

**PRECISION LEVELING VERIFICATION STUDY  
RICE PRODUCTION  
FARM PRACTICES SURVEY  
2010**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The purpose of this survey is to investigate how laser leveling and other water conservation measures and management practices, as currently applied by farmers in LCRA's Lakeside Irrigation Division, influence on-farm water use. Your response to the survey is voluntary. LCRA will not release your information unless required to do so by law. Please refer to your farm records before and during the survey to make the information as accurate as possible. Several questions are marked optional. If you cannot or do not wish to answer some questions, please mark NA (not available). The survey consists of two parts: General Information, and Field Characteristics. At the bottom of this page please provide your name, your role in the farming operation, the LCRA contract name associated with the farm(s), and place an "X" in the appropriate boxes. If you do not wish to answer the optional question there is no need to do so. We greatly appreciate your time and effort.

**PART 1: FARMING PRACTICES**

Please answer this survey to the best of your knowledge. The survey is very similar to the 2009 survey with minor edits based on 2009 survey response. If you completed the 2009 survey, we only need 2010 information. There is a small section before Part 2 on farming practices that are not captured in the field characteristics questions.

**PART 2: FIELD CHARACTERISTICS**

The questions about characteristics of farm fields are central for verification of the benefits of the program to pay for farm land improvements. Please list ALL fields planted in 2010 (one row per field per crop season). Identify each rice field with the LCRA field name (refer to the mapbook). All fields must be identified using that name so we can identify the correct field in LCRA's billing system. Please describe ALL fields planted (in 2010) in one row per field per crop season, by placing an "X" in the appropriate box on all items that are YES. Please refer to your farm records to make the information as accurate as possible. If you do not have records for some fields/years, please note that. If you have any questions about the terminology in the survey, refer back to the glossary attached to your survey.

A mapbook of your fields is enclosed for your reference. If there are any fields in your map books that are incorrectly marked and are not part of your farming operation, if you have any other questions about filling out the survey, or if you would like to complete the survey by phone or in person, please contact Stacy Pandey or Ana Ramirez at (512) 473-3200/1-800-776-5272 or send an email to [waterconservation@lcra.org](mailto:waterconservation@lcra.org). We appreciate your time and effort and look forward to receiving your survey.

Survey Respondent Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

LCRA Contract Holder Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Gender:  Male  Female Age: \_\_\_\_\_ years (optional)

Role:  Land Owner  Tenant  Manager  Partner  Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**PART 1: FARMING PRACTICES**

Do you flush as a standard practice before holding a permanent flood?  Yes  No

What other conservation measures, not listed below, have you implemented? \_\_\_\_\_

**PART 2: FIELD CHARACTERISTICS** Please list the fields you farmed in 2010 and place a check in the appropriate box to describe each field

Survey ID: \_\_\_\_\_

2010 Field name	2nd crop Abandoned harvest of 2nd crop	Management		Conservation Measures								Water by wells
		Rice Variety	Ownership stake	Conservation Measures	In-field lateral	Multiple Inlets	Levees	Slope	Multiple Inlets Funding	Precision Leveling Funding		
LCRA: Owner: FSA number Description: Acres:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Traditional <input type="checkbox"/> Seed <input type="checkbox"/> Hybrid <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Farmed by owner <input type="checkbox"/> Rented for cash <input type="checkbox"/> Share rented 50/50 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Precision Leveled _____yr % of field leveled _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Inlets _____yr <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent Perimeter Levees <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Tillage <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Number of water inlets controlled by farmer _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent <input type="checkbox"/> Straight <input type="checkbox"/> Contour <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)	Number of Levees _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Slope = 0.2% <input type="checkbox"/> 0.2% > Slope > 0.1% <input type="checkbox"/> Slope = 0.1% <input type="checkbox"/> Slope = 0.05% <input type="checkbox"/> Zero grade <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)	NRCS funding <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Cost-share with NRCS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No All Private funding <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes if Yes, %water _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No
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	Abandoned harvest of 2nd crop	Rice Variety	Ownership stake	Conservation Measures	In-field lateral	Multiple Inlets	Levees	Slope					
LCRA:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Traditional <input type="checkbox"/> Seed <input type="checkbox"/> Hybrid <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Farmed by owner <input type="checkbox"/> Rented for cash <input type="checkbox"/> Share rented 50/50 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Precision Leveled _____yr % of field leveled _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Inlets _____yr <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent Perimeter Levees <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Tillage <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Number of water inlets controlled by farmer _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent <input type="checkbox"/> Straight <input type="checkbox"/> Contour <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____	Number of Levees _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Slope = 0.2% <input type="checkbox"/> 0.2% > Slope > 0.1% <input type="checkbox"/> Slope = 0.1% <input type="checkbox"/> Slope = 0.05% <input type="checkbox"/> Zero grade <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> NRCS funding <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Cost-share with NRCS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No All Private funding <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes if Yes, %water _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No	
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LCRA:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Traditional <input type="checkbox"/> Seed <input type="checkbox"/> Hybrid <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Farmed by owner <input type="checkbox"/> Rented for cash <input type="checkbox"/> Share rented 50/50 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Precision Leveled _____yr % of field leveled _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Inlets _____yr <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent Perimeter Levees <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Tillage <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Number of water inlets controlled by farmer _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent <input type="checkbox"/> Straight <input type="checkbox"/> Contour <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____	Number of Levees _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Slope = 0.2% <input type="checkbox"/> 0.2% > Slope > 0.1% <input type="checkbox"/> Slope = 0.1% <input type="checkbox"/> Slope = 0.05% <input type="checkbox"/> Zero grade <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> NRCS funding <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Cost-share with NRCS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No All Private funding <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes if Yes, %water _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No	
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Owner:													
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Description: _____ Acres: _____													

