



USA Rice Daily

Up-to-the-Minute News on Issues and Activities

USA Rice Federation is the global advocate of all segments of the U.S. rice industry with a mission to promote and protect the interests of producers, millers, merchants and allied businesses.

Friday, March 12, 2010

House Witnesses Unified, Senators Active on U.S.-Cuba Legislation

WASHINGTON -- The rice, soybean, wheat, corn, dairy and other agricultural industries yesterday told House Agriculture Committee members at a hearing on U.S.-Cuba agricultural trade that the U.S. must allow unrestricted trade in food and farm products with Cuba. The groups emphatically linked unrestricted travel to Cuba as an essential component of successfully building and expanding U.S. markets there.



Louisiana Rice Producers Group Chairman Jackie Loewer attended the hearing and spoke afterwards with Committee Chairman Collin Peterson (D-MN) and Rep. Jerry Moran (R-KS), a senior committee member. Peterson and Moran led the hearing discussion and are aggressively in favor of U.S. farm-and-food trade with and travel to Cuba, which their bill (H.R. 4645, the *Travel Restriction Reform and Export Enhancement Act*), proposes. They also challenged arguments made by other committee lawmakers who oppose U.S.-Cuba travel.



The handful of committee members who attended the two-hour session were generally supportive of selling U.S. farm goods and food products to Cuba for cash, which is permitted by U.S. law. The members also support permanently changing the Treasury Department's restrictive payment-of-cash-in-advance regulation that severely hampers U.S. agricultural-products exporters from selling to Cuba. Committee members were divided deeply, however, on the travel issue.

In the Senate, Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Chairman Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) and Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) yesterday wrote Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT), urging him to hold hearings and mark up his U.S.-Cuba bill, S. 1089, as quickly as possible. In addition, media and staff reports say that the Peterson-Moran House bill is expected to have an identical bipartisan Senate companion measure introduced by Sens. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Mike Crapo (R-Idaho).

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Photo: Louisiana Rice Producers Group Chairman Jackie Loewer attended the hearing and spoke afterwards with Committee Chairman Collin Peterson (D-MN).

President Obama Details Steps of National Export Initiative

WASHINGTON -- President Barack Obama announced yesterday [details](#) of the National Export Initiative (NEI) to double U.S. exports in the next five years. The NEI stated that the steps the administration will undertake include "creating a new Cabinet-level focus on U.S. exports, expanding export financing, prioritizing government advocacy on behalf of U.S. exporters, providing new resources to U.S. businesses seeking to export, and ensuring a level

Upcoming Events

[11th RMA Convention](#)
(June 20-24, 2010)

[July Annual Business Meetings](#)
(July 10-13, 2010)

[Events Calendar](#)

Recent Issues

[March 11](#)

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Mission Statement

USA Rice Federation is the global advocate for all segments of the U.S. rice industry with a mission to promote and protect the interests of producers, millers, merchants and allied businesses.

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playing field for U.S. exporters in global markets."

United States Trade Representative Ambassador Ron Kirk will work to enforce current trade agreements as well as create new markets for U.S. exports by working towards an ambitious and balanced Doha agreement and by continuing negotiations in the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Kirk also will work to resolve outstanding issues with Panama, Colombia and Korea in an effort to move the pending free trade agreements forward. The NEI does not mention when the administration plans to send the three agreements to Congress.

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USA Rice, Coalition Continues Support of Climate-Change Regulations Disapproval

The USA Rice Federation and 174 agriculture groups this week [wrote](#) several House lawmakers in support of resolutions to disapprove the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) efforts to issue *Clean Air Act* (CAA) regulations to control greenhouse-gas emissions. The letter, addressed to Reps. Ike Skelton (D-MO), Joe Barton (R-Texas), Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO) and House Committee on Agriculture Chairman Collin Peterson (D-MN), stated that "such regulatory actions will carry severe consequences for the U.S. economy, including America's farmers and ranchers, through increased input costs and international market disparities."

The opposition to EPA writing CAA emissions regulations relates to EPA's self-determination in 2009 that greenhouse gases endanger public health and welfare -- thereby requiring CAA emissions regulations.

"The EPA rule itself claims to establish only a weak, indirect link between greenhouse gases and public health and welfare, going so far as to admit there are uncertainties over the net, direct health impacts of the greenhouse gases it is attempting to regulate," the letter states. "EPA's finding puts the agricultural economy at grave risk based on allegations of a weak, indirect link to public health and welfare and despite the lack of any environmental benefit."

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CME Group/CBOT Rice Futures Closing

CME Group (Preliminary): [Closing Rough Rice Futures for March 12](#)

Month	Price	Net Change
March 2010	\$12.185	+ \$0.01
May 2010	\$12.43	+ \$0.03
July 2010	\$12.73	+ \$0.025
Sept. 2010	\$12.625	- \$0.035
Nov. 2010	\$12.76	- \$0.05
Jan. 2011	\$13.05	- \$0.05
March 2011	\$13.36	- \$0.175
May 2011	\$13.36	Unch

In the News

[House Ag Committee Hears From Producers about Benefits of Expanding Agricultural Trade With Cuba](#)

Cattle Network -- (USA Rice Federation mentioned)

[Disaster/Biodiesel Bill Passes Senate](#)

Delta Farm Press -- (Rice not mentioned)

[Vilsack Discusses Farm Exports](#)

Delta Farm Press -- (Rice not mentioned)

[New Rice Variety Stands Tall](#)

Stuttgart Daily Leader, AR

[Haiti Quake Response Largely a Success](#)

The Los Angeles Times -- (Rice mentioned)

[Rapid Rise in Seed Prices Draws U.S. Scrutiny](#)

The New York Times -- (Rice not mentioned)

[The Case for Investing in Agricultural Research and Development](#)

Stock Journal, Australia -- (Rice not mentioned)

[Rice Crop Death Yields Solutions for Farms](#)

The Brunei Times

[Glaring Contradictions in Rice Importation](#)

Philippine Daily Inquirer

USA Rice Daily Weekly Index of Articles, March 8-11

Rough rice [settlements](#) for the week

[Thursday, March 11](#)

Rice Industry Testifies in Support of Open U.S.-Cuba Agricultural Trade and Travel

Arkansas Member Meetings Held This Week

Weekly Rice Sales, Exports Increase

[Wednesday, March 10](#)

Treasury Department to Implement Congressional Mandate for U.S.-Cuba Agricultural Trade

Senate Approves Agricultural Disaster Package in Jobs Bill

Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry Conducting Outreach Sessions

WASDE: Rice Production Estimates Unchanged

CCC Rough Rice Prices Unchanged

[Tuesday, March 9](#)

USA Rice Council Awarded Arkansas Rice Promotion Funds

[Monday, March 8](#)

USA Rice Presents Promotion Results to Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board

Louisiana Rice Growers Association Elects New Officers

Prominent Mexican Culinary School Adds Rice Course to Curriculum

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