Arkansas Rice Update

Dr. Jarrod Hardke, Dr. Yeshi Wamishe,
Dr. Tommy Butts, & Scott Stiles

June 26, 2020 No. 2020-15 www.uaex.edu/rice

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

Dodge, Dip, Duck, Dive, and Dodge

"If you can dodge a wrench, you can dodge a ball." We can't dodge a rain if we don't know it's on the way. The weather continues to make things entertaining on a daily basis. We clearly cannot outguess the weather on what the rain, wind, and clouds will do. Now we have a Saharan dust cloud. Does anyone have a full bingo card yet?

A third or more of the rice crop is at or beyond ½" internode elongation at this point (**Table 1**). See comments from the past couple updates on midseason nitrogen fertilization recommendations. We will see the first fields heading around the 4th of July as we do each year, but the biggest push of heading will occur the third week of July (**Table 2**).

We do have a positive temperature outlook for the extended forecast which should be warm but not too hot with some rain chances to help with irrigation. The downside of that forecast is a lot of cloudy, overcast days. Around midseason timing this is not ideal as extended cloudy conditions can negatively impact grain development (and ultimately yield potential). Hopefully impacts will be minimal and we'll have more sun than expected.

Tuesday, June 30 will bring the June NASS *Acreage* report. Since I get this question a lot, I'll say here I think we're over 1.4 million acres planted. Let's call it 1.4-1.5 million acres planted.

For those that don't track the numbers as much as I do, since 2011 we have ranged from a low acreage of 1,055,192 in 2013 to a high of 1,513,567 in 2016. If every county planted their highest number of acres for any year from 2011-2019, we would plant 1.56 million acres (40% increase).

It will be interesting to see the report on Tuesday, which will be our last acreage indicator until FSA acres are released in August.

Table 1. Percent of acres reaching ½" internode elongation (IE) by week (based on fields in DD50).

Week	Percent of Acres
June 22 to June 28	27.0%
June 29 to July 5	38.3%
July 6 to July 12	17.1%
July 13 to July 19	4.8%
July 20 to July 26	2.3%

Table 2. Percent of acres reaching 50% heading by week (based on fields in DD50).

Week	Percent of Acres
July 5 to July 11	0.6%
July 12 to July 18	5.7%
July 19 to July 25	25.3%
July 26 to August 1	38.8%
Aug 2 to Aug 8	21.8%
Aug 9 to Aug 15	4.6%
Aug 16 to Aug 22	2.2%

Fig. 1. Preflood herbicide applications and fertilizer still going out and rice crop improving.

Keep Your Eyes Peeled for Sheath Blight

Time is approaching for April planted rice reaching the need to scout for sheath blight. The earliest rice planted on April 17 at RREC in my research plots is now reaching ½" IE. The hot weather in the last couple of weeks helped it to grow normally and the drier weather did not support any

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disease development. Nearly 93 percent of Arkansas rice will get to ½" IE and beyond by July 12.

Currently, there is rain hither and thither across the state. With warm temperatures, it should be ideal for sheath blight to take off particularly in fields planted with susceptible or very susceptible cultivars in dense canopy and excessive preflood nitrogen fertilization. We encourage you to plan ahead to start scouting for sheath blight. Determine the threshold before you make decision to apply fungicides as shown in **Table 3**.

Table 3. Examples of sheath blight reaction on selected rice cultivars and sheath blight threshold level to apply fungicide.

Cultivar	Disease Reaction	% Positive Stops*
CL151, CLL15, Diamond, Jupiter, PVL01, Titan, RT 7501, RT 7521 FP, RT CLXL745, RT Gemini 214 CL	S	35
ARoma 17, LaKast, PVL02, RT 7301, RT 7321 FP, RT XP753	MS	50

***Note that % positive stops vary based on the susceptibility of the rice cultivars.**

Automatic application of fungicides to manage sheath blight in rice is not recommended due to the potential development of fungicide resistance and note that we do not have many options of fungicides for rice. Moreover, it is not profitable to apply fungicides for sheath blight alone more than one time.

