

RICE HARVEST MONTH

Think Rice - Eat More Rice

Progress In Rice Industry Is Attributed To Research Work

[By James E. Vance, Texas A&M Dept. of Agricultural Communications]

For measuring the American farmer with his counterparts in other countries, try rice—the world's No. 1 food crop.

Rice production ranges from the most primitive to probably the most scientifically and mechanically produced crop on earth.

While natives in the Orient still rely on water buffalo for plow power, and their hands for planting in knee-deep paddies, and for shocking and threshing, U.S. farmers till their soil with multi-row high-powered machines, seed, fertilize and fight bugs with airplanes, turn valves for irrigation water and wait for harvest by self-propelled combine harvesters.

"It took the first half of this century to double rice yields, from 1,000 up to 2,000 pounds per acre," Dr. Julian P. Craigie, resident director of Texas A&M University's Research and Extension Center, recalled. "Since then, advances have been made."

The latest accomplishment is Newex, variety, called "super rice," released for first plantings this year, and a new short straw being developed for more resistance to hurricanes has been so rapid that "practically all the varieties known now were not even planted 10 years ago," Miller is a former

Experimental "Short Straw" Rice



director of the Experiment Station.

\$223 Million Annually

Craigie said that varieties developed at the Center account for some 96 per cent of the \$223 million annually, and a rank of third, economically, among Texas crops. Cotton is first and grain sorghum second.

Legend has it that rice was introduced into the U.S. when, in 1694, a sailing ship enroute from Madagascar to England encountered a storm and put in at Charleston S.C. for repairs.

Skilled workmanship and kindness to the crew merited a gift of rice from the ship's captain to the governor of the Carolinas. This signaled domestic production of the crop.

Production gradually migrated south and west to near the Gulf of Mexico which provided favorable high humidity—but also the torment of hurricanes with winds and rains which could destroy a crop quickly.

The outgrowth was scientific necessity for development of varieties, more nearly tailor-made to fit climatic and other cultural conditions.

Station Established in 1909

The first really significant progress came in 1909 when the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce made available 100 acres of land to the Texas

Dr. Charles N. Bollich, USDA plant breeder, left, and Dr. J. P. Craigie, resident director at the Texas A&M University Research and Extension Center near Beaumont check heads on experimental "short straw" rice. Although scientists at the Center have helped rice farmers quadruple their yields, improved the quality and reduced the time from 150 days to 100 days to produce a crop, farmers are eagerly awaiting this new variety which can

Agricultural Experiment Station to establish a "unit" 10 miles west of the city.

"Those people realized that what rice farmers needed most then," Craigie said, "was a rice variety to 'beat the weather.' One to seed around April 1, when soil temperatures warm up, but which would mature close to 100 days later, and before traditional hurricane season cranked up in late summer and early fall. Those people knew also they needed scientists to be within the area."

Until this time domestic farmers had depended upon rice varieties from Japan and Honduras. Not only did these varieties require 180 days to make a crop, but their quality fell short of desires of housewives and commercial food processors.

Although agronomists, entomologists, pathologists and agricultural engineers are equally active in "doing their things" in a team effort to improve quality and to increase yields, the job of "putting it all together" falls to the lot of the plant breeders.

New Varieties Developed

Bluebonnet 50, developed by H. M. Beachell in the early 1960's was the first big development, primarily because it would mature within 150 days, and it was a long, slender grain which when cooked remained individual, rather than in gluey clusters.

"A group of farmers headed by the late J. C. Dishman of Beaumont were so enthusiastic about this new variety that they formed the Texas Rice Improvement Association which made a new site some 15 miles west of Beaumont on U.S. Highway 90 and equipment available to produce more seed faster for widespread planting," Craigie said.

Belle Patina became the first "100-day rice" and was released to farmers in 1962. Bluebellie, Century Patina, (Continued on page 13)

U.S. Is World Leader In Rice Production

The United States is recognized as the world leader in advanced rice producing and processing methods and as a reliable supplier of any grade and type, according to specifications and requirements of the individual markets. Due to a high level of mechanization and quality control, the American rice industry offers to the world's consumer a clean and uniform product, and the largest supply of the highest quality rice in the world.

The Rice Council for Market Development is a non-profit organization which works to promote the consumption of U.S. rice, both in domestic and foreign markets.

