

July 2026 – Rice Briefs

Colusa and Yolo Counties

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Upcoming Events

Rice Quality Workshop

- July 30, 2026 from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm
- An in-depth workshop covering the factors affecting rice quality. [Registration required.](#)
- Hillcrest Catering, 210 Julie Dr, Yuba City, CA

Emerging Pests Workshop

- August 5, 2026 from 9:00 am – 11:00 pm
- CIP Conference Room, 100 Sunrise Blvd, Colusa, CA

Rice Winter Grower Meetings

- Woodland: February 16, 2027
- Richvale & Willows: February 17, 2027
- Colusa & Yuba City: February 18, 2027

Delta armyworm monitoring

Michelle Leinfelder-Miles, Farm Advisor, San Joaquin and Delta Region

Seasonal monitoring for armyworms began in late-May in the Delta region. Our monitoring involves scouting for damage and deployment of pheromone bucket traps that catch the true armyworm moths. Traps are set up at three Delta locations, where at each location, there are three traps in adjacent checks. The traps are checked weekly, and monitoring data since 2016 are depicted in Figure 1. The large blue arrow indicates the population trend line this year after the first month of trapping. Data are expressed as moths caught per day, averaged across all nine Delta traps. The data allows us to visualize how the population is tracking within the season and compared to previous years. There is an obvious difference between this year and past years. We reached peak moth catches in early-June, about one month earlier than we usually see the peak. The earlier peak may be related to the very warm month of March, which may have accelerated armyworm phenology.

It is important to pair the monitoring data with observations in the field. Scouting should occur in the early morning hours. In the heat of the day, larvae recede into the canopy near the water line and are difficult to find, particularly the early instars. UC IPM provides treatment guidelines that include damage assessments and signs of the worms in the field. At the foliar stage, if at least 25 percent defoliation from feeding is observed and worms are visible, then treatment may be warranted. At the panicle stage, if 10 percent of the panicles are damaged and worms are present, then treatment may be warranted. I want to emphasize that field monitoring is an important part of armyworm management. Do not rely on the trapping data alone because there is variability across farms and even across fields on the same farm.

Armyworm larvae will grow to full size and pupate in about 3 to 4 weeks. We have learned over the years that when moth flights peak, if treatment is warranted based on field monitoring and damage thresholds, the treatment is most effective if applied in the week or two after the peak moth population. I send a weekly email to the Delta rice farming community to communicate 'real-time' monitoring data to help advise management. Anyone who has questions about rice armyworm management, or who wants to be included in 'real-time' monitoring communications for the Delta, should reach out to me at mmleinfeldermiles@ucanr.edu so that I can update my contact list.

