,003
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TOTAL AVAILABLE REVENUE \$ 3,653,250

EXPENDITURES:

Board Member Expenses	\$ 2,277
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Program Expenses:

USA Rice Council	\$ 945,643
University of Arkansas	\$ 1,242,277
Producer Information	\$ -
Rice Foundation	\$ -
Coop. Ext. Service	\$ -
Total Program	\$ 2,187,920

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$ 2,190,197

ACCUMULATED REVENUE: \$ 1,463,052

Contingency Reserve	\$ -
Payable to Rice Foundation	\$ -
Payable to USA Rice Council	\$ 444,638
Payable to UofA	\$ 951,691
Unallocated Balance	\$ 66,723

Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board
Projection of Collections
As of November 31, 2024

	PROJECTED			Current Year Actual
	@ 100% of Max. Gross Collections	@ 95% of Max. Gross Collections	@ 90% of Max. Gross Collections	
Production, measured in bushels	241,680,000	229,596,000	217,512,000	98,769,351
Rate	\$0.027	\$0.027	\$0.027	\$0.027
Max. Gross Collections (MGC)	\$6,525,360	\$6,199,092	\$5,872,824	\$2,666,772
ACTUAL COLLECTIONS:				
Producer Collections	\$3,262,680	\$3,099,546	\$2,936,412	\$1,333,324
Buyer Collections	\$3,262,680	\$3,099,546	\$2,936,412	\$1,333,324
Audit Settlements (Penalties and Interest)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$124
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$6,525,360	\$6,199,092	\$5,872,824	\$2,666,772
Percent of MGC Realized				40.87% †
Less:				
Revenue and Treasury (3.1%)	\$202,286	\$192,172	\$182,058	\$80,003
Board Expenses	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$2,277
Total	\$207,286	\$197,172	\$187,058	\$82,280
NET COLLECTIONS	\$6,323,074	\$6,006,920	\$5,690,766	\$2,586,769
Beginning Balance	\$1,065,930	\$1,065,930	\$1,065,930	\$1,065,930
Due USA Rice from Previous Year	\$98,036	\$98,036	\$98,036	\$98,036
Unallocated Beginning Balance (Research)	\$967,894	\$967,894	\$967,894	\$967,894
PROMOTION/MARKET DEVELOPMENT:				
AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$3,257,073	\$3,098,996	\$2,940,919	\$1,390,282
USA Rice Council	\$3,257,073	\$3,098,996	\$2,940,919	\$945,643
RESEARCH:				
AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$4,126,931	\$3,968,854	\$3,810,777	\$2,260,140
24-25 Research Funding	\$342,277	\$342,277	\$342,277	\$342,277
25-26 Research Funding	\$3,784,654	\$3,626,577	\$3,468,500	\$1,917,863
25-26 Research Funding Advance	(\$2,000,000)	(\$2,000,000)	(\$2,000,000)	(\$1,851,691)
Contingency Reserve	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Unallocated Balance	\$1,784,654	\$1,626,577	\$1,468,500	\$66,172

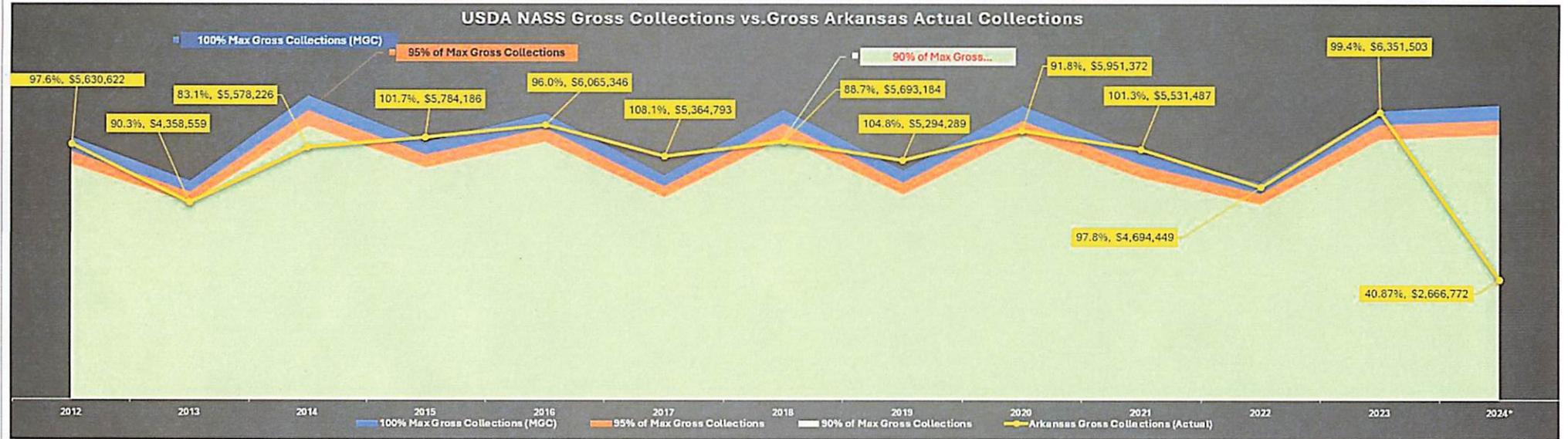
* 2024 Production est. based on September 2024 USDA/NASS Forecast. of 1.431 mil. acres harvested @ 7,600 lbs/acre

† Percent of the \$6,525,360 (MGC) realized to date.

