4. Row-spacing — narrow row versus conventional, by soil type and planting date;

5. Optimum stands — soil types, physical problems, planting dates, seedling vigor, plant population;

6. Herbicides — weed and grass control, over-the-top application for broadleaf and grass control, herbicide resistance, safeners, chemical buildup in soils, and biotech controls;

7. Disease control — seedling disease and wilt complex;

8. Fertilization — foliar application of nitrogen and potash and consideration of major and minor nutrients;

9. Insects — plant bugs, stink bugs, bollworm and boll weevil under a high level of management, ovicides to replace chlordimeform, biological control, and improved scouting methods, including economic thresholds. We request more funds and more scientists at the University of Arkansas to research cotton insect control, primarily Heliothis (bollworm/bud worm), further research into Integrated Pest Management (IPM) concepts. We encourage more research on reniform and root-knot nematodes and lygus (plant bugs). We recommend more research on the growing problem of chemical resistance;

10. Irrigation — method and rates by soil types, timing and termination;

11. Growth regulators — timing and quantity for irrigated and nonirrigated;

12. Defoliation — defoliants and boll openers;

13. Gin trash — alternative uses, influence on crop yields;

14. Modules — efficient temperature monitoring system;

15. "Crazy" cotton;

16. Cottonseed — to include alternative uses in marketing;

17. Crop protectant drift around susceptible crops;

18. Fiber quality;

19. Wind damage prevention;

20. Grading standards;

21. Boll weevil eradication — impact on other insects;

22. Fruit shedding;

23. Yield-enhancement compounds; and

24. Weather and environmental factors.

We oppose any restructuring or reduction in manpower or funding that would handicap research or extension efforts on cotton.

We strongly encourage seed companies to quickly enroll new seed varieties, especially transgenetic varieties, into UofA yield trials. More cotton breeding should be done by the university and kept as public varieties.

We support the Cotton Incorporated initiative that makes conventional varieties available and supports research to better facilitate their use.

Rice 105

We support the nonrefundable checkoff for rice promotion and research in Arkansas, and we oppose any efforts to change its structure. We recommend that a small portion of the rice promotion funds be allocated to in-state promotion.

We support faster and less-costly registration of new crop protectants. Public safety should come first. However, scientific research should clearly indicate harmful effects. We recommend that rice crop protectants be classified as minor-use crop protectants.

We support efforts to keep all currently used crop protectants available to producers.

We support keeping Facet available to farmers in Arkansas. We support continued research on droplet size pertaining to drift.

We encourage allowing tank mixes with Command for aerial application.

We support efforts to modify the label for ground application of Command to provide for use in and around city limits and residences, under conditions that limit potential for offsite drift.

We support efforts to obtain full registration, Section 18 or crisis exemption for needed rice crop protectants.

We encourage continued cooperation between Environmental Protection Agency and Arkansas' rice industry in the Section 18 process. We support current State Plant Board buffer zones for phenoxy herbicide application; however, we recommend the term "susceptible crops" be changed to "cotton" for the purpose of enforcement.

We request that the State Plant Board, in counties where a distinct cropping division between rice and cotton is evident, allow an

exemption for rice from any countywide 2, 4-D ban.

We oppose a ban on aerial application of 2, 4-D.

We support penalties and stringent controls of applicators to help lead to the correct usage and application of chemicals on rice.

We favor the current zero tolerance of red rice and sprangletop in registered and certified rice seed.

We favor more rice promotion at the local level and recommend that the USA Rice Council work with Arkansas public schools to encourage consumption of rice in the daily diet.

We recommend more efforts to increase domestic rice sales in the United States.

We encourage aerial applicators to participate in calibration testing and training prior to each crop year through a Cooperative Extension Service program.

We urge the State Plant Board to monitor rice seed brought into Arkansas from other states for the presence of disease organisms not found in Arkansas. If such organisms are detected in seed produced outside Arkansas, we recommend seed from that state be quarantined.

We support appropriate action to strengthen zinc and other micronutrient labeling.

We support efforts to open markets in other countries for both milled and rough U.S. rice.

We recommend the State Plant Board reduce current buffer zones imposed on Stratego and Tilt.

We support the USA Rice Federation.

We support the USA Rice Federation's efforts to use all the money from the Columbian Free Trade Agreement Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQ) for research.

We recommend cut-off dates for planting rice for Farm Service Agency purposes be divided into a north-south zone similar to the cotton dates, with the northern zone 10-20 days earlier.

We oppose excessive pricing by seed dealers on new varieties of rice released by the University of Arkansas.

We oppose rice seed sales based on seed count.

We encourage cooperation between the UofA Agricultural Experiment Station and private companies to develop transgenic varieties. We recommend working with all agencies and groups in the development of proper protocols for the production of transgenic rice in Arkansas.

We support continued funding of research and Extension activities in the development of public rice varieties in order to provide viable alternatives to private development of rice seed.

We strongly oppose varieties developed by rice checkoff dollars being licensed to private companies, unless license revenues are utilized to support the UofA rice research program.

We support and urge the UofA Division of Agriculture and USDA to enter into a hybrid rice breeding program. However, this should not reduce funds for the development of conventional varieties.

We support the UofA retaining ownership rights to publicly developed varieties.

We support raising loan rates on rice to ensure production costs are met. We oppose different loan rates for different regions.

We recommend a more transparent process of determining World Market Price for rice.

Due to rising basis levels in recent years, we propose the creation of more board delivery points to make delivery on a futures contract more feasible for growers.

We recommend USDA stock reports be released monthly.

We support the current August 1 start date for the rice marketing year.

We oppose rice fields being considered aquatic areas for regulatory purposes.

We support cost-share programs that would better encourage surface water systems.

We support the efforts of the U.S. rice industry, with the State Plant Board, to eliminate the presence of Liberty Link traits and to reestablish the supply and marketability of U.S. rice.

We oppose the "traceability" concept of tracking the movement of identifiable grain through the marketing chain. The concept is impractical and will be costly to administer.