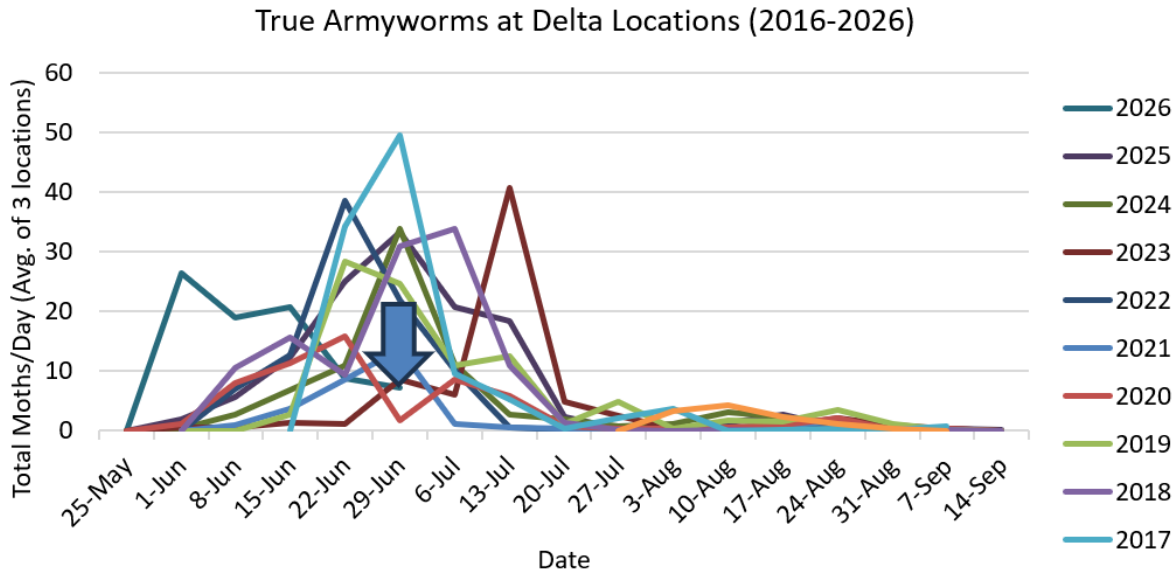


Figure 1. True armyworm moth catches, averaged across nine Delta traps, from the last ten years.

2026 rice acreage and supply comments

Sarah Marsh Janish, UCCE Rice Farming Systems Advisor – Colusa and Yolo

According to the [June 2026 NASS Acreage Report](#), U.S. rice planted area fell sharply to 2.017 million acres, a 28% drop from the previous season and the [lowest number of rice acres since the 1970s](#). The steep decline is largely attributed to severe weather issues (including localized moderate to extreme drought across key production states like Arkansas, Mississippi, and Missouri), ever-increasing input costs, and a slow domestic and export demand outlook.

Grim news continues from Arkansas, where in 2025, the state led the nation with 33 Chapter 12 farm bankruptcy filings, a record high in the 21st century. At the end of June, Riceland Foods, a major cooperative based in Stuttgart, AR, [announced a temporary closure of nine of its 23 rice drying facilities](#), citing both historically low rice acres and prices. Another Arkansas rice cooperative, Producers Rice Mill [is considering also temporarily idling two drying facilities](#) for the same reasons. While the reduction in drying operations is concerning, what is more concerning is the potential for permanent changes to rice infrastructure and the potential long-term impact of losing some traditional U.S. markets. There is also the threat of long-term loss of workers to other industries if these operations are ceased for too long.

Chapter 12 Farm Bankruptcies Filed in 2025

January 1 Through December 31, 2025

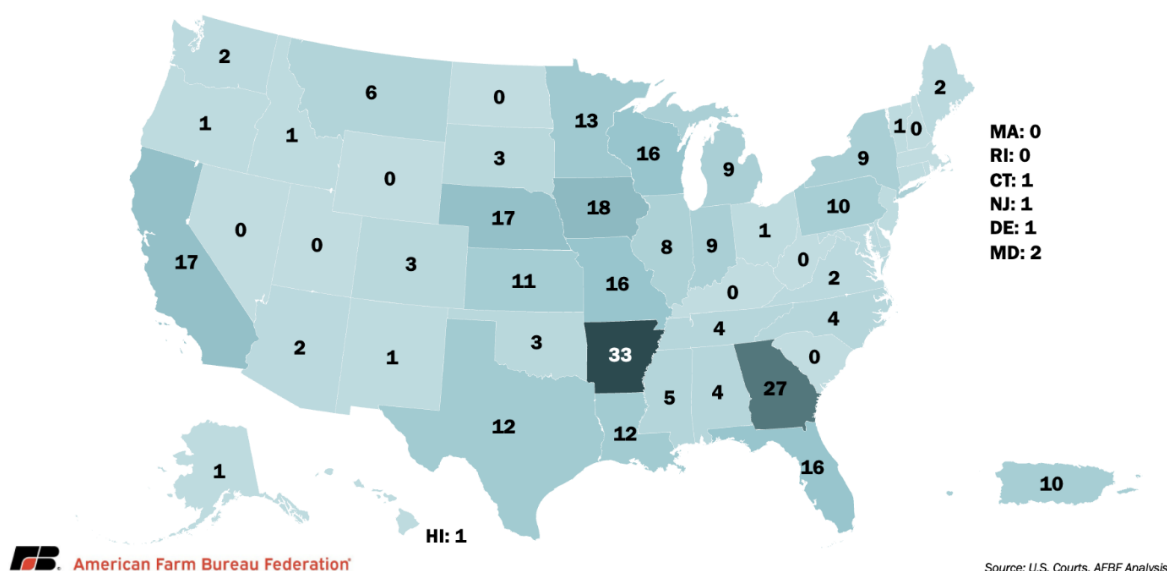


Figure 1: The surge in Chapter 12 farm bankruptcies across the U.S. in 2025, with Arkansas and Georgia experiencing the heaviest financial strain ([AFBF Analysis](#)).