USDA NASS Gross Collections vs Arkansas Actual Gross Collections

USDA NASS Arkansas acreage, yield, production, and price; check-off rate per bushel; USDA NASS estimated gross collections by fiscal year; and Arkansas actual gross collections by fiscal year for production years 2012 to 2024

Production Year Fiscal Year, July 1 - June 30	2012 FY-2013	2013 FY-2014	2014 FY-2015	2015 FY-2016	2016 FY-2017	2017 FY-2018	2018 FY-2019	2019 FY-2020	2020 FY-2021	2021 FY-2022	2022 FY-2023	2023 FY-2024	2024* FY-2025
Planted Acres	1,291,000	1,076,000	1,466,000	1,311,000	1,546,000	1,161,000	1,441,000	1,161,000	1,461,000	1,211,000	1,106,000	1,436,000	1,451,000
Harvested Acres	1,285,000	1,064,000	1,480,000	1,291,000	1,521,000	1,104,000	1,422,000	1,126,000	1,441,000	1,193,000	1,080,000	1,411,000	1,431,000
Yield, measured in pounds / acre	7,480	7,560	7,560	7,340	6,920	7,490	7,520	7,480	7,500	7,630	7,410	7,550	7,600
Yield, measured in bushels / acre	166	168	168	163	154	166	167	166	167	170	165	168	169
Production, measured in pounds	9,611,800,000	8,043,840,000	11,188,800,000	9,475,940,000	10,525,320,000	8,268,960,000	10,693,440,000	8,422,480,000	10,807,500,000	9,102,590,000	8,002,800,000	10,653,050,000	10,875,600,000
Production, measured in bushels	213,595,556	178,752,000	248,640,000	210,576,444	233,696,000	183,754,667	237,632,000	187,166,222	240,166,667	202,279,778	177,840,000	236,734,444	241,660,000
Price received, measured in \$ / cwt	\$ 14.30	\$ 15.20	\$ 12.00	\$ 10.90	\$ 9.39	\$ 11.10	\$ 10.70	\$ 11.90	\$ 12.50	\$ 13.50	\$ 16.70	\$ 16.00	\$ 15.10
Price received, measured in \$ / bushels	\$ 6.44	\$ 6.84	\$ 5.40	\$ 4.91	\$ 4.23	\$ 5.00	\$ 4.82	\$ 5.36	\$ 5.63	\$ 6.08	\$ 7.52	\$ 7.20	\$ 6.80
Rate	\$0.0270	\$0.0270	\$0.0270	\$0.0270	\$0.0270	\$0.0270	\$0.0270	\$0.0270	\$0.0270	\$0.0270	\$0.0270	\$0.0270	\$0.0270
Rate - Arkansas rice farmers and handlers each pay \$0.0135 per bushel sold for the Arkansas Rice Checkoff program.													
100% Max Gross Collections (MGC)	\$ 5,767,060	\$ 4,826,304	\$ 6,713,260	\$ 5,685,564	\$ 6,315,192	\$ 4,961,376	\$ 6,416,064	\$ 5,053,468	\$ 6,484,500	\$ 5,461,554	\$ 4,801,680	\$ 6,391,830	\$ 6,525,360
95% of Max Gross Collections	\$ 5,478,726	\$ 4,584,989	\$ 6,377,616	\$ 5,401,286	\$ 5,999,432	\$ 4,713,307	\$ 6,095,261	\$ 4,800,814	\$ 6,160,275	\$ 5,188,476	\$ 4,561,596	\$ 6,072,239	\$ 6,199,092
90% of Max Gross Collections	\$ 5,190,372	\$ 4,343,674	\$ 6,041,952	\$ 5,117,008	\$ 5,683,673	\$ 4,465,238	\$ 5,774,458	\$ 4,548,139	\$ 5,836,050	\$ 4,915,399	\$ 4,321,512	\$ 5,752,647	\$ 5,872,824
Arkansas Gross Collections (Actual)	\$ 5,630,622	\$ 4,358,559	\$ 5,578,226	\$ 5,784,186	\$ 6,065,346	\$ 5,364,793	\$ 5,693,184	\$ 5,294,289	\$ 5,951,372	\$ 5,531,487	\$ 4,694,449	\$ 6,351,503	\$ 2,666,772
Arkansas Gross Collections (Actual) % of MGC	97.6%	90.3%	83.1%	101.7%	96.0%	108.1%	88.7%	104.8%	91.8%	101.3%	97.8%	99.4%	40.87%





USA RICE 101

Little Rock, AR
December 7, 2024



Attachment 2

USA RICE

Our mission is to ensure the health and vitality of a unified U.S. rice industry by advocating on behalf of farmers, millers, merchants, and allied businesses.

