

# New Site For Conference Garners Praise Nat'l Conservation Systems Cotton, Rice Conf. Deemed Success

Marksville, Louisiana was the site of the 12th Annual National Conservation Systems Cotton & Rice Conference recently. Held in conjunction with this conference were the Mid-South Corn & Soybean Conference and



**Louisiana Ag Commissioner, Dr. Mike Strain, was the guest speaker at the opening session.**

to speak at the conference. He stated that he believes in simplifying the methods of growing cotton. "The overhead cost of raising cotton has to be streamlined," he said. "We can't afford to have the labor costs we used to have. Flex cotton will help us treat cotton more like soybeans."

The 91 presentations made by researchers and farmers included 27 cotton sessions, 28 rice sessions, 13 corn sessions and 10 sessions on precision agriculture. The conference speakers came from 7 states. The farmers in attendance were from 14 states.

Two researchers and two farmers were honored for their work promoting conservation agriculture systems. Named Rice Researcher of the Year 2009 was Dr. Steve Linscombe, senior rice breeder and geneticist at the LSU AgCenter Rice Research Station. Receiving the Cotton Researcher of the Year

the Mid-South Precision Ag Conference.

With over 500 people in attendance, the average farm size represented by producers was 3,531 acres, according to John LaRose, Publisher of MidAmerica Farmer Grower and President of Mid-America Farm Publications, the principal sponsor of the conferences. Other sponsors include Cotton Incorporated and the US Rice Producers Association. Academic, technical and corporate co-sponsors also assisted.

"One producer said he had attended past conferences in Tunica and Houston, and appreciated MidAmerica Farm Publications bringing the conference to Louisiana producers," LaRose said. "He said the sessions presented information Louisiana producers really need to know." Several other Louisiana attendees thanked the organizers for bringing the conference to Louisiana.

Louisiana Ag Commissioner Dr. Mike Strain was guest speaker at the opening session. The world record setting soybean yield producer, Kip Cullers, drew much attention for his presentation. Cullers is

the National Soybean Association 2006 World Record Soybean yield record holder. In 2007 Cullers broke his 2006 world record soybean yield with a new World Record Soybean Yield of 145 bushels per acre. Cullers holds seven National Corn Growers Association titles for irrigated corn.

Cullers has spoken to growers all over the United States, sharing what he continues to learn about raising the bar on soybean yields. Cullers is known for taking proven practices and incorporating them into his operation. In his presentation, Cullers shared the techniques and management practices he uses to effect success. "First and foremost," he said, "is to plant the best variety for the area." His second bit of advice is to control the disease pressure with the proper fungicide once the crop is up and growing. His irrigation method contributes to his success. He stated that he waters frequently and at a low volume in order to cool the canopy.

George LaCour, a cotton farmer from Louisiana, was one of the 12 cotton farmers



**Pictured above: Receiving the Cotton Researcher of the Year 2009 Award was Dr. Donald J. Boquet of Louisiana State University.**

**Pictured below: According to John LaRose, Publisher of MidAmerica Farmer Grower and President of MidAmerica Farm Publications, the conference had over 500 people in attendance, and the average farm size represented by producers was 3,531 acres.** Photos by John LaRose, Jr.



**Pictured Above: The Cotton Farmer of the Year 2009 Award was presented to Steve Stevens of Tillar, Ark.**

**Pictured Left: Named Rice Researcher of the Year 2009 was Dr. Steve Linscombe, Senior Rice Breeder and geneticist at the LSU AgCenter Rice Research Station.**

**Pictured Below: Jeff Durand of St. Martinsville, La., was named the Rice Farmer of the Year for 2009.**

2009 Award was Dr. Donald J. Boquet of Louisiana State University.

Jeff Durand of St. Martinsville, La., was named the Rice Farmer of the Year for 2009. The Cotton Farmer of the Year 2009 Award was presented to Steve Stevens of Tillar, Ark.

Academic, technical and corporate co-sponsors assisting with the conference include: LSU AgCenter, Auburn University, University of Arkansas, Mississippi State University, University of Missouri, University of Tennessee and Texas A&M University; various USDA-NRCS and USDA-ARS research centers from Washington D.C., Alabama, Mississippi and Texas; Delta & Pine Land, Horizon Ag, Pioneer Hi-Bred International and RiceTec. Farm Press Publications was an Ag Media co-sponsor. Δ



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