

Production Cycle of Rice



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Growing rice is an extensive process!
Take a look below to see how rice goes from the field to your plate.

PLANTING

Before the rice can be planted, the fields are tilled and some farmers even use low- and no-till practices

IRRIGATION

Rice fields are efficiently flooded to help with weed management and growth

Rice farmers collect, store and recycle the run-off water

HARVEST

Fields are drained, and the water is stored to be reused the next year

Combines cut the stalks of rice and the grain is taken to storage facilities to dry

MILLING

During milling, the hulls are removed from the grain, and the rice is polished as brown or white rice

While the rice is being milled, by-products like rice bran and rice oil are produced

PREPARATION

Preparation for the next year includes leveling land, building reservoirs, managing remaining stubble, flooding fields



Did You Know... In Arkansas, the most common planting method is drilling, where seeds are sown directly in the field.

Rice farmers manage and pay for winter-flooded rice habitats, providing 35% of all food energy for waterfowl and other migratory birds in rice growing areas.

Over 50% of the rice grown in the US is produced in Arkansas, and over one million acres of rice are planted and harvested throughout the state each year.

After rice is milled, it is packaged, marketed, and sold to feed Arkansans and people all around the world to be the most widely consumed grain.

Leveling rice fields improves water use efficiency, and increases grain yield.

Over the past 20 years US rice farmers have increased yields by 53% while decreasing land use by 35%, energy use by 38%, and water use by 53%.