USA Rice Council

Overseeing State
Promotion Funds and
Voluntary Mill Dues

USA Rice Farmers

Representing Every
U.S. Rice Farmer

USA Rice Millers' Association

Representing U.S. Rice
Milling Industry
and Allied Businesses

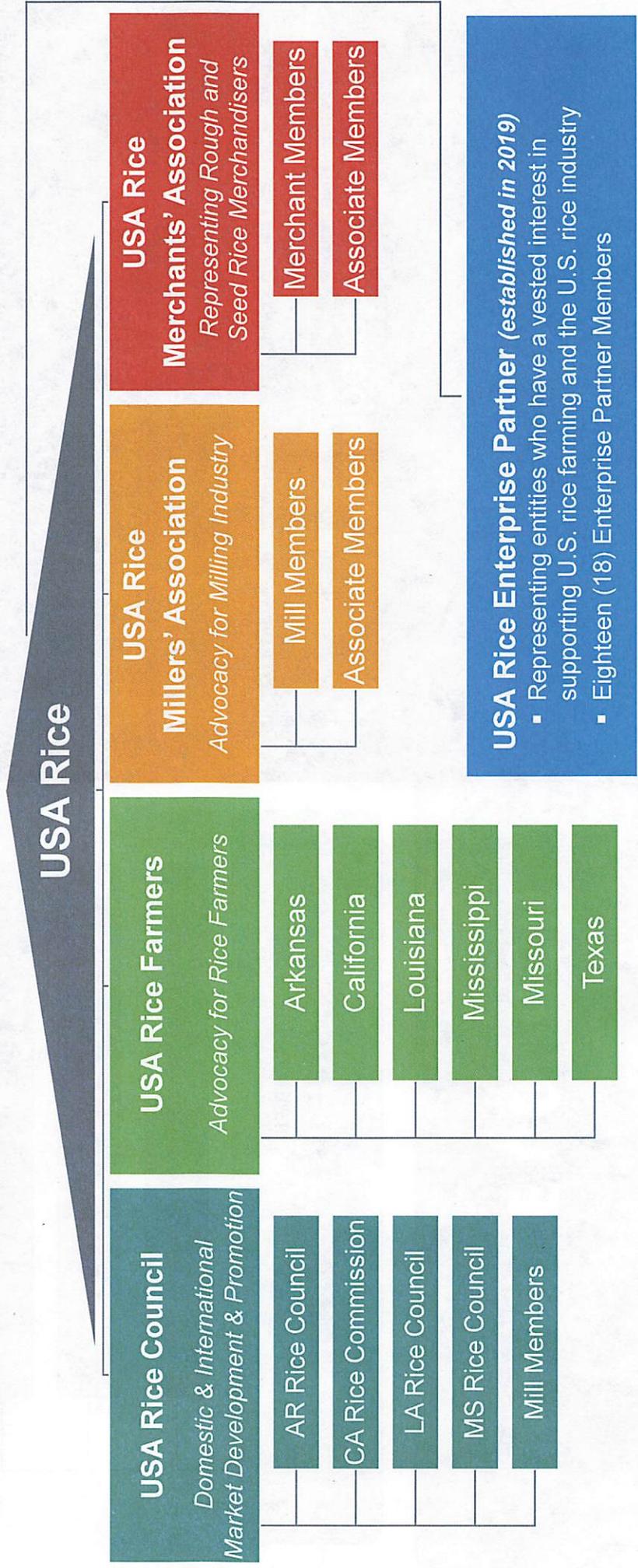
USA Rice Merchants' Association

Representing
Rough and Seed Rice
Merchandisers

Each USA Rice member organization has its own board of directors, bylaws, governance, revenue & expenses, and assigned staff liaison

USA RICE MEMBERSHIP

Representing 100% of the U.S. rice industry



USA RICE COUNCIL

STAFF LIAISON: CAMERON JACOBS

Board of Directors

Currently 45 Directors

AR Rice Council (19)

CA Rice Commission (8)

LA Rice Council (7)

MS Rice Council (3)

Rice Millers (8)

Membership

- Founded in 1958
- Number of producer directors per state based on 3-year average of state's dues
 - \$50,000 to \$100,000 = 1 seat
 - \$100,001 to \$150,000 = 2 seats
 - 1 seat for each additional \$150,000 or part thereof
- Miller representation is also based on financial contribution
 - First \$100,000 = 3 seats
 - 1 seat for each additional \$100,000 or part thereof

USA RICE FARMERS

STAFF LIAISON: JAMISON CRUCE

Board of Directors

Currently 73 Directors

Arkansas (14)

California (13)

Louisiana (15)

Mississippi (8)

Missouri (9)

Texas (14)

Membership

- Formally USA Rice Producers' Group (name change in 2015)
- Member states name producer directors annually
 - Minimum of 8 directors per state
 - Voting is by state; 1 vote per state



USA RICE MILLERS' ASSOCIATION

STAFF LIAISON: MICHAEL KLEIN

Board of Directors

Currently 29 Directors

Rice Millers (29)

Membership

- Founded in 1899
- Currently 29 mill members and 32 associate members including traders, exporters, brokers, end users, allied businesses
- Each mill member names one director to the board

USA RICE MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION

STAFF LIAISON: SARAH MORAN

Board of Directors

Currently 14 Directors

Merchants (14)

Membership

- Founded in 2005
- Currently 25 merchant members (rough and seed rice merchandisers) and 5 associate members (allied businesses)
- Board members are elected from amongst the merchant members of the association

USA RICE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

25 Members

STAFF LIAISON: PETER BACHMANN

13 Farmers

Elected by
Member States

- Arkansas (3)
- California (3)
- Louisiana (3)
- Mississippi (2)
- Missouri (1)
- Texas (1)

10 Millers

Elected by
USA Rice Millers' Association

- RMA Chair
- RMA Vice Chair
- RMA Immediate Past Chair
- 7 other RMA members

2 Merchants

Elected by
USA Rice Merchants' Association

- USA Rice Merchants' Association Chair
- USA Rice Merchants' Immediate Past Chair

USA RICE PAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

24 Members

STAFF LIAISON: SHELBY YOUNG

At least one (1) member from each state PAC

At least one (1) member from each cooperative PAC

At least one (1) producer from each state

At least one (1) representative of the
Rice Leadership Class

At least (1) RMA representative*

*RMA appoints six (6) representatives to the PAC Board; these same representatives serve on the USA Rice Government Affairs Committee

USA RICE COMMITTEES

- Members appointed to 2 year terms by USA Rice Chair based on committee needs and member interest
- Committees must have at least 3 producers, 3 millers, 1 merchant, and 1 Rice Leadership Alumni *
- Committees are capped at 30 members, subcommittees at 20

**Membership on USA Rice's Audit, Executive, and Finance Committee is calculated differently*

USA RICE COMMITTEE POLICIES

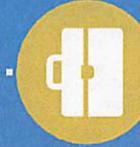
All voting members must sign and comply with USA Rice's policies concerning antitrust, code of conduct, conflict of interest, harassment, and whistleblowers.

