

SUMMARY STATEMENT

RULES AND REGULATIONS ON PLANT DISEASES AND PESTS

“Emergency Rule Regulating Planting of Cheniere Rice in Arkansas in 2007 and 2008”

The rule is adopted as a result of a declared emergency and prohibits planting the variety Cheniere rice for grain production in 2007 and 2008 in Arkansas. The emergency results from the accidental, illegal introduction of a transgenic trait into this variety. Due to this event, rice markets have reacted negatively and driven the price of rice down.

Additionally, some export customers have established a ban on long grain rice from the US causing economic losses for Arkansas rice producers. Exemptions will be available for seed producers to plant Foundation and Registered grades of seed for the purpose of producing certified seed lots for potential planting in 2008, providing those seed stock lots have been subjected to appropriate testing and reported to be “not found within detection limits.”

The rule will require all seed to be utilized for planting a commercial rice crop in 2007 to be tested for the presence of the transgenic trait and will establish the protocols for getting the seed sampled and tested.

This rule is being developed to comply with Act 1238 enacted by the Arkansas legislature in 2005.