

# The Footprint of California Agriculture



**Presented By: Tom Butler**

***VP Sutter Basin Corporation, CA Rice***

***Producers Chair, CA Rice Commission***

***Executive Committee Member, USA Rice:***

***Board of Directors***

# Rice Production 2022

## “Normal” Year

- *4,100 Acres on our ranch*
- *500,000 Acres in the Sacramento Valley*



## 2022

- ❖ *400 Acres on our ranch*
- ❖ *250,000 Acres in the Sacramento Valley*

# Environmental Benefits



“ *Rice agriculture has had perhaps the greatest influence of any agricultural crop on wetland habitat for wintering waterbirds.*

*Edie, et al, Wildlife Values of North American Ricelands*

# Migratory Waterfowl and Birds



- Pacific Flyway
- Straw Decomposition
  - Rice Straw Burning Act, AB 1378, 1991
- Waterbirds are the largest group, but also includes raptors, & songbirds
- Nesting habitat
- Every acre provides 700 pounds of food

# Salmon

*“Winter-flooded agricultural fields can produce an enormous abundance of aquatic invertebrates and zooplankton.”*

*Montgomery, Fish Food on Floodplain Farm Fields*

- Partnership with California Trout
- UC Davis Scientists
- Colusa Basin Drain inputs into the Sacramento River
  - Elevated fish food abundance
  - Invertebrates and zooplankton



# Additional Species Benefits

- Reptiles and Amphibians
  - Endangered Giant Garter Snake
- Insects/Arachnids
- Mammals
  - Beavers, Otters, Skunks, Raccoons, deer, coyotes, bobcats



# Agricultural Communities





# Colusa, CA



- Population- 6,428
- 58.1% Hispanic
- 34.4% White alone
- Ag is highest employment rate of county (15%)



# Agriculture in California



- California grows over a third of the country's vegetables and three-quarters of the country's fruits and nuts.
- California is the only state in the U.S. to export the following commodities: almonds, artichokes, dates, dried plums, figs, garlic, kiwifruit, olives, pistachios, raisins and walnuts.
- California agricultural products are shipped to 200 individual countries worldwide. Canada is the top export market, followed by the European Union, Japan, China and Mexico.