Committee members are expected to maintain an attendance rate of 80% to avoid termination.

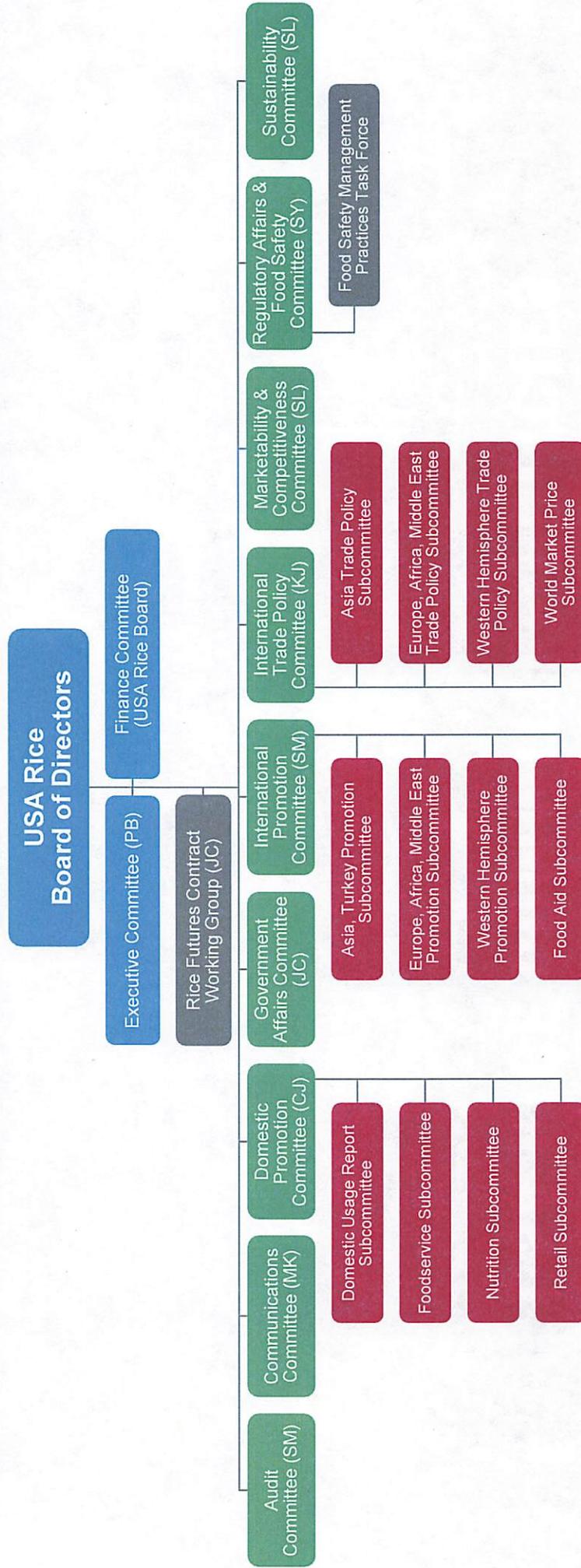
**Exceptions to this policy are the Audit, Executive, and Government Affairs Committee*

Committee members serve without compensation.

Producer representatives who serve on boards and committees of USA Rice, USA Rice Farmers, and/or USA Rice Council are eligible for reimbursement of allowable travel expenses incurred by attending official meetings in the capacity of a board and/or committee member (or designated alternate).

