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Rice grower receives conservation award

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Rice grower Al Montna of Yuba City is the 2010 recipient of the Leopold Conservation Award in California.

The award was announced recently by the California Farm Bureau Federation, San Francisco-based Sustainable Conservation and Wisconsin-based Sand County Foundation.

The \$10,000 award, which honors conservationist Aldo Leopold, is presented annually in eight states to private landowners who practice "exemplary land stewardship and management."

Montna oversees Montna Farm in Sutter County, which grows more than 2,500 acres of short-grain rice. His operation used varied conservation practices, including habitat for waterfowl and a solar power facility.

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