In California, it is a bit of a different story; California rice acreage is notoriously difficult to confirm, with visual (and proprietary) estimates coming from Land IQ on July 1. With a planting season plagued by recurrent storms, planted acreage for the 2026 season is estimated at 455,000 acres, compared with 524,000 acres the previous year ([USDA Acreage Report](#)). Still a drop in acreage, but not to the level experienced in the Mid-South. Despite this (or perhaps because of it), American medium- and short-grain production projections have not changed from May to June, remaining at 52.7 million cwt ([WASDE, 2026](#)).

Existing supply

Closing out June 2026, the USDA released the quarterly *Rice Stocks* report on June 30, 2026. To possibly no one's surprise, the rice market is looking bearish; rough rice stocks were up 7 percent from last year, totaling 74.8 million cwt, with medium grain and short grain varieties accounting for 27% of the total rough rice. California accounts for 17.9 million cwt of rough rice stocks and is the only rice-producing state to have less rice in storage than the previous year (down 4.7%).

Rough Rice Stocks – United States

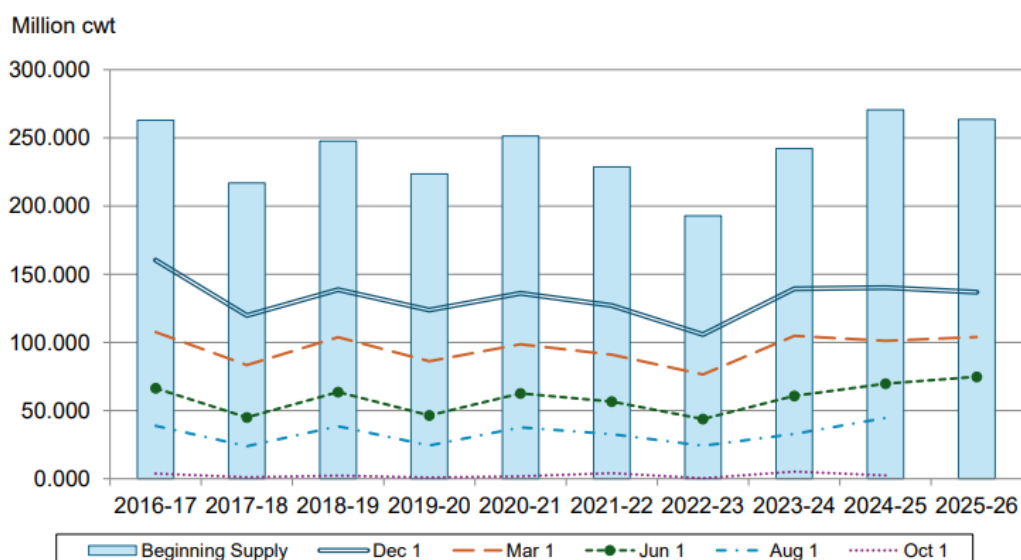


Figure 2: The amount of rough rice stocks in the United States by position and month against the beginning supply ([USDA NASS data](#)).

Looking forward

As of June 2026, the outlook for 2026/27 U.S. rice is for slightly higher supplies, equivalent demand from domestic use and exports, and slightly higher ending stocks. Total supplies are up due to larger beginning stocks. This increase was driven by a drop in 2025/26 long-grain exports, partially offset by a minor decline in medium- and short-grain imports. With 2025/26 domestic demand holding flat, the resulting supply surplus pushes ending stocks up by 0.5 million cwt to a 40-year high of 54.8 million. Price projections remain unaffected, with the 2026/27 season-average farm price (SAFP) steady at \$13.50 per cwt, compared to the updated 2025/26 estimate of \$12.50.

