
B.R. Wells
R I C E
Research Studies
2 0 0 3

R.J. Norman, J.-F. Meullenet,
and K.A.K. Moldenhauer, editors

Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701



DEDICATED IN MEMORY OF

Bobby R. Wells

Dr. Bobby R. Wells was born July 30, 1934, at Wickliffe, Ky. He received his B.S. degree in agriculture from Murray State University in 1959, his M.S. in agronomy from the University of Arkansas in 1961, and his Ph.D. in soils from the University of Missouri in 1964. Dr. Wells joined the faculty of the University of Arkansas in 1966 after two years as an assistant professor at Murray State University. He spent his first 16 years at the U of A Rice Research and Extension Center near Stuttgart. In 1982, he moved to the U of A Department of Agronomy in Fayetteville.

Dr. Wells was a world-renowned expert on rice production with special emphasis on rice nutrition and soil fertility. He was very active in the Rice Technical Working Group (RTWG) for which he served on several committees, chaired and/or moderated Rice Culture sections at the meetings and was a past secretary and chairman of the RTWG. He loved being a professor and was an outstanding teacher and a mentor to numerous graduate students. Dr. Wells developed an upper-level course in rice production and taught it for many years. Dr. Wells was appointed head of the U of A Department of Agronomy in 1993 and became university professor that year in recognition of his outstanding contributions to research, service, and teaching.

Among the awards he received were: the Outstanding Faculty Award from the U of A Department of Agronomy (1981), the Distinguished Rice Research and/or Education Award from the Rice Technical Working Group (1988), and the Outstanding Researcher Award from the Arkansas Association of Cooperative Extension Specialists (1992). He was named a Fellow in the American Society of Agronomy (1993) and was awarded, posthumously, the Distinguished Service Award from the RTWG (1998).

Dr. Wells edited this series when it was titled *Arkansas Rice Research Studies* from the publication's inception in 1991 until his death in 1996. Because of Dr. Wells' contribution to rice research and this publication, it was renamed the *B.R. Wells Rice Research Studies* in his memory starting with the 1996 series.

FEATURED RICE COLLEAGUE

Bobby A. Huey



Bobby Alan Huey was born February 2, 1935 on a farm near Rimmell, Ark. He was reared on a cotton and soybean farm, which was instrumental in fostering his interest in farming. He graduated from Newport High School in 1952 and received two degrees from the University of Arkansas: a B.S. in agriculture in 1956, and his M.S. in agronomy in 1966 with an emphasis in soils. During the summers while earning his B.S. degree, he farmed

cotton and soybeans, was a field inspector for certifying cotton seed for the State Plant Board, and was a commercial cotton insect scout.

Huey was first employed by the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service in 1956 as an assistant county agent in Cross County, Ark. In 1960, he became an associate county agent in Clay County, Ark., where he remained until 1965 when he moved to Lonoke County as a county extension agent. In 1970, the Cooperative Extension Service created the first full-time extension agronomist (specialist) with sole responsibilities for rice at the University of Arkansas Rice Branch Experiment Station (later renamed the Rice Research and Extension Center) near Stuttgart, Ark., and Bobby Huey was the one chosen to fill the position. Huey was Arkansas's rice extension agronomist for twenty years until his retirement in 1990. He fulfilled the role so admirably that to this day he is still the one that all those who have followed him as the rice extension agronomist are compared against by county agents, rice farmers, and scientists.

Bobby Huey's responsibilities as extension agronomist for rice were to provide leadership in rice production throughout the entire rice producing area of the state. This involved planning and conducting educational programs and activities in cooperation with county agents that were aimed at helping to identify and solve problems for rice producers and also developing publications to disseminate research information from rice scientists. Huey designed extension programs to upgrade farming practices to improve the income of rice farmers. Some of the most successful programs were "*Get the Red Out*," "*Remove Weed Seeds That Reduce Discounts*," "*Rice Farming For Profit*," and the "*Rice Research Verification Trials*." Starting in 1973 with Bonnet 73, Huey pioneered the fact sheets on how to manage each new, improved variety at the time of its release. Information about rice production was always in current print to ensure the farmers and agents had the knowledge they needed to produce profitable rice. Some of the more popular publications were the "*Rice Production Handbook*," "*Fertilizing Rice*," "*Rice Varieties*," "*Rice Field Weeds*," and the rice section of the MP 44, "*Weed Control in Rice*." He was also involved with scientists from many

disciplines in the development of the first computer programs to help rice producers. The most popular has been the “*DD50 Rice Management Program*” which has proven to be the most successful computer program developed for farmer use in Arkansas. Based on weather, variety, and seedling emergence data, this program forecasts the dates the rice plant will reach critical growth stages and indicates when the farmer should perform 28 specific management practices. This program is used not only by the rice farmer, but also by mills, seed and fertilizer dealers, consultants, agents, and researchers.