Making a decision on fungicide application to manage sheath blight should depend on combined factors–treatment threshold, weather conditions, cultivar height, cultivar susceptibility level, field history and field management practices such as seeding and nitrogen fertilizer rates. If sheath blight is below the threshold, it is wise to delay until boot stage for two important reasons: 1) To pair your fungicide application for sheath blight with fungicides to suppress false and kernel smut, and 2) Boot application may keep the disease suppressed until the crop stage advances and there is no threat to the upper three leaves.

The optimum fungicide treatment timing if the disease at threshold is often 7-14 days past panicle differentiation. Our research indicated boot application as an acceptable timing as long as the disease progress is slow enough. In situations where pairing fungicides to target more than one disease is possible, combination fungicides can be used at one go and application cost can be reduced by half.

Correct diagnosis of sheath blight in rice is always important. Because when the pathogen is active under dense canopy, symptoms (**Fig. 3**) of sheath blight can be confused with other rice diseases such as stem rot or foot rot. Sometimes sheath spots are also confused with sheath blight later in the crop development. Since fungicides are not recommended for these diseases, incorrect diagnosis can incur unnecessary cost on producers.

Fig. 3. Early sheath blight lesions can be confused with other diseases such as stem rot or foot rot.

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You can scout field edges and bottoms. However, your decision for fungicide application should not depend on what you see at field edges or bottoms. You need to walk in a zigzag pattern as shown in **Fig. 4** further from the edge or the bottom of your field to determine the need for fungicide application across the field. Yet, spot application on the edges and field bottoms can be carried out if the disease is bad and disease progress is fast. You do not want your rice to look like **Fig. 5** with sheath and leaves consumed by the pathogen.

Fig. 4. Walk in a zigzag pattern further from the edges or bottom of the field to determine the need for fungicide application across the field.

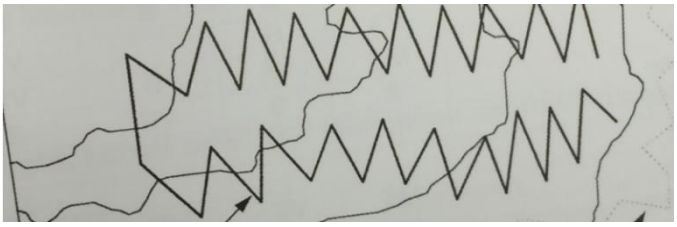
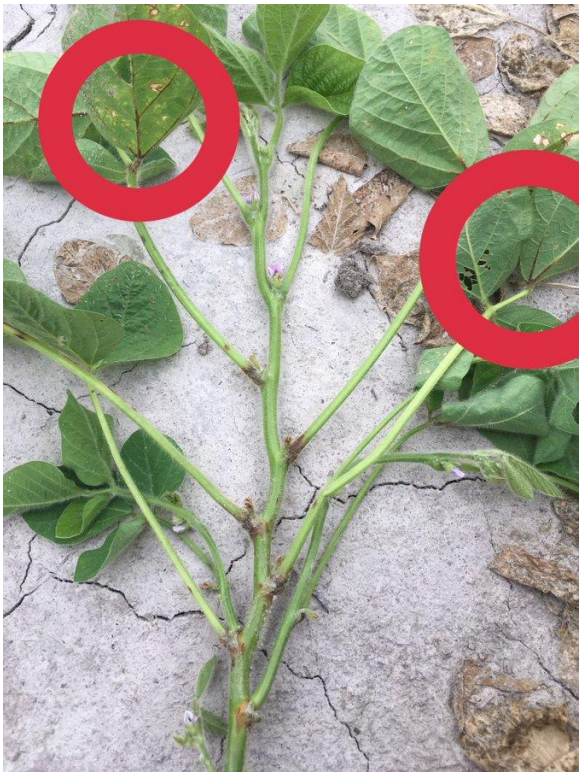


Fig. 5. Rice sheath and leaves consumed by sheath blight fungus.

ALS-Inhibiting Herbicides in Rice Injuring Soybean

We've received multiple calls about ALS-inhibitor injury on soybean. Red veins, chlorosis, and stunting are common symptoms. Grasp, Regiment, and Gambit are extremely hard on both non-STS and STS beans, and can still ding BOLT beans. Be careful spraying these anywhere around soybean. Additionally, make sure to clean out the sprayer completely (triple rinse) when switching from rice to soybean fields; several reported instances of tank contamination with ALS-inhibiting herbicides have resulted in severe injury. Slight injury also popping up from Permit Plus sprayed over the top of STS beans (**Fig. 6**), but these should recover fine.

