



# ARKANSAS RICE GROWERS ASSOCIATION PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **ARKANSAS RICE GROWERS ASSOCIATION PROMOTES U.S. RICE FOR EXPORT**

The Arkansas Rice Growers Association and the US Rice Producers Association hosted a delegation of rice millers and rice buyers from Kazakhstan on a tour of the southern rice belt. The group visited farms and facilities first in Texas then in Arkansas, including the Mike Hardke farm in Hazen, Jeff and Johnny Reidhar farm in Des Arc, U of A Rice Research Center, John Alter seed farm in Dewitt, Cormier Rice Mill, Bruce Oakley Inc. Grain Terminal, and Turner Grain, Helena. The group also had a dinner meeting Sunday night with the new Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture Richard "Dick" Bell who presented the group with Arkansas Traveler Certificates.

On Tuesday the group crossed the river for a visit to the northern Mississippi rice industry. Finally, the team met with members of the Missouri Rice Research and Promotion Council in Dexter before returning home.

Kazakhstan produces rice in two areas of the country but is a net import. Their preference is for medium grain rice. Plans are in place to test the market acceptability of the long grain varieties they saw during their tour.

The Arkansas Rice Growers Association is the only organization solely representing the views of the Arkansas rice farmer.



(L to R) Alexander Simon, Ermek Makhanov, Dwight Ellis, Tynyshbay Dossymbekov and Murat Sarsenbayev visit Ellis Farms in Walnut Ridge.



(L to R) Tynyshbay Dossymbekov, Ermek Makhanov, Jeff Reidhar, Alexander Simon, and Murat Sarsenbayev tour the Reidhar Farm in Des Arc.



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(L to R) Alexander Simon, Murat Sarsenbayev, Tynyshbay Dossymbekov, and Ermek Makhanov tour Cormier Rice Milling Company in Dewitt.



(L to R) Ermek Makhanov, Alexander Simon, Murat Sarsenbayev, David Choate of Bruce Oakley Inc. in North Little Rock, and Tynyshbay Dossymbekov review a map of barge traffic along the Mississippi River.



(L to R) Alexander Simon and Murat Sarsenbayev tour Hardke Farms in Hazen with Mike and Gary Hardke.

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