

# Farmer Swears On RiceTec:

## Best Of The Best

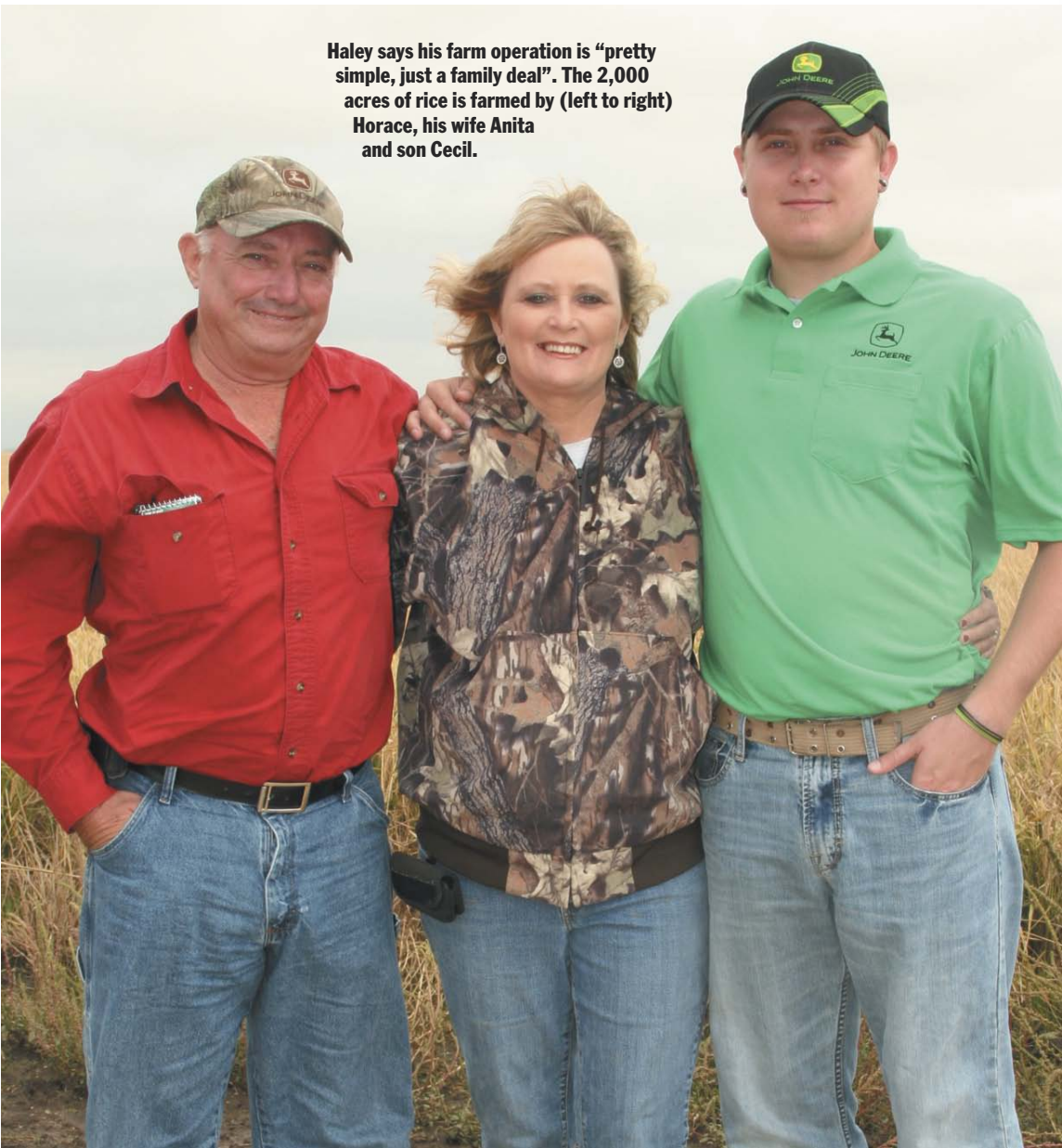
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### BLOOMFIELD, MO.