In addition to his excellent work in Arkansas, Huey reviewed the rice research project in Florida and trained farmers and extension personnel in Mississippi and Missouri. He was a member of the team that reviewed the USAID rice project in Egypt. Also, he reviewed the rice project in Puerto Rico, attended a worldwide conference at the International Rice Research Institute at Los Banos, Phillipines, and toured commercial rice research facilities in Japan.

Bobby Huey has received numerous awards for his accomplishments including Outstanding Specialist of the Year, 1981; Distinguished Rice Research and Education Award for “*Get the Red Out*” from the Rice Technical Working Group, 1982; Premier Extension Specialist in Rice Production, 1983; the prestigious Superior Service Award from the USDA, 1985; Distinguished Rice Research and Education Award for the “*DD50 Program*,” the Distinguished Service Award from the Rice Technical Working Group, 1988; and the John White Award for outstanding contributions made to extension in agriculture, 1989.

Huey made his greatest contributions to benefit the entire rice industry while headquartered at the University of Arkansas Rice Research and Extension Center. He could observe the research in progress and interacted almost daily with rice researchers there by means of informal “mini seminars” during the lunch hour. He informed the rice scientists of the various problems that rice growers and industry personnel had encountered. He challenged the researchers to help find solutions. These informal sessions gave all who were present the opportunity to exchange ideas about possible approaches to new research and to discuss recent research results.

Huey worked well with researchers in developing sound recommendations for producing optimum grain and milling yields at minimum cost. He had excellent rapport with county extension agents throughout the rice growing area of the state due to their mutual respect for each other. This was very helpful in locating suitable sites for outlying research and observation/demonstration plots in farmers’ fields. He always was on the cutting edge of developing visual aids for presentations of research results and shared this expertise with others. He was very effective in presenting research results and the latest recommendations for successful rice production at county, state, and regional meetings of farmers, extension agents, industry personnel, and university and USDA scientists. He was also active in various civic programs.

Since his retirement in 1990, Bobby Huey purchased an RV and traveled through 38 states with his wife Jo Ann over a five-year period. He has spent many winters in Florida fishing and relaxing and summers in Alaska and California. He single-handedly built a home on the farm he grew up on, and wrote two books entitled "*Baseball in the Bitter Weeds*" and "*Wanna be a Fisherman.*" He also has done some writing on the history of the Huey family. His first wife Jo Ann died of cancer in June, 1998 after a long fight. In 2000, Bobby Huey married Julia McCartney Taylor from Dallas, Texas, who grew up across the ditch from where they now live, but they had not seen each other in 38 years. He has farmland in Arkansas and Missouri that he tends to, has been on the senior citizen board in his community, is a member and chairman of the McCall-Rommel Cemetery Board, member and chairman of the Jackson County Equalization Board, and self-appointed historian of the Rommel Community. Bobby Huey has a son David, a daughter J. Anne, and three grandchildren.

This publication is available on the AAES website at:
www.uark.edu/dept/agripub/Publications/researchseries/

FOREWORD

Research reports contained in this publication may represent preliminary or only a single year of results; therefore, these results should not be used as a basis for long-term recommendations.

Several research reports in this publication will appear in other Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station publications. This duplication is the result of the overlap in research coverage between disciplines and our effort to inform Arkansas rice producers of all the research being conducted with funds from the rice check-off. This publication also contains research funded by industry, federal, and state agencies.

Use of products and trade names in any of the research reports does not constitute a guarantee or warranty of the products named and does not signify that these products are approved to the exclusion of comparable products.

All authors are either current or former faculty, staff, or students of the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, or scientists with the United States Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service. For further information about any author, contact Communication Services, (501) 575-5647.

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