World rice consumption is increasing — particularly in the developing nations — due to factors such as population



Rice-a-Pizza

3 cups cooked rice
2 eggs, beaten
2 cups grated
Mozzarella cheese
2 cans (8 ounces each)
tomato sauce

1/2 teaspoon each
oregano, basil, and
garlic salt
2 tablespoons grated
Parmesan cheese
tomato sauce

Combine rice, eggs, and 1 cup Mozzarella cheese. Press firmly into a greased 12-inch pizza pan, spreading evenly. Bake at 450° for 20 minutes. Combine tomato sauce and seasonings. Spread evenly over rice crust. Top with remaining Mozzarella cheese and sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Bake 10 minutes longer. Cut into wedges.

*Or use two 9-inch pie pans, portioning evenly.

RICE

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America's rice industry is marking another successful year. This industry, which plays an important role in maintaining a sound economy in the rice producing area, deserves recognition. Working together as a team, all segments of the enterprise—from producer to mill—market a uniform, high quality product. A by-product of the industry's advance is business progress in the rice belt.

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HAVE A RICE DAY

Research Aids Rice Industry

(Continued from page 12)

cattle production which is closely associated with rice production, particularly on pasture land utilized in rotation with rice production.

"If I'm correct, Newex is the first significant improvement in both (home) cooking and (commercial) processing in U.S. long grain varieties of rice," explained Dr. Charles N. Bollich, a USDA plant breeder who developed Newex at the Center. "Newex cooks dry and flaky and holds its shape, a quality sought by other food processors."

Bollich explained that "long" and "short" grains are based on ratio of length divided by width of grain. Long grain (slender) is about 7 millimeters in length, and short grain (round and plump) is 5.5 to 6 millimeters in length.

"Ratio of starches—amylose and amylopectin—pretty well determine cooking qualities in rice," Bollich said. "Higher amylose in long grains permits it to be dry (remains individual) and flaky."

Bollich, who maintains some 10,000 selections in his breeding nursery, crossed Jobita, a native of Mexico

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with ability to keep from chipping when cooked, with an experimental selection containing desired traits of Bluebonnet, Belle Patina and Dawn varieties.

Small-Dwarf Rice Variety

The geneticist assured that a new variety must offer one or more improved traits, in addition to existing characteristics, or "farmers won't plant it."

Craigie noted that high costs of rice production discourage farmers from taking avoidable economic risks.

The new semi-dwarf, or short straw, experimental rice has been bred down from traditional 45 or 48 inches to no more than 36 inches.

The basic benefits are that the straw is stout, leaves are upright, permitting more of the whole plant to intercept sunlight which is a big factor in growth and yield," Bollich said. "Yields have been comparable to other leading varieties."

The plant breeder was cautiously optimistic about "finishing touches" to enable first seed of short straw rice to be released within a year or two "for commercial production."

"With semi or dwarf straw

Checking Rice For Disease



With a lift here and a letdown there by helicopter, Dr. Tony Marchetti, a USDA plant pathologist at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station near Beaumont, left, surveys as many rice fields in two hours as in two days of driving and searching from the surface. Dr. Jim Stansel, right, director of the local Rice Experiment Station, gives assistance in looking for rice diseases.

raise more rice at lower costs and less risk, Bollich has a new goal, too—full dwarf plants of about 18 inches in height.

Colorado County Agent LeRoy Hajdik was the guest speaker at the meeting of the Eagle Lake Rotary Club on Wednesday of last week and brought a wealth of information on gardening and lawn care.

He was introduced by Everett Anderson, program chairman for the day. Hajdik noted that "dog days are really here" and he discussed yellow bleaching or brown spot and chinch bug damage in St. Augustine lawns and how to help in remedying them. The agent told the group that the deficiency of iron causes a yellowing of the lawn and that it can be helped with the addition of a foliar iron compound. He warned that pets should be locked up during application of the spray and that walking on the grass sprayed with the compound will result in rust spots on walks and driveways. Also spraying of the material on the outside of the house will result in rust stains.

He noted that the addition of water and fertilizer will only stimulate growth and aggravate the situation. The agent discussed control of chinch bugs and recommended that lawns be spot treated unless it is evident that the entire lawn is affected.

Gooding Interest Up

Hajdik told the Rotarians and guests that "gardening is once again becoming a national pastime." He said that a 20'x20' plot will feed a family of four and result in a

Free Fiesta Dinner

Marilyn Thomas this is a ticket for a free Fiesta Dinner at the La Fiesta in Eagle Lake where you get the finest in authentic Mexican foods in a pleasant atmosphere. Clip this out and present at La Fiesta not later than Aug. 7, 1979.

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Consumption Of Milled Rice Doubled In Past 20 Years

In the past 20 years, consumption of milled rice for food use in the U.S. has doubled to the present figure of 2.1 billion pounds. This growth can be attributed to many factors not the least of which is the work done by the national and international promotional office of the U.S. rice industry — the Rice Council of America.

