

ARKANSAS RICE RESEARCH AND PROMOTION BOARD MEETING

Minutes

February 5, 2025

9:00 a.m.

and

February 6, 2025

8:30 a.m.

The Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board meeting was held at the Department of Agriculture, 1 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR.

Members present both days: Becton Bell, Jay Coker, David Gairhan, Scott Matthews, Jeff Rutledge, Paul Schwarz, Jim Whitaker, Charles Williams

Member(s) present via Zoom both days: Carl "Cap" Phillips

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

Minutes of the December 7, 2024 Rice Research and Promotion Board meeting were presented for review and approval.

**Moved by Williams, seconded by Gairhan to approve the December 7, 2024 minutes as presented.**

**Motion carried.**

**Moved by Williams, seconded by Gairhan to approve board travel reimbursement for 2025.**

**Motion carried.**

Inoussa Zaki, Chief Fiscal Officer, presented the financial report for the period ending December 31, 2024, shown as **Attachment 1**.

Zaki covered the board's revenue, deductions, expenditures, and accumulated revenue.

Also included is a projection of collections as of December 31, 2024, and a graph showing where the board stands as of December. Zaki expects to reach 99 percent collected by the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2025.

The rest of the report includes the proposals being presented to the board for the 2025-26 funding.

In 2024-25, the board approved \$2.9 million in research projects. Currently, the total project proposals for 2025-26 are at \$4.2 million.

A correction was made to the financial report that was distributed and will be amended for the minutes.

**Moved by Rutledge, seconded by Coker to approve the financial report as amended.**

**Motion carried.**

The board heard and reviewed research proposals and participated in questions and answers with the researchers, followed by discussion.

The board recessed for lunch.

Upon returning from lunch, proposal presentations continued.

In response to a question from Phillips about royalties from private technology companies to the University of Arkansas on varieties developed through the breeding program, Dr. Slaton, University of Arkansas, explained the royalty process and the existing Memorandums of Agreement (MOA) between the University of Arkansas and the board. After extensive discussion, Williams suggested the board revisit the existing MOAs to determine if any changes are needed.

Chair Whittaker stated that Arkansas Rice has invited the board to dinner following this meeting.

The meeting was recessed until Thursday morning, February 6, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.

Chair Whittaker called day two of the meeting to order.

In response to questions posed earlier, Dr. Nathan Slaton addressed the budget form scientists use to develop a dollar amount for their proposals. It is divided into several categories, including salary/wages, fringes, travel, direct costs of maintenance and operations, and station maintenance.

Regarding questions about the increased budget requests for some projects this year, Dr. Slaton stated several factors could be at play. These include higher project costs, the need to hire additional personnel, or previous funding at reduced levels prompting a request for more funds this year.

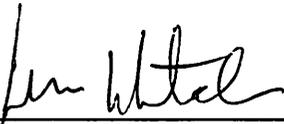
At this time, the board considered each proposal and selected the projects to fund. Projects funded by the Board are shown as **Attachment 2**.

**Moved by Bell, seconded by Coker to approve the funding as discussed.**

**Motion carried.**

Schwarz and Matthews provided information from Simmons Bank about a program that could be used to manage the investment of the Columbia TRQ funds. After discussion about how The Rice Foundation was selected to administer the funds at the inception of the Columbia TRQ agreement, how McGehee Bank was selected last year through a Request for Proposals to manage the investment of the funds, and how McGehee Bank makes investment decisions, the board agreed to maintain the current arrangement.

Meeting adjourned.



