

July 15, 2021

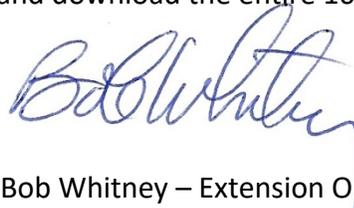
Dear Texas Organic Rice Producers,

I wanted to write this short note to all the certified Texas organic rice producers to introduce myself and let you know that I am here to help! (Some of you I met recently at Eagle Lake or in Winnie at the recent rice meetings.)

I am a long-time Texas A&M AgriLife employee and have held several positions in both AgriLife Research and Extension as well as working on projects for Texas A&M AgriLife internationally. I accepted the offer for this new position because it is something AgriLife has never done, and the challenge will be to make it successful. My job includes the following and a whole lot more:

- Work with certified and transitioning farmers to overcome the challenges they face farming organically.
- Help resolve issues with NOP regulations especially issues related to what is approved and can be used or done within the guidelines.
- Help transitioning producers know what they can and cannot do in organic farming and maintain a certification or become successful as a certified organic producer.
- Provide training for organic inspectors and certifiers.
- Work with NRCS and County Extension Agents to learn about organic farming practices and where or how they can help organic producers. Both groups help with conservation practices, pasture rotations for livestock, adapted crops by area, etc.
- Work with various commodity groups helping them with organic practices and issues related to their commodity. In the case of some commodities like cotton or dairy they have specific organic groups that help with their issues related to organic production. I help with crop seminars, field days, short courses, etc. providing organic production speakers and topics and teaching at those educational events.
- Coordinate and collaborate on research for projects that could or do have an impact in organic agriculture. We have a great team of research scientists and extension specialists that work on organic programs and we all collaborate to ensure we are addressing your organic issues in production agriculture.

If I can be of any help, please don't hesitate to reach out. Also, I have included the first two pages of the new Texas Organic Rice Production Guidelines put together by Dr. Shane Zhou, AgriLife Researcher at the Beaumont Center. If you want to see the entire publication, go to <https://tinyurl.com/cdbz3fjd> and download the entire 10 pages – it's worth it.



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