

## **Blake Gerard**

Blake Gerard is a fourth generation owner and operator of a 2,000+ acre rice and soybean operation in Southeast Missouri and Southern Illinois. Gerard co-owns and serves as the president of River Bend Rice Seed Company, which provides contract production, conditioning, packaging and shipping of rice and soybean seed.

Gerard currently serves as Chairman of the USA Rice Farmers and the USA Rice Government Affairs Committee and Vice Chairman of the USA Rice Communications Committee. In addition to his leadership roles, Gerard actively sits on the USA Rice Farmers Crop Insurance Task Force, USA Rice Conservation Committee, USA Rice Futures Contract Working Group, and the USA Rice PAC Board of Directors. Gerard is a proud graduate of both the Rice Leadership Program and International Rice Leadership Programs representing the industry throughout the nation and China.

Gerard earned his B.S. in Agriculture from Southeast Missouri State University. For fun, he travels the U.S. competing in triathlon and IRONMAN competitions. Gerard, his wife, and his children currently reside in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.