

USA RICE OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

NEW ORLEANS • DEC 7-9, 2025

REGISTRATION BROCHURE



WHERE THE RICE INDUSTRY MEETS

The USA Rice Conference brings the entire rice industry together to examine current issues and trends, learn from experts and each other, celebrate excellence in our industry, and make new professional connections.

The USA Rice Outlook Conference, the largest rice-specific event in North America, is an annual educational service of the USA Rice Federation.

Learn. Network. Grow Your Business.

Over three days in December, farmers, millers, merchants, agri-businesses, government representatives, end-users, suppliers, academics, and other industry affiliates gather to meet, participate in educational programming, and plan for the coming crop year.

One of the most dynamic features of the Outlook Conference is the trade show, where exhibiting companies are excited to connect with you! Engage with exhibitors and learn about the latest and greatest products, services, and innovations that can help your business.



JOIN USA RICE & SAVE

A variety of membership opportunities are available, including **USA Rice Enterprise Partner** for companies affiliated with the U.S. rice industry. Benefits include discounted registration for the Outlook Conference and more!

For USA Rice membership information, please contact Jeanette Davis, jdavis@usarice.com, (240) 682-0059.



EXCITING AND TIMELY PROGRAMMING

Conference programming is carefully curated to offer a tangible benefit to attendees. We have exciting speakers and outstanding educational sessions that will make your time spent in New Orleans truly impactful to you, to your bottom line, and to your business.

Visit the [conference website](#) for the latest details on sessions.

Keynote Speakers



Steve Lerch, Innovation Strategist
“Building a Culture of Collaboration, Curiosity, and Speed”
Innovation is the key to survival in today’s world. Steve will explain how to create a culture that breeds creativity and transformation. Whether you represent a family farm, a multinational company, or the national trade association, Steve’s fast-paced presentation laced with real world examples and humor will set you on the path to success.



Nikolas Badminton, Futurist
“Facing Our Futures: Looking to 2035 and Beyond”
Nikolas will teach you how to develop a futurist mindset to see the signals of change and emerging trends in agriculture and rice farming. From demystifying global megatrends shaping geopolitical dynamics to exploring the signals and trends that will transform agriculture, Nik’s energetic keynote will ignite your curiosity and shift your mindset from *What Is* to *What If*.

More than 20 hours of educational programming; here’s a small sample:

Becoming an Exporter – Learn the required steps to export rice and what various countries require.

California’s Rice Footprint Initiative – Dive into the multi-year, multi-layered economic and environmental study that will solidify the industry’s social license to operate.

Rural Mental Health – It’s okay to not be okay.

Packaging Innovation & Regulations – Catch consumers’ eye but stay compliant with waste regulations.

Federal Farm Policy Implementation – We finally have a Farm Bill. Now what?

Regulatory Landscape – From H2A to EPA, our panel will get you up to speed and prepped for what’s to come.

U.S. Rice Quality Symposium

– U.S. rice breeders are making progress addressing the quality characteristics requested by Latin American rice importers. Rice breeders from public research institutions and private companies will share the results of their recent elite line testing.



Other session topics include:

- Logistics & Shipping
- Rice Grading
- Rice History
- Navigating E-Commerce
- Social Media Strategies for Brands
- USA Rice’s Consumer Research
- Ag Economy Lessons
- State Rice Research and Outlook Reports for eight states... and much more!

International Market Panels

NEW!

Our international market panels will feature key importers and brand representatives to share insights into their regions, customers, and market opportunities. Featured markets include:

- Mexico – Still our top market.
- Central America – Will new varieties seal the deal?
- Caribbean – How will some of our top milled rice markets fare in 2026?
- Europe/Middle East – How will improved market access change this export destination?

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

This year's conference is being held at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside in the Central Business District. The hotel features multiple dining options, self-parking, direct access to the Riverwalk Outlets, and is one mile from the French Quarter.

Conference Hotel:

[Hilton New Orleans Riverside](#)

Two Poydras Street
New Orleans, LA 70130
Phone: (504) 561-0500



Registration

Registration Type	Early Registration (On/Before Nov. 6)	Registration (Nov. 6 Through Nov. 30)	Onsite Registration (Dec. 7-9)
Member	\$315	\$415	\$440
Non-Member	\$475	\$575	\$600
Guest	\$175	\$175	\$175

General Registration: The general registration fee provides admittance to conference sessions, trade show, continental breakfast, and receptions. Please note, special events, such as tours and the Annual Awards Luncheon, are available for additional fees.