---

Jim Whitaker, Chairman

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

**REVENUE:**

Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 1,065,930
Gross Collections	\$ 3,187,382
Producer	\$ 1,593,443
Buyer	\$ 1,593,443
Audit penalties and interest	\$ 496

**DEDUCTIONS:**

Less Revenue and Treas. (3.1%)	\$ 95,621
--------------------------------	-----------

**TOTAL AVAILABLE REVENUE** \$ 4,158,241

**EXPENDITURES:**

Board Member Expenses	\$ 3,100
-----------------------	----------

## Program Expenses:

USA Rice Council	\$ 1,390,282
University of Arkansas	\$ 2,193,968
Producer Information	\$ -
Rice Foundation	\$ -
Coop. Ext. Service	\$ -
Total Program	\$ 3,584,250

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES** \$ 3,584,250

**ACCUMULATED REVENUE:** \$ 570,892

Contingency Reserve	\$ -
Payable to Rice Foundation	\$ -
Payable to USA Rice Council	\$ 252,084
Payable to UofA	\$ 148,309
Unallocated Balance	\$ 170,498

**Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board**  
**Projection of Collections**  
**As of December 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	118,051,195
Rate	\$0.027	\$0.027	\$0.027	\$0.027
Max. Gross Collections (MGC)	\$6,525,360	\$6,199,092	\$5,872,824	\$3,187,382
<b>ACTUAL COLLECTIONS:</b>				
Producer Collections	\$3,262,680	\$3,099,546	\$2,936,412	\$1,593,443
Buyer Collections	\$3,262,680	\$3,099,546	\$2,936,412	\$1,593,443
Audit Settlements (Penalties and Interest)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$496
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$6,525,360	\$6,199,092	\$5,872,824	\$3,187,382
Percent of MGC Realized				48.85% †
Less:				
Revenue and Treasury (3.1%)	\$202,286	\$192,172	\$182,058	\$95,621
Board Expenses	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$3,100
Total	\$207,286	\$197,172	\$187,058	\$98,721
NET COLLECTIONS	\$6,323,074	\$6,006,920	\$5,690,766	\$3,091,761
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
<b>PROMOTION/MARKET DEVELOPMENT:</b>				
AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$3,257,073	\$3,098,996	\$2,940,919	\$1,642,366
USA Rice Council	\$3,257,073	\$3,098,996	\$2,940,919	\$1,390,282
<b>RESEARCH:</b>				
AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$4,126,931	\$3,968,854	\$3,810,777	\$2,512,225
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	\$2,169,948
25-26 Research Funding Advance	(\$2,000,000)	(\$2,000,000)	(\$2,000,000)	(\$2,000,000)
Contingency Reserve	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$551
Unallocated Balance	\$1,784,654	\$1,626,577	\$1,468,500	\$170,498

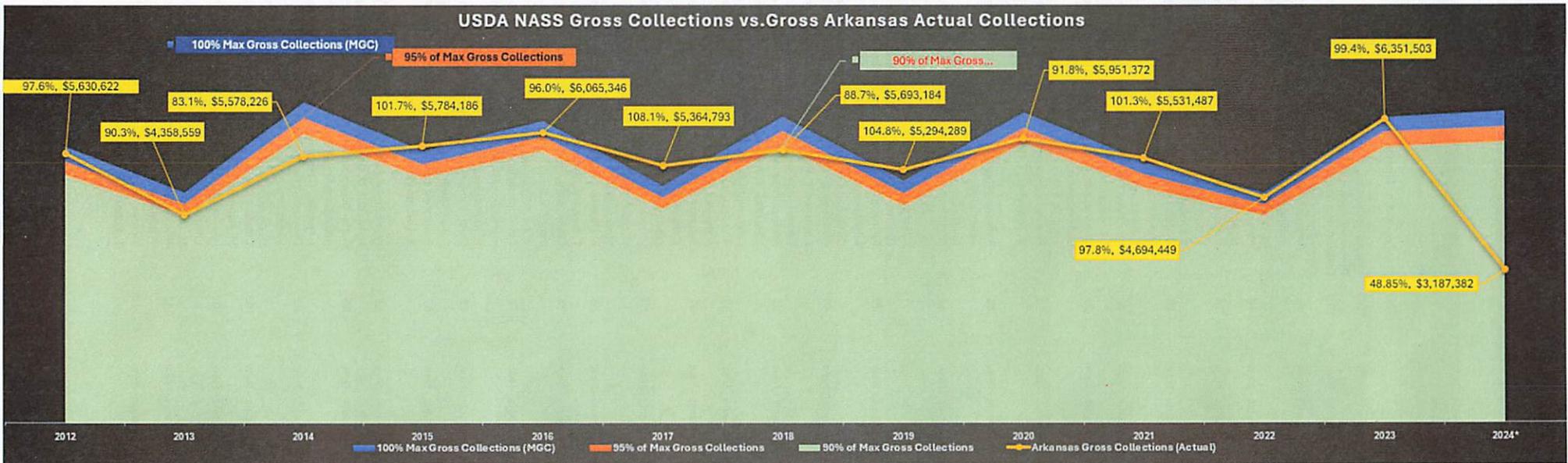
\* 2024 Production est. based on September 2024 USDA/NASS Forecast. of 1.431 mil. acres harvested @ 7,600 lbs/acre