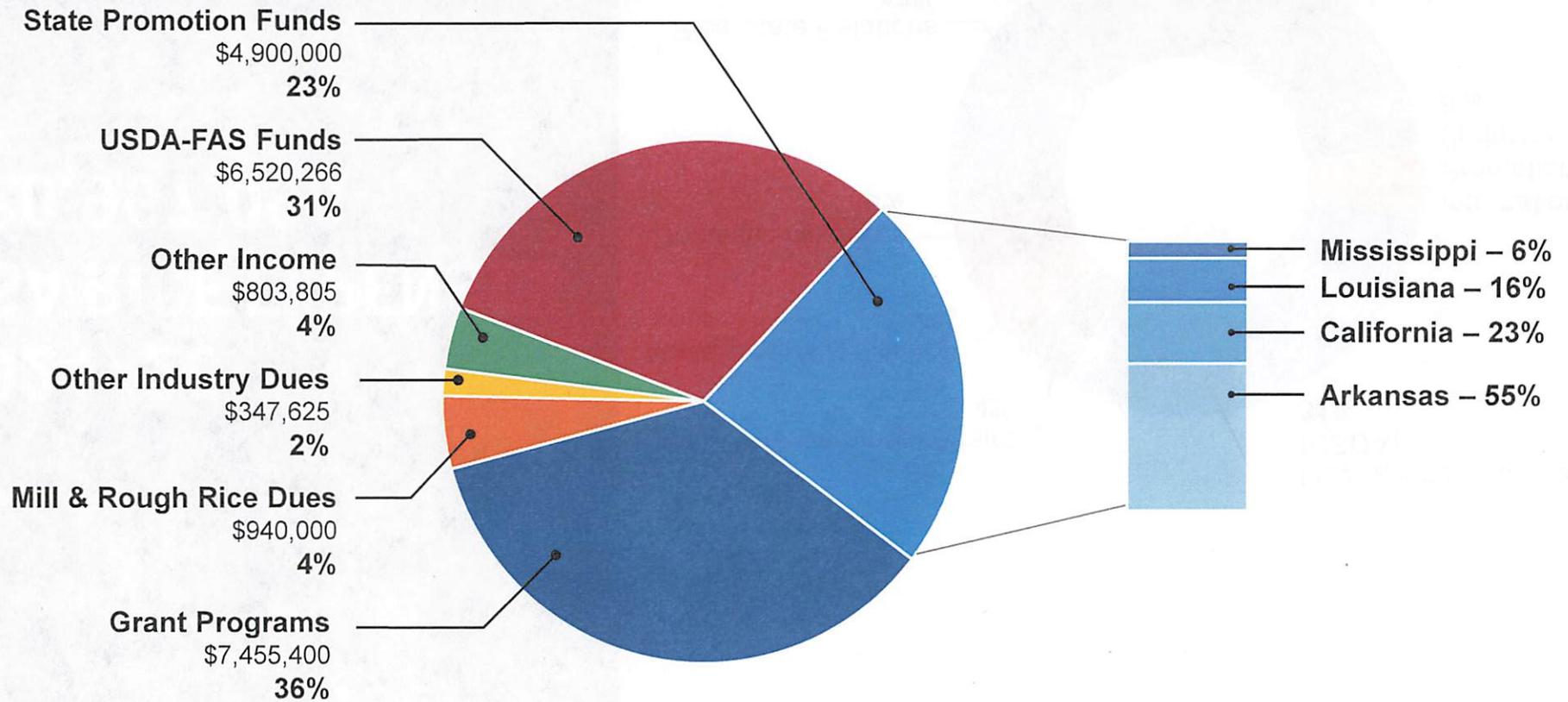


USA RICE COMMITTEE CHART

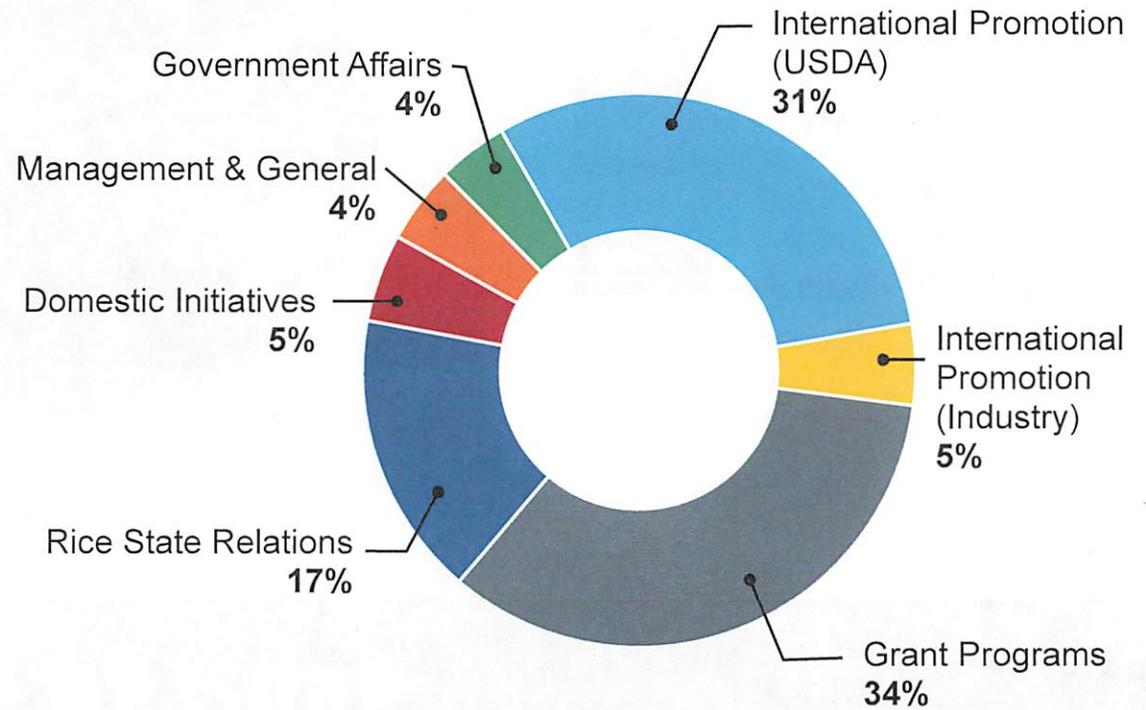


2024/25 USA RICE REVENUE

\$20,967,096



2024/25
USA RICE EXPENSES
\$20,967,096



MEMBERS MONITOR FINANCIAL ACTIVITY



Monthly financial statements emailed



Budget variances regularly updated



Discussed at board meetings



Annual audit conducted

