U.S. RICE
A GLOBAL LEADER IN SUSTAINABILITY

In Brief:

— The new generation of U.S. rice production can be summed up in four words: Producing more with less. American rice farmers have a longstanding commitment to protect and preserve natural resources. Today, U.S. rice farmers produce more rice using less land, energy and water than they did 20 years ago.

Environmental Stewardship: A commitment to continuous improvement

— Over the past 20 years American rice farmers have increased rice yields by 53% while at the same time decreasing land use by 35%, energy use by 38% and water use by 53%.

— Rice agriculture provides 35% of the food resources available to migrating and wintering dabbling ducks in the regions where rice is grown in the United States.

— The water needed to produce 100 pounds of rice has decreased by 33% over the past two decades, saving nearly 24 million gallons of water in 2009 versus two decades ago.

— More than 20% of rice farms nationally are using recycled or reclaimed water on their farms.

— U.S. rice growers can produce the same amount of rice produced in 1987 on 820,000 fewer acres.

— No-till and reduced tillage practices in Louisiana commercial rice production have increased from 26% in 2000 to 41% in 2011.

— A 2011 study examined rice production’s impact since 1987 and found a:
  o 21% decrease in land required to produce each 100 pounds of rice and an 821,000 acre reduction in land used for production
  o 43% decrease in soil loss since 1987.
  o 52% reduction in energy used to produce 100 pounds of rice over the past 20 years.
  o 29% reduction in soil methane per 100 pounds of rice over 20 years.
Social Responsibility: A commitment to future generations

— The U.S. rice industry not only provides jobs in rural areas throughout the U.S. but also cultivates its role as good stewards of the land.

— 85% of the rice consumed in the U.S. is grown by American farmers.

— Each year, 18 billion pounds of rice is grown and harvested by local farmers in the states of Arkansas, California, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Texas.

— Rice provides more than 15 vitamins and minerals, and beneficial antioxidants.

— Whole grains, such as brown rice, help reduce the risk of heart disease, diabetes and certain cancers. Rice eaters have a lower risk of high blood pressure.

— Rice is one of the least allergenic grains, making it a healthy option for those that are gluten-intolerant or have food sensitivities.

— Rice is only 100 kcal per ½ cup serving.

— All U.S.-grown rice is sodium, cholesterol, gluten and GMO-free.

Economic Profitability: A commitment to long-term viability

— The U.S. rice industry contributes $34 billion to the national economy.

— The U.S. rice industry provides 125,000 jobs on 2.7 million acres of land.

— Every year, 9 million tonnes of rice are grown by U.S. rice farmers.

— 50% of rice produced in the U.S. is exported to more than 110 countries.

— U.S. rice farmers provide vital wildlife habitat valued at more than $3.5 billion.

— America’s rice farmers produce more than 20 billion pounds of rice each year, providing 85% of the rice that is consumed in the United States.

— In the state of Arkansas, the top rice producer in the U.S., rice milling contributes a total of $4.2 billion in economic activity, supports more than 13,000 jobs, and adds a total output of $2.6 billion to the state’s economy.

Resources

U.S. Rice Resource Efficiency and Sustainability Metrics. IHS Global Insight. Published by USA Rice Federation, 2011.


For more information please see: thesustainabilityalliance.us or contact info@thesustainabilityalliance.us