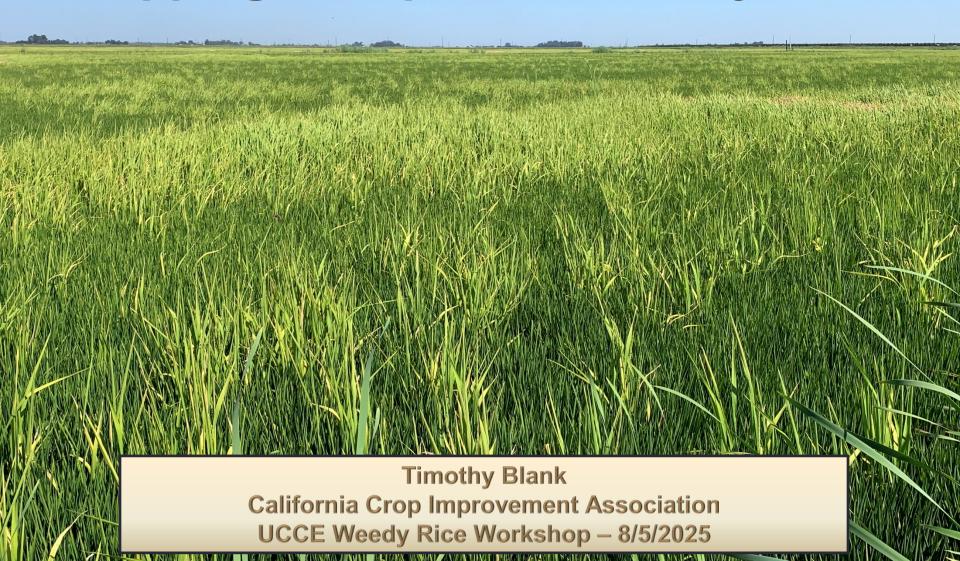
Certified Seed and QA Programs Stopping the Spread of Weedy Rice



Topics of Discussion:

- Overview of seed certification and QA programs
- 2. 2024 observations
- 3. 2025 outlook



The CCIA:

- Mission: "Provide services and support research that promotes the improvement, production, distribution and use of superior quality seeds and other agricultural products."
- Was officially incorporated in 1944, however, seed certification in California began in 1925 through the efforts of the state Farm Bureau.
- Is the official seed certifying agency in California as recognized by California Seed Law.
- Is a private, non-profit organization affiliated with the University of California, Davis.
- Is funded through fees collected from services performed.

Rice Seed Certification and QA Programs

- Limited generation pedigree system
- Three inspected classes
- Seed fields and seed lots must meet minimum standards
- Field history requirement
- Seed fields inspected for offtypes, other crops, weeds, and diseases
 - ZERO tolerance for weedy rice
- Seed lots tested for purity, germination, and red rice
 - ZERO tolerance for red rice in non-colored bran varieties



Generations in Certification and QA Programs

Similar standards, different terminology

A number of specialty rice varieties in California are ineligible for certification as the seed source was not officially from the variety developer.

 QA varieties include Koshihikari, Hitomebore, Akitakomachi, Carnaroli, Kokuho Rose, etc.

Seed Certification	/	Quality Assurance Program
		

Breeder seed = Breeder seed

Foundation = Basic (QA-1)

Registered = QA-2

Certified = QA-3



Overview of changes to Marketing Order in 2017

- Outside of a formal seed program, weedy rice proliferated in some of these non-certified varieties, as well as grower-saved seed in certified varieties.
- To stop the spread of weedy rice, the Marketing Order regulating CA rice production was updated in 2017 to require a 3rd party inspection system for all rice seed production. New regulations also prohibit grower saved seed.
- 2019 ALL rice planted in California must be either certified seed or seed from a third party quality assurance program approved by the Certification Committee (note: most RES varieties have PVP protection with the Title V option selected, and can only be sold as a class of certified seed).
- 2019 Handlers shall require producer verification of planting certified seed or seed enrolled in a third party quality assurance program approved by the Certification Committee.

Code of California Regulations, Title 3, Division 4, Chapter 2, Subchapter 5. § 2852.5

2024 Seed Field Observations

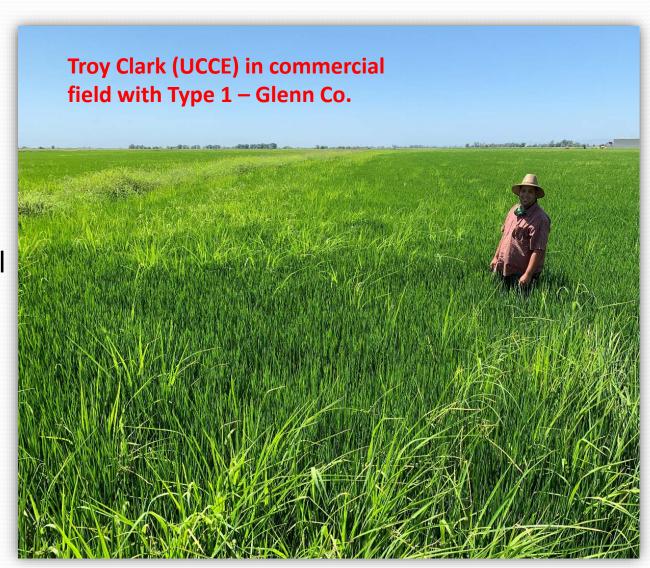
- A total of 26,869 acres were inspected (including 1058 acres in the QA program)
- ~264 acres (2 fields) did not pass for seed production in 2024 due to the observation of 4 red rice plants.
 - One field had single plant,
 Type 2
 - One field had 3 plants, medium grain, pubescent hull, red awns, tall





Continued UCCE-CCIA Collaboration

- UCCE and CCIA remain in regular contact regarding weedy rice observations
- Maintain confidential maps of all documented fields with weedy rice.



2025 Field Inspections

- 28,190 acres to be inspected
- Inspections begin on 8/8/21
- Passing fields free of weedy rice is of highest priority
- 4 inspectors; inspector training includes visits to commercial fields with weedy rice.
- CCIA inspectors can conduct test for presence of red rice with KOH test before grains are mature.
- Any fields with suspect red offtypes will be reinspected by lead CCIA rice inspector (Timothy Blank).



In Summary:

- Seed Certification standards intended to provide rice growers with pure seed with strict tolerances for varietal contamination and zero tolerance for weedy rice.
- Quality Assurance program mirrors Certified Seed program, and was developed for varieties that cannot be certified.
- Effective in 2019, all commercial production must be planted with seed from either seed certification or QA programs.
- Red rice in Certified/QA seed fields is rare, but found annually
- Weedy rice detection and control remains of highest priority.

Questions