USA RICE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Feb/May/Nov

USA Rice Member Washington, DC Fly-ins

March

Virtual Board Meetings

June

RMA Annual Convention

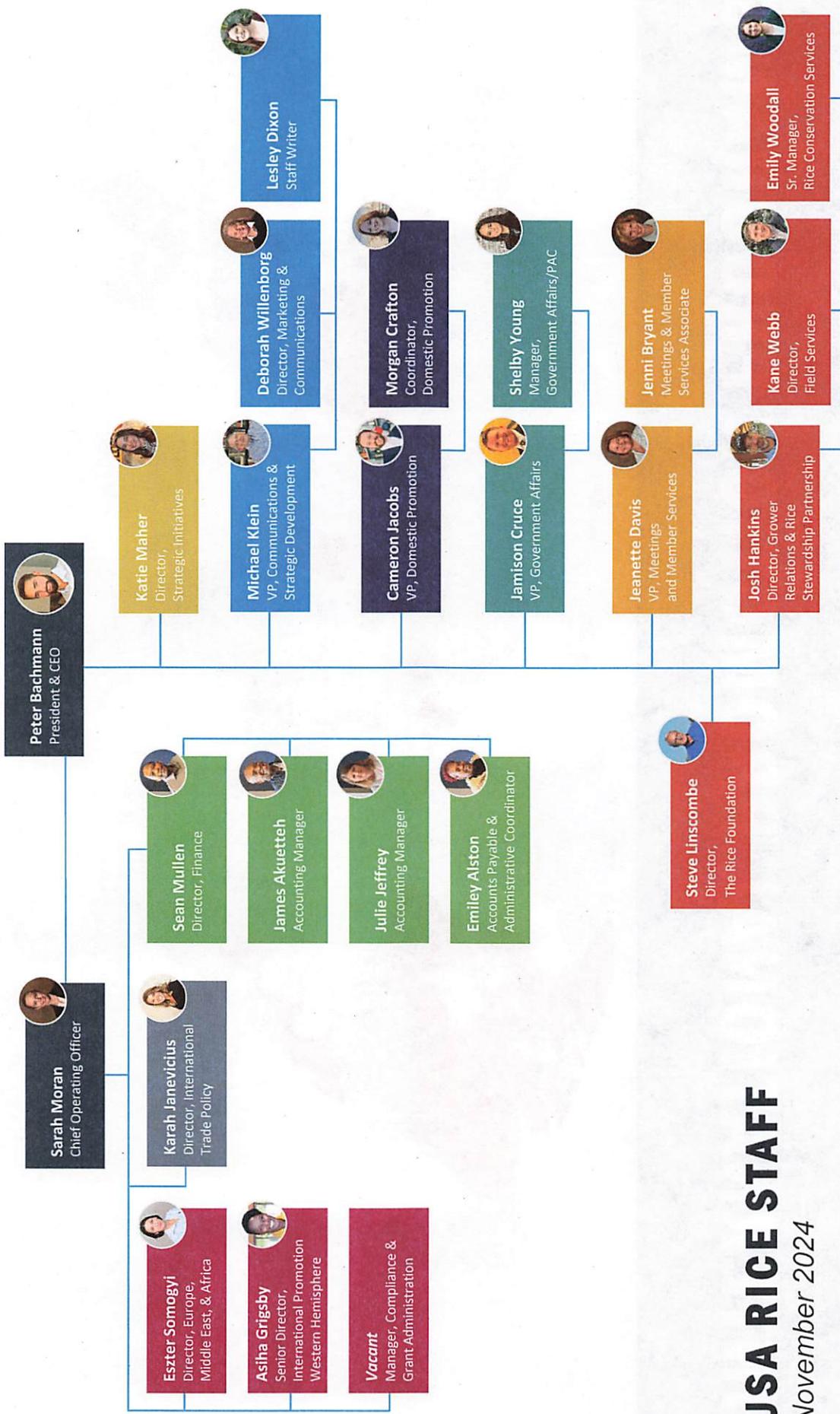
July

USA Rice Annual Business Meetings

December

USA Rice Outlook Conference

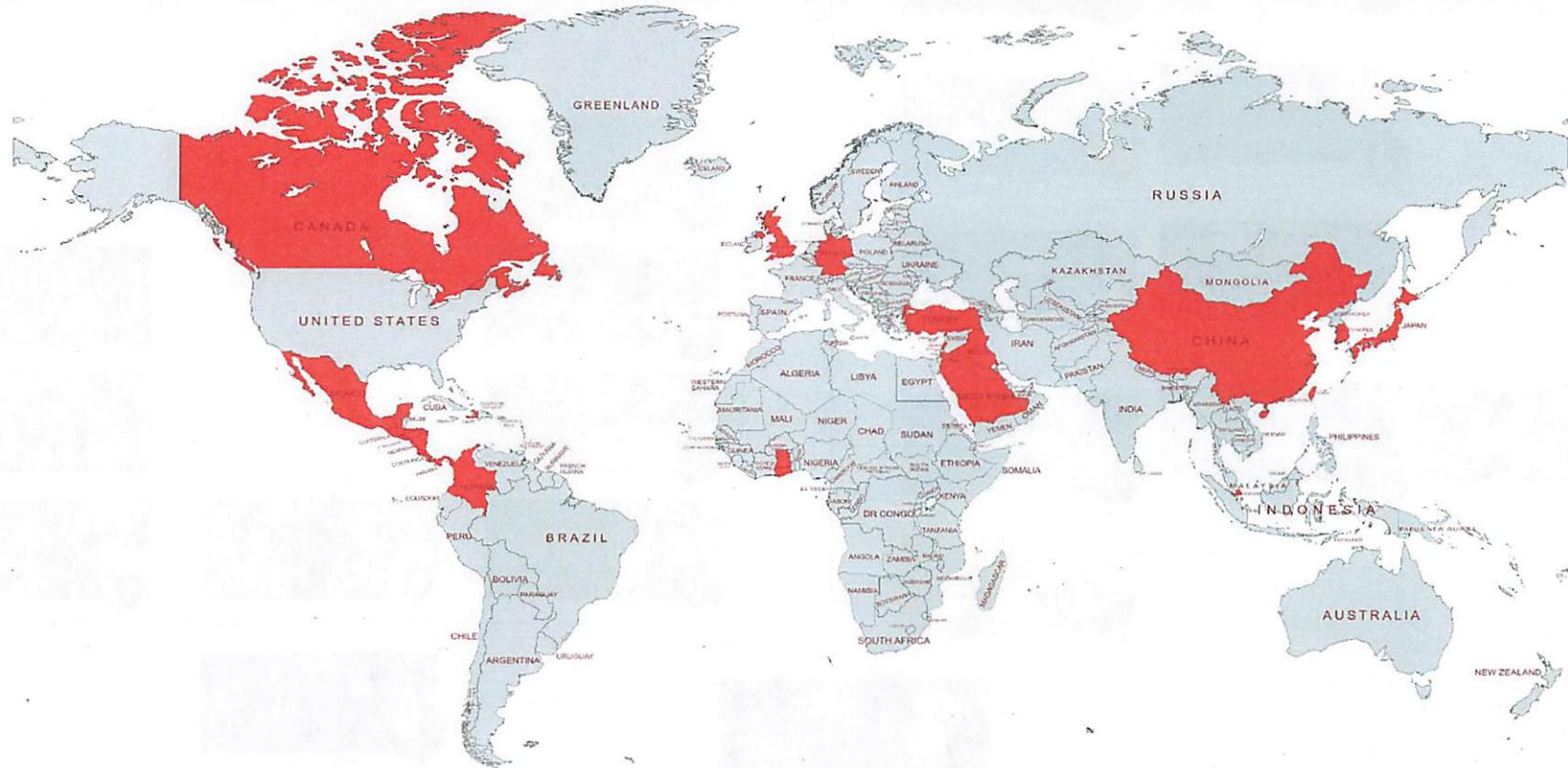
Conference calls and additional meetings as needed