† 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	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Fiscal Year, July 1 - June 30	FY-2013	FY-2014	FY-2015	FY-2016	FY-2017	FY-2018	FY-2019	FY-2020	FY-2021	FY-2022	FY-2023	FY-2024	FY-2025
Planted Acres	1,291,000	1,076,000	1,486,000	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	233,896,000	183,754,667	237,632,000	187,166,222	240,166,667	202,279,778	177,840,000	236,734,444	241,680,000
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)	\$ 5,767,080	\$ 4,826,304	\$ 6,713,280	\$ 5,685,564	\$ 6,315,192	\$ 4,961,376	\$ 6,416,064	\$ 5,053,488	\$ 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	\$ 3,187,382
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%	48.85%



Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board  
2025-2026 Proposals - February 5, 2025

Requester	Request Type	Page Number	PI and Title Proposed	2024-2025 Awarded	2025-2026 Proposed
G & H Associa	Research Proposals - New	TBD	Rice Milling Quality Studies	\$0	\$120,000
Rice Foundatic	Membership	TBD	Rice Foundation Membership (TRQ Funded)	\$35,000	\$35,000
ASU	Research Proposals - New	TBD	Rice silica used for ceramic/refractory production (2 Year Project) <b>Professor Zachary N. Tate, Dr. Arlene A. Adviento-Borbe</b>	\$0	\$74,550
College of Agri	Promotion Proposal - New	TBD	Developing a new snack stick utilizing Arkansas Rice with traditional meats <b>Corey Readour</b>	\$0	\$14,815
U of A	Research Proposals - New	6	Impact of specific agronomic and post-harvest practices on rice quality and milling yields (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>G. Atungulu and J. Hardke</b>	\$61,000	\$81,686
U of A	Research Proposals - New	10	Managing insects in Arkansas rice (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>N. Bateman, B. Thrash, R. Kariyat and J. Hardke</b>	\$135,000	\$168,095
U of A	Research Proposals - New	14	Development, evaluation and production of agricultural biologicals for Arkansas crop production (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>B. Bluhm, C. Nicolli and K. Cartwright</b>	\$0	\$23,357
U of A	Research Proposals - New	18	Understanding the abrasive wear rate of a combine by harvesting glabrous rice (smooth hull) and non-glabrous rice (hairy hull) (New, Year 1 of 1). <b>T. Burcham</b>	\$0	\$35,728
U of A	Research Proposals - New	22	Improving the management of furrow-irrigated rice (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>J. Chlapecka, J. Hardke and T. Roberts</b>	\$0	\$50,392
U of A	Research Proposals - New	26	Drone applications in integrated pest management: fertility, weed control, insect control, and disease management (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>J. Davis, T. Sourlock, C. Nicolli, B. Scott, T. Roberts and N. Bateman</b>	\$0	\$84,618
U of A	Research Proposals - New	34	Fine-tuning phosphorus and potassium management for Arkansas rice (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>G. Drescher, T. Roberts and J. Hardke</b>	\$58,000	\$72,529
U of A	Research Proposals - New	38	Assessing the economic impact of chalkiness in milled rice in selected export markets (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>Alvaro Durand-Morat and L. Nalley</b>	\$0	\$31,000
U of A	Research Proposals - New	42	DD50 thermal unit thresholds and seeding date effects for new rice cultivars (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>J. Hardke, T. Roberts, X. Sha, C. De Guzman, C. Nicolli, N. Bateman, D. Frizzell, E. Castaneda-Gonzalez, T. Clayton and H. Garrison</b>	\$65,000	\$66,000
U of A	Research Proposals - New	46	Nitrogen Recommendations for New Rice Cultivars (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>J. Hardke, T. Roberts, X. Sha, C. De Guzman, C. Nicolli, N. Bateman, D. Frizzell, E. Castaneda-Gonzalez, T. Clayton and H. Garrison</b>	\$64,000	\$64,000