Guest Registration: The guest registration fee provides admittance to receptions only. Those interested in attending conference sessions must pay the general registration fee.

Name Badges: Name badges are required for admittance to **all** conference functions. Name badges are issued **only** to conference registrants and registered guests.

Photo Release: Attendees acknowledge and give unrestricted permission for USA Rice to use photographs, video, and audio recordings taken during the event to report on and promote this and future conferences.

Cancellation Policy: All changes/cancellations must be sent in writing to jbryant@usarice.com by Nov. 7, 2025. All cancellation requests received by Nov. 7, 2025, will receive a full refund. No refunds will be made after that date.

Special Assistance: Persons requiring special accommodations or having any dietary restrictions to attend or participate in this conference should contact Jeanette Davis at (703) 236-1447 or e-mail jdavis@usarice.com no later than Nov. 30, 2025.

Conference Hotel

Hotel Room Rates, Dates, and Availability: USA Rice has a special conference rate of \$199 single or double for hotel rooms available on a first-come, first-served basis for reservations made no later than Nov. 7, 2025. Making reservations by this deadline does not guarantee that a room is available, so it is recommended you make your hotel reservations as soon as possible. The conference rates are available three days prior and three days after, subject to availability.

Hotel Reservations: [Click here](#) to reserve your room online or call the hotel directly at (504) 561-0500 and ask for the special USA Rice rate. Please keep your reservation confirmation number.

Hotel Check-In/Check-Out Times: Check-in is 4:00 p.m. and check-out is Noon.

Parking: The Hilton New Orleans Riverside offers self-parking at \$50 per night and valet parking at \$55 per night with unlimited in/out access. Hourly parking is available for those not staying overnight.

ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

Advance payment for the luncheon is required to reserve a spot. Onsite registration for the lunch will be subject to availability.

Date: Monday, December 8
Time: 12:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.
Where: Grand Ballroom A & B
Price: \$40

A highlight of every USA Rice Outlook Conference is the Annual Awards Luncheon. It's an sensational event where attendees gather to recognize and honor their peers for accomplishments in service to the industry. The luncheon includes a salad, entrée, dessert, tea, and coffee.

Rice Awards:

- Rice Farmer of the Year Award
- Rice Industry Award
- Rice Lifetime Achievement Award

Additional Recognition:

- National Rice Month Scholarship Award
- USA Rice PAC Outstanding Contributor Award
- USA Rice Distinguished Conservation Achievement Award
- USA Rice Sustainability Award
- Rice Leadership Development Program's New Class



Explore the Crescent City on your own. [New Orleans official website](#) can help to plan your activities and listed below are some other links of things to do in New Orleans.

■ [Audubon Aquarium](#)

■ [Caesars Casino](#)

■ [Garden District Walking Tour](#)

■ [Jackson Square](#)

■ [Mardi Gras World](#)

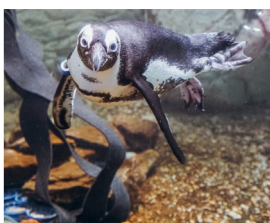
■ [New Orleans School of Cooking](#)

■ [New Orleans Steamboat Natchez Jazz Cruise](#)

■ [Riverwalk Outlet](#)

■ [Swamp Tour](#)

■ [The National WWII Museum](#)



SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

Registration Desk Hours

Sunday, Dec. 7	1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 8	8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 9	7:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Exhibit Hall Hours

Sunday, Dec. 7	6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 8	2:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 9	7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 7, 2025

- 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Grand Opening Reception
- 7:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Leadership Alumni Dinner (Alumni Only)

Monday, December 8, 2025

- 9:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. General Session
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. Annual Awards Luncheon (Ticketed Event)
- 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Concurrent Education Sessions / Exhibit Hall
- 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. U.S. Rice Quality Symposium
- 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Annual Conference Reception
- 6:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. USA Rice Back Our PAC Dinner & Auction (Ticketed Event)

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

- 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast and Visit Exhibitors
- 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. New Products & Technology
- 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Concurrent Education Sessions / Exhibit Hall
- 11:30 a.m. Conference Adjourns

USA Rice is an equal opportunity provider and employer. USA Rice does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital/family status, or political beliefs.

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