Compared to long-grain prices, medium- and short-grain prices, while not the strongest, are relatively stable. According to the June 2026 projections in the [June 2026 World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates \(WASDE\)](#), California medium/short-grain SAFP is projected at \$20.00 per cwt for the 2026/27 marketing year, down slightly from an estimated \$20.30 in 2025/26. The California medium/short-grain price largely reflects rice that is sold through price pools. In these marketing pools, cooperatives or handlers market the growers' rice collectively throughout the crop year to achieve the best average market price, rather than selling it all at a single spot-market price at harvest. Because of these pooling arrangements, the final pool price is not settled until all the rice within that specific pool has been completely marketed. As a result, the monthly prices reported by the National Agricultural Statistics Service during the year are often fluid.

Is the bleach treatment against *bakanae* still working?

Luis Espino, Rice Farming Systems Advisor, UCCE Butte and Glenn

In the past few years, the number of calls that the rice advisors have been getting about *bakanae* have increased substantially. In almost all cases, the grower or PCA reached out to us because there was high incidence of *bakanae* in the field even though the seed had been treated with bleach. This led to some doubts about the effectiveness of the bleach treatment.

Last year I collected seed from three M-209 fields that had very high incidence of *bakanae* even though the seed had been treated with bleach. I used this seed in the spring for a greenhouse test.

Four treatments were tested:

Table 1. Overview of four bleach treatments with soak time and recorded observations.

Treatment	Free chlorine concentration	Soak time	Observations
1	1500 ppm	24 hr	Recommended treatment
2	3000 ppm	2 hrs, then 22 hrs in fresh water	Recommended treatment
3	1500 ppm	12 hrs, then 12 hrs in fresh water	Shorter soak time than recommended
4	700 ppm	24 hrs	Lower concentration than recommended

The results show that the recommended bleach treatments were very effective at reducing the incidence of *bakanae*. When using lower bleach concentrations or shorter soaking times than recommended, results were not as good. These results are preliminary since we are still waiting for heading.

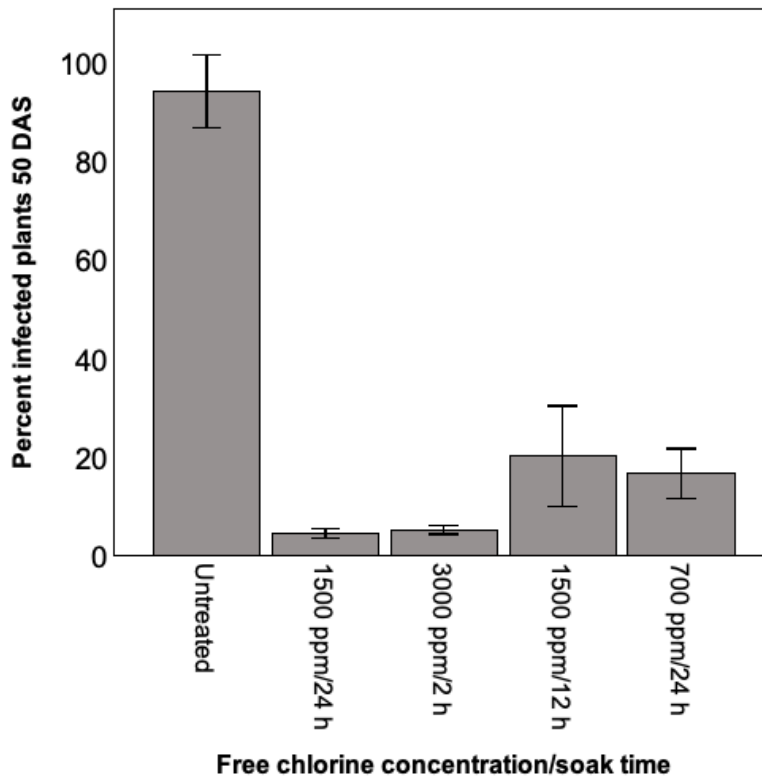


Figure 1. Different bleach treatments against the percentage of *bakanae*-infested plants 50 days after seeding (DAS).

