

August 7, 2015

**California Wild Rice Program 2015-2016 Assessment
Set at \$10.00 Per Harvested Acre**

TO ALL CALIFORNIA WILD RICE PRODUCERS:

Upon the recommendation of the California Wild Rice Advisory Board (Board), the California Department of Food and Agriculture (Department) has established an assessment rate for the California Wild Rice Program (Program) of \$10.00 per harvested acre on all wild rice acreage harvested by producers during the Program's 2015-2016 fiscal year (June 1, 2015 through May 31, 2016). The assessment rate is the same as last year. The industry has requested this amount to ensure that the Program will have sufficient resources to continue providing a high level of service.

As in past years, the assessment will be collected in two installments.

- Five dollars (\$5.00) per harvested acre will be due on *October 15, 2015*.
- Five dollars (\$5.00) per harvested acre will be due on *February 15, 2016*.

The Board will use the assessment funds to carry out promotion and research activities on behalf of the California wild rice industry.

You have received, or will receive in the near future, a producer acreage survey from the Board office. Each producer needs to complete the survey and return it to the Board. Based on the survey and other relevant information, the Board staff will develop a list of all California wild rice producers and their projected 2015-2016 harvested acreage. The Board will then send out assessment forms prior to the October 15th due date for the first installment of the 2015-2016 assessment.

Assessments on unharvested acres will not be collected. However, to avoid payment of assessments on unharvested acres, verification of non-harvested acres will be required by at least one of the Board members or alternate members in your District. Please contact the Board office for additional details regarding the procedure to verify unharvested acreage.

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Assessments are due and payable on the aforementioned due dates and will become delinquent if not paid within 15 days immediately thereafter. In addition, pursuant to Section 58930 of the Food and Agricultural Code, a 10% late payment charge may be imposed, plus a penalty of 5% of the unpaid balance for each 30 days the assessment is unpaid.

If you have any questions regarding the assessment rate, or the California Wild Rice Board, please feel free to call Fred Klose, Manager of the California Wild Rice Board, at (916) 863-0312, or contact David Hillis of this office at (916) 900-5018.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Maxie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert Maxie, Chief
Marketing Branch