

## **Biographical Sketch: Ray Stoesser**

Ray Stoesser is a third generation rice farmer who lives on the family farm in Dayton, Texas. Ray earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Baylor University in 1971. Ray has farmed rice for 50 years, and is proud that the Stoesser family farm has served 5 generations of his family, from his grandfather's arrival more than 100 years ago, throughout the life of his father and now including Ray's sons Neal and Grant, who are active on the farm, and their families (including Ray's 4 grandchildren).

Ray has been a long time advocate on behalf of rice farmers and the rice industry. Ray is president of the Texas Rice Council, a board member (and past Chairman) of the US Rice Producers Association, and serves on the Boards of the Texas Rice Research Foundation, the Texas Rice Producers Board, the Liberty County Farm Bureau, and the American Rice Growers Association, Dayton Division.

Ray's excellence in farming and diligence in representing rice farmers have earned him several recognitions, including being named Rice Farmer of the Year by Mid-America Farm Publications, and Farmer of the Year at the Texas Rice Festival.