



California Rice

California Rice Information

- Family farmers have grown rice in California for more than 100 years.
- 97% of the state's rice crop is grown in the Sacramento Valley. Traditionally, there are about 550,000 acres of rice grown in the state with production approaching 5 billion pounds.
- California supplies virtually all of America's sushi rice.
- California Rice is one of the state's largest crops and contributes more than \$5 billion a year and 25,000 jobs to the state's economy.
- Rice is much more water efficient than many realize. Rice is grown in heavy clay soils, which act as a bathtub to hold water. Improved varieties produce more rice and less plant material. Fields are precision leveled through Global Position System technology. Rice fields have only a five-inch water depth during the growing season.
- Rice is the major foundation of the economy for many communities in the Sacramento Valley, including Gridley, Biggs, Colusa, Marysville, Richvale and Live Oak.
- It takes about the same amount of water to grow a serving of rice as it does oranges or broccoli.
- California needs additional storage, which would benefit farms, cities and the environment. The Sites Reservoir project would have twice the storage capacity as the Folsom Dam and would help the state manage during drought years.
- Area rice fields provide food and a resting place for nearly 230 wildlife species, including internationally recognized shorebird habitat and nearly 60 percent of the food for 7 to 10 million ducks and geese that migrate along the Pacific Flyway each winter.