



Jennifer James
Rice Farmer
Newport, Arkansas

Jennifer James is a fourth-generation rice farmer from Newport, Arkansas. She is part owner of H&J Land Company, a diversified family farming operation growing rice, corn, and soybeans. Jennifer graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1994 with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Business and was recognized as the John W. White Outstanding Student in the College of Agriculture, Food, and Life Sciences at commencement. Jennifer and her husband, Greg, farm with Jennifer's father, Marvin Hare. The family takes great pride in their operation's commitment to providing overwinter habitat for waterfowl and instituting practices that conserve natural resources. The family land has been recognized as an Arkansas Century Farm, so the group looks to advanced practices and continuous improvement to propel their operation into the next generation of family farms. In 2017, Jennifer was recognized by Field to Market: The Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture as the Farmer of the Year for the conservation efforts on her farm and her leadership in sustainability. In 2019, Rice Farming Magazine named Jennifer as Rice Farmer of the Year. Also, in 2019, she was the first woman ever to be elected to the Board of Directors of Riceland Foods, Inc. – the largest miller and marketer of rice in the United States. She has served as chairman of the USA Rice Sustainability Committee since its inception in 2009 and currently serves as vice chairman of the Arkansas Rice Farmers Board of Directors. Additionally, she serves on both the USA Rice Federation and USA Rice Farmers Boards of Directors. Jennifer is also a member of the Merchants & Planters Bank Board of Directors as well as the St. Louis Federal Reserve Board Agribusiness Industry Council. She and her husband have a son, Dylan, who has returned to the farm as the fifth generation.