U of A	Research Proposals - New	49	Arkansas rice performance trials (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>J. Hardke, T. Roberts, X. Sha, C. De Guzman, C. Nicolli, N. Bateman, D. Frizzell, E. Castaneda-Gonzalez, T. Clayton and H. Garrison</b>	\$96,000	\$94,000
U of A	Research Proposals - New	53	Arkansas rice variety advancement trials (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>J. Hardke, T. Roberts, X. Sha, C. De Guzman, C. Nicolli, N. Bateman, D. Frizzell, E. Castaneda-Gonzalez, T. Clayton and H. Garrison</b>	\$102,000	\$98,000
U of A	Research Proposals - New	57	Rice research verification program (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>J. Hardke, K. Watkins and R. Mazzanti</b>	\$116,639	\$116,000
U of A	Research Proposals - New	61	Agronomic production practices for rice (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>J. Hardke, T. Roberts, X. Sha, C. De Guzman, C. Nicolli, N. Bateman, D. Frizzell, E. Castaneda-Gonzalez, T. Clayton and H. Garrison</b>	\$103,000	\$103,000
U of A	Research Proposals - New	65	Irrigation technology delivery for rice (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>C. Henry, M. Reba, T. Burcham, R. Parker, N. Blankenship, S. Vaman, K. Keller and M. McGougall</b>	\$85,000	\$128,006
U of A	Research Proposals - New	69	Evaluation of rice-fish co-culture using koi and goldfish (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>T. Huggins, R. Lochman, Y. Jia and A. Adviento-Borbe</b>	\$0	\$52,402
U of A	Research Proposals - New	73	Determining the role of fissure resistance and chalkiness in governing head rice yield (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>Y. Jia, J. Thomas, J. Edwards, G. Atungulu, X. Sha and C. De Guzman</b>	\$0	\$102,020
U of A	Research Proposals - New	78	Developing cold plasma-based seed treatments and irrigation approaches for yield and pest management of Arkansas rice (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>R. Karivat and M. Rahman</b>	\$0	\$60,630
U of A	Research Proposals - New	82	Diversifying Arkansas rice markets through craft brewing innovation (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>S. Lafontaine</b>	\$0	\$49,169
U of A	Research Proposals - New	87	Evaluating consumer and industry perceptions of Rice-Based Beverages (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>S. Lafontaine and L. Nalley</b>	\$0	\$7,102
U of A	Research Proposals - New	91	Rice breeding and extension plant pathology technical support (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>C. Nicolli, C. De Guzman, X. Sha and R. Pedrozo</b>	\$160,000	\$160,150
U of A	Research Proposals - New	95	Better burn yield better air: practical implications of implementing voluntary smoke management guidelines in Arkansas (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>J. Nowlin, J. Mantova, J. Mashev and M. Reba</b>	\$0	\$20,599
U of A	Research Proposals - New	99	Developing technologies to increase the nutritive value of rice agro-industrial wastes for livestock nutrition (New, Year 1 of 2). <b>D. Quadros and A. Milsom</b>	\$0	\$97,182
U of A	Research Proposals - New	103	Create a low GI rice brand from Arkansas cultivars (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>M. Rahman and G. Atungulu</b>	\$0	\$45,869
U of A	Research Proposals - New	107	Impact of water management and measurement technique on greenhouse gas emissions in rice production at the field-scale (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>M. Reba, J. Mashev, A. Adviento-Borbe and T. Burcham</b>	\$0	\$20,010
U of A	Research Proposals - New	112	Nitrogen management tools for Arkansas rice producers (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>T. Roberts, G. Drescher and J. Hardke</b>	\$115,000	\$122,304
U of A	Research Proposals - New	116	Increasing rice residue decomposition rates following harvest (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>T. Roberts, G. Drescher and J. Hardke</b>	\$0	\$44,882

Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board  
2025-2026 Proposals - February 5, 2025

Requester	Request Type	Page Number	PI and Title Proposed	2024-2025 Awarded	2025-2026 Proposed
U of A	Research Proposals - New	120	Application of rice husk biochar to improve rice yields in Arkansas (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>B. Runkle and H. Sun</b>	\$0	\$44,504
U of A	Research Proposals - New	124	A team approach to improved weed management in rice (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>B. Scott, T. Barber and J. Norsworthy</b>	\$255,000	\$291,170
U of A	Research Proposals - New	129	Quality analysis for rice breeding and genetics (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>X. Sha, C. De Guzman, J. Hardke and D. Oliver</b>	\$118,202	\$118,202
U of A	Research Proposals - New	133	Breeding superior rice varieties for Arkansas (New, Year 1 of 3). Note: One breeding program proposal starting 2025-2026 funding cycle. <b>X. Sha and C. De Guzman</b>	\$820,000	\$832,253
U of A	Research Proposals - New	137	Converting rice processing byproducts into high-value packaging materials (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>A. Ubevitogullari</b>	\$0	\$44,019
U of A	Research Proposals - New	141	Development of an artificial intelligence integrated back-lighting imaging system for postharvest rice quality evaluation (New, Year 1 of 2). <b>D. Wang and G. Atungulu</b>	\$0	\$51,107
U of A	Research Proposals - New	145	Economic analysis of Arkansas rice farms (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>B. Watkins, A. Durand-Morat and R. Mane</b>	\$55,000	\$63,084
U of A	Research Proposals - New	149	Rice enterprise budgets and production economic analysis (New, Year 1). <b>Breana Watkins</b>	\$7,500	\$7,500
U of A	Research Proposals - Renewal	154	Incorporating genetic tolerance to reduced irrigation into the Arkansas rice breeding program (Year 2 of 3). <b>C. De Guzman, J. Rohila and X. Sha</b>	\$50,000	\$52,946
U of A	Research Proposals - Renewal	158	Analysis of farm policy programs and competitiveness of Arkansas and U.S. rice (Year 3 of 3). <b>A. Durand-Morat and B. Watkins</b>	\$20,000	\$22,612
U of A	Research Proposals - Renewal	162	Validation of in-season tissue sampling for rice nutrient management (Year 2 of 3). <b>J. Hardke, T. Roberts, G. Drescher, D. Frizzell, E. Castaneda-Gonzales, T. Clayton, A. Wright and H. Hartley</b>	\$55,664	\$44,000
U of A	Research Proposals - Renewal	166	Revising the prevalence and stability of host resistance of rice blast races in Arkansas (Year 2 of 3). <b>C. Nicolli, Y. Jia, R. Pedrozo and X. Sha (Year 2 of 3).</b>	\$97,156	\$97,366
U of A	Research Proposals - Renewal	171	Integrating host resistance and fungicides to control <i>Cercospora</i> in rice (Year 2 of 3). <b>C. Nicolli, J. Hardke and R. Pedrozo</b>	\$48,000	\$48,958
U of A	Research Proposals - Renewal	175	Monitoring and management of fungicide resistance of sheath blight in Arkansas (Year 3 of 3). <b>C. Nicolli, J. Hardke and R. Pedrozo</b>	\$35,500	\$35,513
U of A	Research Proposals - Renewal	179	Puerto Rico winter nursery (Year 3 of 3). <b>X. Sha and C. De Guzman</b>	\$73,500	\$74,000
U of A	Research Proposals - Renewal	183	Developing blast-resistant, water-smart rice varieties through genomic prediction and Marker-Assisted Selection (Year 2 of 3). <b>X. Sha, J. Edwards, C. De Guzman and Y. Jia</b>	\$78,000	\$77,016
U of A	Research Proposals - Renewal	187	Improving grain chalkiness and grain yield traits of elite rice through CRISPR-mediated targeted mutagenesis (Year 2 of 3). <b>V. Srivastava</b>	\$39,000	\$47,952
U of A	Promotion Proposal - Renewal	192	Arkansas Future Ag leaders tour (Year 2 of 3). <b>J. Robinson</b>	\$0	\$5,000