In the late 1950's, rice producers joined together to form a national association which would promote the consumption of their product primarily in the United States but also in important foreign markets. Today, the Rice Council represents the producers of four of the five major rice producing states — Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

The Rice Council is still a farmer-backed organization which also has support from the rice milling industry as well as an important associate member group comprised of local businesses in the rice growing areas of the four states.

The Rice Council continues its work both nationally and internationally to increase the consumption of U.S. rice. When the farmers of the four states joined together in the late 1950's, they decided they needed a national and international organization to aid in the promotion of their product. Almost twenty years later, the rice industry can point with pride to its internationally known and respected industry representative — The Rice Council.

supplies of beef. Slaughter figures for May show that hog slaughter was up by 14,200 head in Texas

over the same month last year. So far this year, hog slaughter in Texas is running 4 percent above 1978.

There were 930,000 head of hogs and pigs in Texas as of June 1, according to statistics compiled by the Texas Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. This reflects a 12-percent increase over last June, and is 9 percent above March 1979, the beginning of the previous reporting quarter.

"Last quarter's pig crop in Texas, at 354,000 head, showed a 12-percent jump from the same period in 1978," stated Agriculture Commissioner Reagan. "A total of 52,000 sows produced litters, 16 percent more than during the March-May quarter last year."

"If stated intentions hold true, 103,000 sows will produce litters during the next six-month period, which would be 14 percent higher than a year ago," he added. "Intentions are for 55,000 sows to farrow during the June-August period, and 48,000 during the September-November quarter."

The expansion in Texas and other hog producing states has been partially in response to rising demand for pork in the face of reduced

SAVE CALORIES

Save calories while eating out—ask the waitress or waiter not to leave a bread basket at the table as a temptation to nibble, suggests Marilyn Haggard, a foods and nutrition specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, The Texas A&M University System.

savings of around \$400 on the food bill. Among his suggestions for a good garden was: plant onion interspersed among other plants to keep chewing insects out.

The agent stated that gardening is becoming popular because: it's a good way to grow good food; provides good exercise; improves mental health; gives one a chance to visit with the neighbors; and will save money on the food bill.

Thrill begins with one of the homemaker's largest outlays today—the grocery dollar. It CAN be stretched, cent by cent, when budget-saving rice is included on daily menus. During this rice harvest season and throughout the entire year practice thrift—put rice at the top of your grocery shopping list . . . It extends more expensive protein foods, reducing the cost per serving. Economize without sacrificing mealtime variety.

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Classic Rice Salad

4 servings (persons)	25 servings (cups)
Cool cooked rice	3 cups
Onions, finely chopped	1/2 cup
Sweet pickles, finely chopped	1/2 cup
Salt	1 tsp.
Pepper	1/4 tsp.
Mayonnaise	1 cup
Prepared mustard	1 cup
Pineapple, diced	1/4 cup
Hard-cooked eggs, chopped	4

Blend all ingredients thoroughly. Chill. Serve on lettuce leaves, if desired.

*1 quart (1 pound 10 ounces) uncooked regular milled rice or 3 1/2 cups (1 pound 6 ounces) uncooked parboiled rice

over the same month last year. So far this year, hog slaughter in Texas is running 4 percent above 1978.

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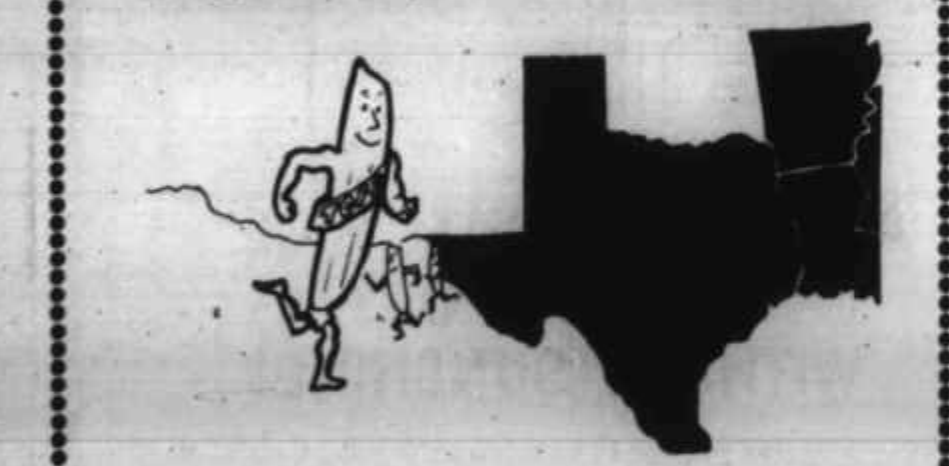
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