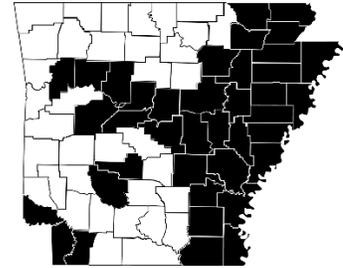


NON-ECOSYSTEM PROPOSALS

Proposals submitted for consideration of funding by the Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board fall into one of two broad categories, Ecosystems or Non-Ecosystem. Ecosystem proposals are further divided into three Ecosystems, Delta, Grand Prairie and White River for funding. The three Ecosystems are described in separate documents available on the Rice Proposal webpage. Ecosystem proposals generally involve applied research disciplines that represent in-season management practices that may be specific to soils, soil properties, or production issues common to a specific region. Non-ecosystem proposals encompass other disciplines or issues that may be common to all three rice Ecosystems or be considered basic research. Examples of disciplines that fall outside of the three Ecosystems include, but is not limited to, breeding and genetics, cover crops, irrigation, economics, environmental issues, and physiology.



When considering whether a proposal should be submitted to one of the three specific Ecosystems or the Non-Ecosystem categories ask the questions listed below. If the category is not clear, discuss the project with one of the faculty Ecosystem Coordinators, Dr. Vic Ford, or Dr. Nathan Slaton. Following submission all proposals are evaluated to ensure the topic/issue best fits within the submitted category. Proposals may be reclassified following submission.

- Is the research objective basic (Non-Ecosystem) or applied (Ecosystem)?
- Is the practice performed out-of-season (Non-Ecosystem; e.g., before planting or after harvest) or in-season (Ecosystem)?
- Does the issue apply to the majority of rice produced (Non-Ecosystem) or is the production practice common to a specific region (Ecosystem)?

Current and future rice production challenges for Non-Ecosystem issues include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Irrigation systems
- Pureline and hybrid variety development
- Post-harvest management (e.g., grain drying, milling, straw decomposition)
- Temperature effects on rice grain yield and quality
- Grower/Industry surveys
- Farm bill
- Soil health
- Organic rice production
- Green-house gas emissions