

Annual Western Rice Belt Conference-El Campo, Texas - January 16, 2019

**By Corrie Bowen
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The annual Western Rice Belt Production Conference will be held on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at the El Campo Civic Center. Registration for the conference will begin at 7:45 a.m., with the main program to begin at 8:15 a.m. After a catered lunch, provided by area agribusiness sponsors, the program will conclude around 2:15 p.m.

This joint effort of our Western Rice Belt planning committee, The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, U.S. Rice Producers Association, and Texas A&M AgriLife Research will offer growers and others the opportunity to hear presentations from the top Extension and Research scientists from Texas as well as respected individuals from the rice industry. Topics and speakers will include: Understanding Herbicide Groups - Dr. Muthu Bagavathiannan; Herbicide Resistant Barnyardgrass - Dr. Tom Barber, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service; Rice Disease Management Update - Dr. Shane Zhou; Insect Management - Dr. Mo Way; Pesticide Laws and Regulations Update, Greg Baker; a review of the 2018 Farm Bill from Dr. Joe Outlaw; Rice Market and Trade Outlook - Jamison Cruce, USA Rice; and a report of the October 30, 2018 Rice Sustainability Forum - Dr. Philip Shackelford. The Texas Rice Council will also conduct their Annual Meeting in conjunction with the 2019 Western Rice Belt Conference. The Texas Rice Council will conduct their producer elections during the lunch hour, following the announcement of the Rice Poster Contest results.

For more information, contact the Texas AgriLife Extension office in Colorado County at 979-732-2082; in Matagorda County at 979-245-4100; or Wharton County at 979-532-3310; or go to <http://wharton.agrilife.org> and click on Events to view a flyer for the Rice Conference. 3 CEU's (1 L&R and 2 IPM) for TDA Pesticide Applicators will be awarded at this event. CCA hours have been applied for and will be offered pending approval. Pesticide Applicators are reminded to provide their Pesticide Applicator License number at registration.

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