



PLENTIFUL RICE FOR DUCKS AND PEOPLE

AL MONTNA - YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA

Ducks and rice have been linked for centuries, and as far as rice farmer Al Montna is concerned, that bond will remain strong.

Al has been involved with DU since the 1960s. After he graduated college, building his farming business took him away from the organization, but DU biologists got him involved again in the 1980s with the Rice Roller project.

"Rolling the stubble let us stop the burning we did every year," Al said of the project, which left important food and habitat available to Central Valley waterfowl. "We see waterfowl as a partner, so if this change in our farming practices benefits them, it also benefits us."

Al helped create and now co-chairs the USA Rice-DU Stewardship Partnership,

which will address rice production, conservation projects, and programs and policies that are mutually beneficial to the organizations and society. Al has also started mentoring the next generation of rice farmers with his daughters, Nicole and Michelle, who are involved on the farm and with legislative groups for rice and water.

Al and his wife, Gail, are DU Benefactor Sponsors and President's Council members, and Al serves on the Conservation Programs Committee. "You have to give back a lot more than you take to enjoy this glorious resource," he said. "People have a choice, and I know DU puts its resources on the ground. This organization has few peers."



Read more of Al's story at
www.ducks.org/montna2013.

CALIFORNIA'S CENTRAL VALLEY AND BEYOND