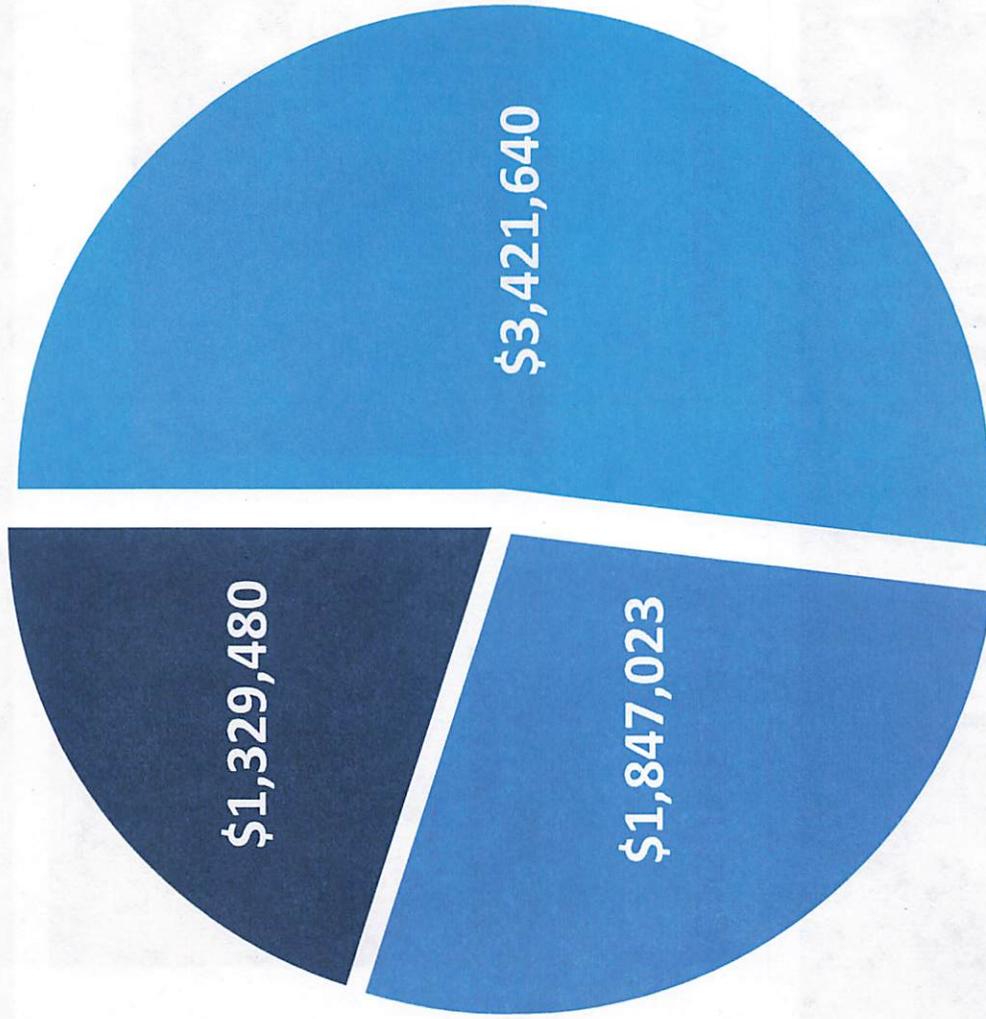
USA RICE STAFF

November 2024

INTERNATIONAL PROMOTION PROGRAMS



USDA Funding: >\$6.5M



MAP
FMD
RAPP

INTERNATIONAL PROMOTION PROGRAM AREAS

CONSUMER/RETAIL

**Hand me a
cup of rice
& I'll give you...**

*an easy &
affordable
dinner*



TRADE OUTREACH



FOODSERVICE

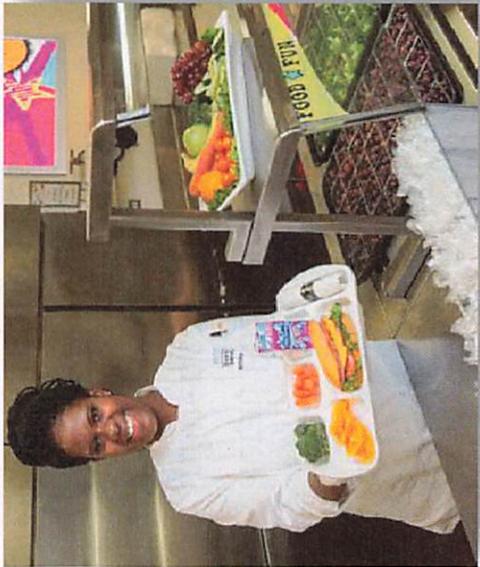


DOMESTIC PROMOTION PROGRAM AREAS

CONSUMER/RETAIL



FOODSERVICE



NUTRITION



DOMESTIC PROMOTION PROGRAMMING

- Chain Engagement
- Distributor Outreach
- Menu Ideation
- Chef Relations
- Non-Commercial Engagement

Foodservice



- Retail Partnerships
- Influencer Program
- Resource Development
- Consumption Research
- Consumer Events

Retail &
Consumer



- Nutrition Policy
- Trade Shows
- Research
- RD Program
- K-12 Outreach
- School Recipe Development

Nutrition



USA RICE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS POLICY PRIORITY AREAS



Domestic
Farm Policy



Environmental
& Production
Regulations

nutrition facts
Serving size: 1/2 bag (50g dry rice, makes about 1 cup cooked)

	Per 1/2 bag 180	Per bag 360
	% DV*	% DV*
Calories	180	360
Total Fat	0g 0%	5g 1%
Saturated Fat	0g 0%	0g 0%
Trans Fat	0g 0%	0g 0%
Cholesterol	0mg 0%	0mg 0%
Sodium	0mg 0%	0mg 0%
Total Carbohydrate	41g 15%	82g 30%
Dietary Fiber	1g 4%	1g 4%
Total Sugars	0g 0%	0g 0%
Incl. Added Sugars	0g 0%	0g 0%
Protein	8g	17g
Vitamin D	0mcg 0%	0mcg 0%
Calcium	0mg 0%	0mg 0%
Iron	0mg 0%	0mg 0%
Potassium	0mg 0%	0mg 0%

nutrition facts
Serving size: 1/3 bag (50g dry rice, makes about 1 cup cooked)

	Amount per serving Calories 180
	% Daily Value*
Calories	180
Total Fat	0g 0%
Saturated Fat	0g 0%
Trans Fat	0g 0%
Cholesterol	0mg 0%
Sodium	0mg 0%
Total Carbohydrate	41g 15%
Dietary Fiber	1g 4%
Total Sugars	0g 0%
Includes 0g Added Sugars	0% 0%
Protein	8g
Vitamin D	0mcg 0%
Calcium	0mg 0%
Iron	0mg 0%
Potassium	0mg 0%

Food Safety &
Labeling



Trade Policy &
International
Food Aid

Additional Priority Area Added for 2025: Labor and Workforce

2022 RICE PRODUCTION PROGRAM

USA RICE REQUEST

- Request originated with the USA Rice Farmers, seeking assistance to offset input costs
- Appealed to both USDA and Congress
- Studies conducted by the Agricultural and Food Policy Center vital

OUTCOME

- \$250 million for U.S. rice farmers included in the FY23 omnibus appropriations bill
