

# Full House Means Standing Room Only For Conference Attendees

## Conservation Systems Cotton & Rice Conference Draws Record Crowd

The 15th Annual Conservation Systems Cotton & Rice Conference, Southern Corn & Soybean Conference and Southern Precision Ag Conference held recently in Harrah's Tunica Convention Center, Tunica, Mississippi drew a record crowd.

"For the past 15 years, the conference has had steady growth. This year was no exception. We had well over 725 attendees. The attendees represented 22 states and Uruguay," said John M. LaRose, Publisher, MidAmerica Farm Publications.

- Dr. Kenneth Smith, University of Arkansas—Conservation Systems 2012 Cotton Researcher Of The Year

- Phillip Lyerly Jr., Leachville, Arkansas—Conservation Systems 2012 Cotton Farmer Of The Year

- Dr. Tim Walker, Mississippi State University—Conservation Systems 2012 Rice Researcher Of The Year

- Justin and Wayne Dulaney, Dulaney Farms, Clarksdale, Mississippi—Conservation Systems 2012 Rice Farmers Of The Year



The 15th Annual National Conservation Systems Cotton & Rice Conference, Southern Corn & Soybean Conference and Southern Precision Ag Conference held recently in Harrah's Tunica Convention Center, Tunica, Mississippi drew a record crowd. Sponsor speakers at the opening session were (photo inserts from left to right) Berrye Worsham, President, CEO Cotton Incorporated; Dwight Roberts, President, CEO US Rice Producers Association and Marc Curtis, Chairman, United Soybean Board.



The conference was a production of MidAmerica Farm Publications and was sponsored by Cotton Incorporated, U. S. Rice Producers and the United Soybean Board.

"Growers and certified crop consultants, who attended the conference, accounted for over 3.3 million acres of agriculture production last year," stated LaRose. Exhibit space sold out early at the conference trade show.

Over the two-day period there were 11 breakout sessions scheduled. During each breakout session attendees could choose from 18 different presentations. There were 104 speakers at the conferences. "It was standing room only in many of the breakout sessions," said LaRose.

Berrye Worsham, President, CEO Cotton Incorporated; Dwight Roberts, President, CEO US Rice Producers Association; Marc Curtis, Chairman, United Soybean Board and Bob Stallman, President, American Farm Bureau spoke at the opening session.

The roundtable luncheon included the awards presentations and featured guest speaker Fred Clark, Executive Vice President & General Counsel, Cornerstone Government Affairs, Washington D.C.

### Awards Presented At The Noon Luncheon

Awards for Researcher & Farmer Of The Year were presented to:

- Dr. Melvin A. Newman, University of Tennessee—Conservation Systems 2012 Corn & Soybean Researcher Of The Year

- Darren Grogan, Arlington, Kentucky—Conservation Systems 2012 Corn & Soybean Farmer Of The Year

- Dr. Terry Griffin, University of Arkansas, Cresco Ag, Memphis, Tennessee—Conservation Systems 2012 Precision Ag Researcher Of The Year

- Jeff Hill, Gates Tennessee—Conservation Systems 2012 Precision Ag Farmer Of The Year

The social reception sponsored by US Rice Producers Association, entertained attendees with bluegrass music by Grassfire, drinks, hors d'oeuvres and attendance prizes. Brad Robb, Grassfire lead vocals and guitar, is the Vice President of Communications, The Cotton Board.

Corporate co-sponsors were: Bayer Crop-Science, DuPont Crop Protection, Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc., FMC Corporation, Helena Chemical Co., HorizonAg, Monsanto, Delta Pine, RiceCo LLC and RiceTec.

Plans for the 16th Annual Conservation Systems Cotton & Rice Conference, Southern Corn & Soybean Conference and Southern Precision Ag Conference are tentatively scheduled for January 28-30, 2013 in South Louisiana. Δ



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