Raising rice since 1979, Horace Haley has become what you would call a rice expert. Haley has a simple operation around Portageville, Mo. with his wife and son. “We farm about 2,000 acres of rice, it’s a family deal,” said Haley, “we don’t hire help to do it.” Haley’s acreage is water seeded and therefore not too hard to farm, even that big of acreage. “All my rice is zero grade,” said Haley, “I have

little CL171 and of course it’s brought my average down. My average is now over 182 bushels on 1,260 acres and I feel it would be higher if all I had grown was RiceTec,” said Haley. “CL171 cut between 150 and 170 bushels and my RiceTec cut from 226 and I haven’t cut any of it down below 170 so it has been a real good year for my RiceTec,” said Haley. “My Clearfield 171 I sprayed all of it for sheath blight. My RiceTec had some sheath blight but it didn’t get too bad and I have never had to spray an acre of it and I’m very pleased with

Haley says his farm operation is “pretty simple, just a family deal”. The 2,000 acres of rice is farmed by (left to right) Horace, his wife Anita and son Cecil.



no levees at all.”

“I started zero grade rice in the late 1980’s and have been farming it ever since. Before I did this some friends and I went out to California to try to figure out how to raise rice behind rice. They have been doing it for several years out there so we wanted to talk to them,” said Haley.

“They knew all about it so we talked and came back to Missouri and got started around here with it. This was about 1989 and we have been doing it ever since,” said Haley.

Haley states that he is still embracing what he learned in California. “There is something about rice,” said Haley, “it takes a long time to know. You think that you know everything that there is to know and then something comes up that you didn’t know that you can learn from. I really enjoy raising rice for this reason.”

“I caught on to the water seed fairly quickly. Some farmers have told me that they have tried it and said that it can’t be done, but a few of us around here have proved them wrong,” said Haley.

“Water seeding can be done if you use the right techniques with it,” said Haley.

“Basically, I’m still learning everyday. I don’t have a scout or anything, I scout my own rice so I know enough about disease and such but I still learn something new each year. I know scouts are good and a lot of farmers use them, but if there is something out there I want to find it myself,” said Haley, “I look just a little bit harder than a scout will because I have a little more money invested than they have.”

Haley said that some things have changed over his years growing rice, the seeds he uses being one of them.

“I started out with Starbonnet in 1979 and of course seeds have changed since then, rice has changed. I started using RiceTec a few years ago and to me it’s the future of rice. I can’t see raising anything but RiceTec rice,” said Haley.

“I began growing RiceTec in 2003 and each year I have been increasing my bushels. I am now 100 percent RiceTec,” said Haley.

“I have made money each year (except last year, 2008, when I broke even) on RiceTec and I would have did better than breaking even in 2008 except for the prices of fertilizer and weather,” said Haley.

“This year (2009) I couldn’t get all the seed that I wanted but last year (2008) I did raise a

that. It cuts your costs down quite a bit,” said Haley.

“With RiceTec there is always someone to call if you have questions. A support team is always there. On other rice there is not always that help. You can ask them questions and they can’t answer them. I’ve never asked a question that could not be answered by a RiceTec support team. It’s just one reason that I grow RiceTec,” said Haley.

“We are a family operation and we try to cut costs any way we can. I feel by keeping my labor down, that helps in costs for us,” said Haley

All of the machinery that Haley and his family uses is theirs so they take good care of it Haley says, versus hiring someone to come in and drive the equipment. “Someone you hire just doesn’t take care of the equipment like the owner does,” said Haley, “to me, that helps keep our costs down because we aren’t spending money getting our machines fixed.”

“I just enjoy growing rice,” said Haley, “I’ve grown it for a long time and I’ve grown about every variety out there and RiceTec is it. I’ve found something that I’m going to stick with. The cost of fertilizer, machinery, and other rice just doesn’t add up to what you save by using RiceTec. I just can’t see ever growing anything else anymore.”

Haley says that some of the costs do add up with RiceTec such as the high cost of seed but he says the big bushels that he gets outweighs any bad that RiceTec may have.

“There is no regular rice that can compete with RiceTec and I feel that someday I can even have a bad year like this last one and I can still come out on top with RiceTec,” said Haley.

“I’ve bought enough seed for next year to plant my entire crop in RiceTec. That’s about 1600 acres of CLXL 745 and the rest will be CLXL 729,” said Haley, “This year I’m expecting on my 1,940 tillable acres about 350,000 bushels all together.”

Haley said that he sees his future in rice farming staying as a family operation and definitely staying with the zero grade. “To me,” said Haley, “zero grade is the only way to go with rice.”

“I see my son taking over for me down the road. I hope that I have taught him all I know about rice to continue what I have started here,” said Haley, “it’s a family deal here and I would like to keep it that way.”

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