NAME	DESCRIPTION
<b>CONSERVATION TILLAGE</b>	Any practice where a field is not tilled in the spring before planting (including minimum tillage, stale seedbed planting, and limited tillage)
<b>CONTOUR LEVEE</b>	Unmodified slopes; levees are usually serpentine and irregularly spaced
<b>CROP CONSULTANT</b>	Whether or not management decisions (such as amount of water applied to a field, application of herbicides, pest control, rice variety etc) about rice production are influenced by an independent crop consultant
<b>CONVENTIONAL RICE VARIETY</b>	A rice variety such as Cocodrie or Cypress or Presidio
<b>EXTENSION AGENT</b>	Government sponsored agent who disseminate agricultural technical information by talking to farmers, sponsoring demonstrations, field days and meetings
<b>FAILED 2ND CROP</b>	Whether harvest of the rice field was completed or the rice field was abandoned
<b>FARM GAUGE</b>	Sensors installed on fields to transmit rainfall or other weather data to the farmer
<b>FARMED BY OWNER</b>	When the person who farms the land is the landowner
<b>FIELD HAND</b>	Paid labor used on the field to produce the rice crop
<b>FLUSH</b>	Number times irrigation water is applied to the field prior to holding a permanent flood
<b>FUNDING</b>	Whether or not a farmer received cost-sharing or incentive payments for installing/using conservation practices on this field
<b>HYBRID RICE VARIETY</b>	A hybrid rice variety such as rice tech varieties
<b>IN-FIELD LATERAL</b>	Presence of an open canal with a series on inlets controlled by the farmer to release water at multiple points on a field
<b>LEVEE DENSITY</b>	Number of levees used in the field as part of the irrigation system to cascade water from one level to the next; number of levees divided by the size of the field
<b>MANAGEMENT DECISIONS</b>	Decisions on farming practices such as crop variety, pesticides, water use, labor and infrastructure investments
<b>MANAGER</b>	Also called operator; paid worker who makes management decisions regarding rice production
<b>MULTIPLE INLETS</b>	Presence of unmetered multiple inlets on a field; multiple-inlet distribution is the practice of releasing water at multiple points along the side of a field utilizing a field lateral and multiple control structures instead of feeding all water through the highest cut of a rice field and cascading it down through each lower cut.
<b>OWNERSHIP</b>	Ownership stake: does the farmer own, rent, or only work the field
<b>PERIMETER PERMANENT LEVEE</b>	A field that contains permanent levees surrounding the field that are not plowed between growing seasons
<b>PERMANENT FLOOD DATE</b>	When floodwaters are maintained over the entire rice field throughout much of the growing season
<b>PERMANENT LEVEE</b>	Type of system used to apply water to a field; where the field contains permanent levees (e.g. in bench grading) that are not plowed between growing seasons
<b>PLANTING DATE</b>	Date the field was planted
<b>PRECISION LEVEL</b>	Whether or not a field was graded using laser-guided excavation equipment to a uniform slope equal to or less than 2 percent (conforming to minimum NRCS standards)
<b>RENTED FOR CASH</b>	When the person who farms the land is the not the landowner and he/she pays cash to rent the field
<b>SEED RICE VARIETY</b>	Rice that is grown for the purpose of seed production
<b>SHARE RENTED</b>	When the person who farms the land is the not the landowner, the landlord share the crop production from this field
<b>STRAIGHT LEVEE</b>	Fields with 0.1 percent grade, where levees are usually straight or have a slight bending
<b>WELL</b>	Whether or not wells were used to supplement water to irrigate a field
<b>YEAR</b>	Year when a field was in production (crop year)
<b>ZERO GRADE</b>	All slopes are removed; the fields are devoid of internal levees