UCCE Rice Weeds Program: Submit seeds for herbicide resistance testing

Whitney Brim-Deforest, Rice Advisor, UCCE Sutter-Yuba, Placer and Sacramento

It's weed seed collection season! As weeds mature through summer and early fall, now's the time to gather seed samples from any herbicide-resistant species you've spotted in your fields.

How to know if what you are seeing is likely resistance (and what to collect):

- Weeds are located in clumps
- "Streaks" of weeds may be found going away from those clumps (dragged by field equipment)
- Weeds are not evenly distributed throughout the field
- Weeds are not found only around field margins
- There are no patterns to the distribution (indicating a clogged nozzle or skip)

What we test:

The UCCE Weeds Program regularly tests:

- Watergrass species (late, early, barnyardgrass, coast cockspur)
- Sprangletop

- Smallflower umbrella sedge
- Bulrush
- Redstem/Redberry

If you don't see a species of interest listed above, that is okay! We welcome submissions of any species you suspect is herbicide-resistant.

Collection timeline & tips

Collect when seeds naturally fall off the seed head with gentle agitation in a paper bag. It is important not to strip the seeds from the seedheads or panicles, or the seeds will not germinate, and we will not be able to successfully have screening results.

Table 1. Overview of the optimal scouting timing and seed identification characteristics for four weed species.

Species	Best timing	What to look for
Watergrass	Near rice harvest	Brownish seeds
Sprangletop	August - September	Brown/dry seeds
Sedges	July – early September	Yellow seeds with brown hulls (dustlike)
Bulrush (roughseed)	Summer - fall	Black seeds with fine hairs

Collection best practices:

- Sample from multiple plants (collect several handfuls minimum)
- Target areas you know were treated with the suspected herbicide
- Avoid field margins
- Dry samples in a paper bag to prevent mold (no plastic)
- Don't collect too early! Seeds need to be mature or they will not germinate

How to submit:

1. Complete the form at agronomy-rice.ucdavis.edu (make sure to include your email!)
2. Deliver your sample to a local UCCE Farm Advisor or directly to the Rice Experiment Station (RES) in Biggs
3. Get results via email (typically in March of the following year)

Need help identifying which weeds to collect or how to sample? Reach out to your local UCCE Farm Advisor.

California Crop Improvement Association update

Katy Soden, California Crop Improvement Association

The California Crop Improvement Association (CCIA) has experienced several exciting changes in recent months as we continue to strengthen our commitment to serving California seed producers.

CCIA recently welcomed two new members to our field services team. Emily Richter joined the organization this spring and will serve as the lead field representative for the Certified Rice Program. Emily grew up on a family farm in Knights Landing and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Business from California State University, Chico. Following graduation, she began her career in the sunflower seed industry before returning to the family farm. Emily is excited to return to the seed industry and support California rice producers through the certification process.

Tyler Trueblood joined CCIA in May. Tyler also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Business from Chico State and brings several years of seed production experience to the organization. He will oversee CCIA's sunflower seed certification program while supporting other certification activities throughout the state.

CCIA has also seen changes in leadership. Ashley Koala has assumed the role of Field Services Manager. During her 11 years with CCIA, Ashley has served as the lead staff member for the sunflower certification program while supporting numerous other crops, including rice. Her extensive experience administering certification programs, thorough understanding of certification standards, and strong organizational skills will help ensure the continued delivery of high-quality services to California seed producers.

After 15 years with CCIA, Katy Soden has stepped into the role of Executive Director. Katy joined the organization in 2011 as Administrative Manager and has held several leadership positions during her tenure. She looks forward to working closely with growers, conditioners, and industry partners while continuing to support California's seed certification programs.

Rice Certification and Quality Assurance programs

CCIA continues to offer both Seed Certification and Quality Assurance (QA) programs for California rice producers. Applications for the 2026 rice season are currently under review, and CCIA staff will be contacting applicants if additional information or corrections are needed.