Grand Total:

\$2,948,161

\$4,200,297

## Attachment 2

### Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board 2025-2026 Funded Research Projects

<b>PI and Title Proposed</b>			<b>2025-2026 Funded Projects</b>
Research Proposal	New	Rice Milling Quality Studies	\$120,000
Research Proposal	New	Rice Foundation (TRQ Funded)	\$35,000
Research Proposal	New	Fine-tuning phosphorus and potassium management for Arkansas rice (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>G. Drescher, T. Roberts and J. Hardke</b>	\$58,000
Research Proposal	New	Development, evaluation and production of agricultural biologicals for Arkansas crop production (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>B. Bluhm, C. Nicolli and K. Cartwright</b>	\$23,357
Research Proposal	New	Understanding the abrasive wear rate of a combine by harvesting glabrous rice (smooth hull) and non-glabrous rice (hairy hull) (New, Year 1 of 1). <b>T. Burcham</b>	\$35,728
Research Proposal	New	Improving the management of furrow-irrigated rice (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>J. Chlapecka, J. Hardke and T. Roberts</b>	\$50,392
Research Proposal	New	Drone applications in integrated pest management: fertility, weed control, insect control, and disease management (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>J. Davis, T. Spurlock, C. Nicolli, B. Scott, T. Roberts and N. Bateman</b>	\$84,618
Research Proposal	Renewal	Analysis of farm policy programs and competitiveness of Arkansas and U.S. rice (Year 3 of 3). <b>A. Durand-Morat and B. Watkins</b>	\$22,612
Research Proposal	New	Determining the role of fissure resistance and chalkiness in governing head rice yield (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>Y. Jia, J. Thomas, J. Edwards, G. Atungulu, X. Sha and C. De Guzman</b>	\$102,020
Research Proposal	New	Impact of specific agronomic and post-harvest practices on rice quality and milling yields (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>G. Atungulu and J. Hardke</b>	\$81,686
Research Proposal	New	Impact of water management and measurement technique on greenhouse gas emissions in rice production at the field-scale (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>M. Reba, J. Massey, A. Adviento-Borbe and T. Burcham</b>	\$20,010
Research Proposal	New	Nitrogen management tools for Arkansas rice producers (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>T. Roberts, G. Drescher and J. Hardke</b>	\$122,304
Research Proposal	New	Managing insects in Arkansas rice (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>N. Bateman, B. Thrash, R. Kariyat and J. Hardke</b>	\$168,095
Research Proposal	Renewal	Incorporating genetic tolerance to reduced irrigation into the Arkansas rice breeding program (Year 2 of 3). <b>C. De Guzman, J. Rohila and X. Sha</b>	\$52,946
Research Proposal	Renewal	Validation of in-season tissue sampling for rice nutrient management (Year 2 of 3). <b>J. Hardke, T. Roberts, G. Drescher, D. Frizzell, E. Castaneda-Gonzales, T. Clayton, A. Wright and H. Hartley</b>	\$44,000
Research Proposal	New	Nitrogen Recommendations for New Rice Cultivars (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>J. Hardke, T. Roberts, X. Sha, C. De Guzman, C. Nicolli, N. Bateman, D. Frizzell, E. Castaneda-Gonzalez, T. Clayton and H. Garrison.</b>	\$64,000
Research Proposal	New	DD50 thermal unit thresholds and seeding date effects for new rice cultivars (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>J. Hardke, T. Roberts, X. Sha, C. De Guzman, C. Nicolli, N. Bateman, D. Frizzell, E. Castaneda-Gonzalez, T. Clayton and H. Garrison</b>	\$66,000
Research Proposal	New	Agronomic production practices for rice (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>J. Hardke, T. Roberts, X. Sha, C. De Guzman, C. Nicolli, N. Bateman, D. Frizzell, E. Castaneda-Gonzalez, T. Clayton and H. Garrison.</b>	\$103,000

Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board  
2025-2026 Funded Research Projects

Research Proposal	New	Arkansas rice variety advancement trials (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>J. Hardke, T. Roberts, X. Sha, C. De Guzman, C. Nicolli, N. Bateman, D. Frizzell, E. Castaneda-Gonzalez, T. Clayton and H. Garrison.</b>	\$98,000
Research Proposal	New	Arkansas rice performance trials (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>J. Hardke, T. Roberts, X. Sha, C. De Guzman, C. Nicolli, N. Bateman, D. Frizzell, E. Castaneda-Gonzalez, T. Clayton and H. Garrison.</b>	\$94,000
Research Proposal	New	Rice research verification program (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>J. Hardke, K. Watkins and R. Mazzanti</b>	\$116,000
Research Proposal	New	Irrigation technology delivery for rice (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>C. Henry, M. Reba, T. Burcham, R. Parker, N. Blankenship, S. Vaman, K. Keller and M. McGougall</b>	\$100,000
Research Proposal	Renewal	Integrating host resistance and fungicides to control <i>Cercospora</i> in rice (Year 2 of 3). <b>C. Nicolli, J. Hardke and R. Pedrozo</b>	\$48,958
Research Proposal	Renewal	Revising the prevalence and stability of host resistance of rice blast races in Arkansas Arkansas (Year 2 of 3). <b>C. Nicolli, Y. Jia, R. Pedrozo and X. Sha (Year 2 of 3).</b>	\$97,366
Research Proposal	Renewal	Monitoring and management of fungicide resistance of sheath blight in Arkansas (Year 3 of 3). <b>C. Nicolli, J. Hardke and R. Pedrozo</b>	\$35,513
Research Proposal	New	Rice breeding and extension plant pathology technical support (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>C. Nicolli, C. De Guzman, X. Sha and R. Pedrozo</b>	\$160,150
Research Proposal	New	A team approach to improved weed management in rice (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>B. Scott, T. Barber and J. Norsworthy</b>	\$291,170
Research Proposal	New	Breeding superior rice varieties for Arkansas (New, Year 1 of 3). Note: One breeding program proposal starting 2025-2026 funding cycle. <b>X. Sha and C. De Guzman</b>	\$832,253
Research Proposal	Renewal	Puerto Rico winter nursery (Year 3 of 3). <b>X. Sha and C. De Guzman</b>	\$74,000
Research Proposal	New	Quality analysis for rice breeding and genetics (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>X. Sha, C. De Guzman, J. Hardke and D. Oliver</b>	\$118,202
Research Proposal	Renewal	Developing blast-resistant, water-smart rice varieties through genomic prediction and Marker-Assisted Selection (Year 2 of 3). <b>X. Sha, J. Edwards, C. De Guzman and Y. Jia</b>	\$77,016
Research Proposal	Renewal	Improving grain chalkiness and grain yield traits of elite rice through CRISPR-mediated targeted mutagenesis (Year 2 of 3). <b>V. Srivastava</b>	\$47,952
Research Proposal	New	Economic analysis of Arkansas rice farms (New, Year 1 of 3). <b>B. Watkins, A. Durand-Morat and R. Mane</b>	\$63,084
Research Proposal	New	Rice enterprise budgets and production economic analysis (New, Year 1). <b>Breana Watkins</b>	\$7,500

**Grand Total: \$3,514,932**