Fig. 6. ALS-inhibitor symptomology from Permit Plus on STS soybeans.



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Rice Market Update

It is hard to believe now, but diesel futures traded down to 58 cents on April 28th. Immediately afterwards a 66 cent rally ensued that lasted 39 days. The rally stalled out mid-week near the $1.24 mark. This happens to be at the bottom of a chart gap that was made back on March 9th.

NYMEX Diesel Futures, Daily Nearby Contract.

As of Friday morning (6/26), front month diesel futures trade 3 cents lower at $1.12 and look set to lose about 9 cents on the week. Watch this pullback in diesel closely for opportunities to get fuel needs covered well into the growing season. Fuel prices could remain under pressure as it appears a 2nd wave of COVID-19 is underway. This, coupled with record-high U.S. crude oil inventories, could take diesel prices back under $1 per gallon. The first key layer of chart support for diesel futures is $1.05, the June 12th low.

As of this writing Friday morning, September rice futures trade about 10 cents lower at $12.28. This is likely a profit-taking move ahead of Tuesday's NASS *Acreage* report. The September contract had a strong breakout move higher on Tuesday this week, with follow-through higher closes on Wednesday and Thursday. Trading in the September contract went as high as $12.39 on Thursday. Traders ignored yesterday's *Export Sales* report that featured net cancellations of 24,642 MT of long-grain rough rice. Milled sales were lite as well at 2,824 MT with Haiti out of the market last week. There have been no U.S. sales to Iraq since November 14, 2019.

Big report next Tuesday (June 30) as NASS releases the *Acreage* report. These figures will be used in the production estimates of the July 10th WASDE.

Calendar:

June 30 USDA-NASS *Acreage, Grain Stocks, Rice Stocks, Agricultural Prices*

June 30 Deadline to complete enrollment in ARC/PLC for the 2020 crop year.

Note: Although program elections (ARC or PLC) for the 2020 crop year remain the same as elections made for 2019, all producers need to contact their local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to sign a 2020 enrollment contract.

FSA will send reminder postcards to producers who have not yet submitted signed contracts for ARC or PLC for the 2020 crop year. Producers who do not complete enrollment by close of business local time on Tuesday, June 30 will not be enrolled in ARC or PLC for the 2020 crop year and will be ineligible to receive a payment should one trigger for an eligible crop.

July 10 USDA *Crop Production* and WASDE.

Reminder: Signup is underway for the **Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP)** and will extend through August 28, 2020. As of June 22nd, almost $64 million in CFAP payments had been distributed to Arkansas producers. USDA Service

Centers are open for business by phone appointment only. Please call your office prior to sending applications electronically. Information on how to apply for CFAP can be found at this link: Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

Text & Email Alerts Now Available for Fields Enrolled in DD50 Rice Management Program

See more information in the article here: http://www.arkansas-crops.com/2020/06/17/available-enrolled-management/.

DD50 Program is Live

The DD50 Rice Management Program is live and ready for fields to be enrolled for the 2020 season. All log-in and producer information has been retained from the 2019 season, so if you used the program last year you can log-in just as you did last year. Only field data from 2019 has been removed. Log-in and enroll fields here: https://dd50.uaex.edu/.

Here's an article on the DD50 program: Use the DD50 Rice Management Program to Say Ahead in 2020.

Additional Information

Arkansas Rice Updates are published periodically to provide timely information and recommendations for rice production in Arkansas. If you would like to be added to this email list, please send your request to rice@uaex.edu.

This information will also be posted to the Arkansas Row Crops blog (http://www.arkansas-crops.com/) where additional information from Extension specialists can be found.

More information on rice production, including access to all publications and reports, can be found at http://www.uaex.edu/rice.

Acknowledgements

We sincerely appreciate the support for this publication provided by the rice farmers of Arkansas and administered by the Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board.

The authors greatly appreciate the feedback and contributions of all growers, county agents, consultants, and rice industry stakeholders.

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