

## **Rice EWR Beta Test Project**

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has authorized the use of electronic warehouse receipt (EWR) for rice under the U. S. Warehouse Act and this will be implemented on a limited basis for crop year 2006. EWR is an electronic record containing receipt data equivalent to the paper receipt traditionally issued by the warehouse. Operating under an Agreement with the Deputy Administrator, Commodity Credit Corporation (DACC), an approved EWR Provider, maintains all EWR's issued by the warehouse in a secure and confidential central filing system (CFS).

During the 2006 crop year, the Price Support Division (PSD) has directed the development of a web-based EWR System to process rice EWR for price support activities. The beta system will enable producers to use EWR's in lieu of a paper receipt to obtain marketing assistance loan (MAL) or Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP).

The beta FSA EWR System will be available on a limited basis to 26 FSA County Offices in 5 rice-producing States which include 12 counties in Arkansas, 7 counties in California, 2 counties in Louisiana, 2 counties in Mississippi and 3 counties in Texas. eGrain, Inc., one of the approved rice EWR Providers, has elected to participate in the Beta project. (California Counties are: Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, and Yuba)

A rice warehouse wishing to participate in the Beta must sign up with the Provider in order to issue the receipt as EWR. A rice producer delivering the commodity in participating warehouse shall instruct the warehouse operator to issue the EWR as 'loanable', and provide the County Office with the EWR number, warehouse code, commodity class, in addition to other information needed to request for a MAL or LDP.

Using the web-based EWR System for rice, the beta County Office shall request and download the EWR which will lock that EWR for the exclusive use of the requesting county. Downloaded EWR's will be transferred to the Automated Price Support System (APSS) to complete the loan- or LDP- making process. This process eliminates the entry of warehouse receipt-related data needed to complete the price support transaction.

EWR's used to obtain warehouse-stored loan shall have the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) as the holder until redeemed. EWR's that have been repaid will be released to the person or entity that redeemed the loan using the Holder ID issued by the Provider.

EWR has been used for cotton since 1995, and for peanuts since 2003. Users of EWR's have noted significant reduction in handling of paperwork and errors in key-entering data as well as improved data security and ease of record-keeping.