- Payment by USDA for 2022 acres

USA Rice
 2022 Rice Production Program - 2022-11-16 (Page 9) - 2022-11-16 (Page 9) - 2022-11-16 (Page 9)

February 23, 2022
 The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack
 Secretary
 U.S. Department of Agriculture
 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
 Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

Thank you for your work on behalf of America's farmers and ranchers. As you continue to develop and implement programs to support the agriculture community, we would like to be consulted on the open and direct dialogue with you and your staff about the needs of the rice farmers we represent.

As the Chairman of USA Rice Farmers, representing rice farmers in all major rice producing states, I am writing to provide assistance to the rice farmers who are facing both low commodity prices and high input costs. I highlight the unique challenges that rice farmers face and the need for continued support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Unlike other major crops, rice has a high input cost, the increase of which is significantly higher than other crops. The increase in U.S. rice input costs is significantly higher than other crops, and the price of rice is just 8 percent higher than the price of other major crops.

Similarly, the rice in major U.S. rice producing states is significantly higher than other crops, and the price of rice is just 8 percent higher than the price of other major crops.

USA Rice (AFPC) has long been the leading voice for rice farmers and food processors. We have worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to ensure that rice farmers receive the support they need to continue to produce rice for the American people.

The slight increase in rice prices (ARC) or Price Loss Contract (PLC) for rice farmers is a significant increase for input support for rice farmers.

Dr. Joe Outlaw

2024 FARM BILL PRIORITIES & ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR RICE FARMERS

Improved
PLC Program

Title 1



EQIP, CSP,
RCPP > CRP

Title 2



More Trade
Resources

Title 3



Improve
Rice Crop
Insurance

Title 11



USA Rice is also pursuing immediate, emergency economic assistance for the 2024 crop year for rice farmers.



**We look forward to
working with you.**

