[00:00] Intro/Outro

Arkansas Row Crops Radio, providing up to date information and timely recommendations on row crop production in Arkansas.

[00:11] Bob Scott

Well, I want to welcome everybody to this week's episode of the Weeds AR Wild podcast presented as part of the Arkansas Row Crops Radio. My name is Bob Scott. I'm an extension weed specialist. And joining me today is doctor Tom Barber, also extension weed specialist. Good morning Tom.

[00:30] Tom Barber

Morning, Bob.

[00:32] Bob Scott

And, given our subject matter today, we, asked Doctor Jarrod Hardke, our rice agronomist, to join us, to also discuss some of the things that we hope to cover today. Good morning Jarrod.

[00:45] Jarrod Hardke

Good morning guys.

[00:46] Bob Scott

And Jarrod, thanks for taking time out, you're a busy man today. I think we got you from the road, right?

[00:52] Jarrod Hardke

Absolutely.

[00:54] Bob Scott

Probably all of us have been on the road a lot, the last few days. Man, I've talked to more farmers in the last two weeks than probably yet this year. And, the one thing I will say is it's rough out there. This year, a lot of wind, a lot of rain. It's been difficult to get fields sprayed in some cases, fields planted. So we're running late. Had one farmer, Jarrod, that made the comment that, given input costs and prices of commodities, we needed a easy high yield and high profit year. And that does not seem like what we're set up for. What what what are you seeing out there?

[01:40] Jarrod Hardke

Yeah, it's that's furthest from the truth of what ended up happening. That was our expectation on that comment going into this year. As as what happened, exactly what you said is what we needed. And instead, as we move through this season, not only the infield difficulties, but we're seeing input costs climb and rice prices drop. So this is going exactly the opposite direction of what we were looking for at this point. So, and I know we're going to go into the infield difficulties, but, a little bit more, but I mean, after the the big flooding

rains to start April, it seemed like after a couple of weeks, we kind of got a little small window there where it seemed like maybe we'll get back on track in some areas that weren't still flooded. That was short lived. And now we're a month removed from that. And about all anybody can say is, if they were lucky, they've gotten about a day a week to do anything in the field over the past month. Maybe you got two, but in reality, you probably still only got one because it takes a half a day to get up and get moving and a half a day to get shut down and park back up before the rains here. That's been the last month. So some of our quote progress, really to this point is acres fading away. They won't be planted.

[03:11] Bob Scott

Yeah. Agree. It's been shocking to me to see the fields. And I'm not talking about marginal land. I'm talking about some of that grand prairie land out there near you at Stuttgart just growed up in mayweed. It looks to me like it's not going to be farmed. I don't know, I'm just driving down the road, but I've never seen that many layout fields this late in the year.

[03:33] Jarrod Hardke

No, no, it's, it's certainly not even just there. You get up the, you know, the 49 corridor through obviously some of our our sweet spot of rice production like in Poinsett county and you can find some some stretches of ground through there in areas that they cannot beg to dodge or rain that you're going, man, I don't, I don't I don't know when we're going to get to this. And, you know, we're coming off another inch to an inch and a half rain across a lot of northeast Arkansas. You know, just a day ago with a half inch the day before that. And I mean, where do we go?

[04:10] Tom Barber

I can relate to that. We still haven't planted a seed at Newport yet, so. Yeah, we're in that for every rain. Yeah.

[04:16] Bob Scott

So, Tom, we tend to talk a lot about rice. And there are other crops in the state. What what's the situation on cotton? Is it kind of the same boat as everything else?

[04:27] Tom Barber

Well, yes. We're we we have four more days. We need to plant the rest of this cotton crop in four days.

[04:35] Bob Scott

So. Well, that was going to be my next comment. Were coming up on some drop-dead dates right on some of these crops.

[04:43] Tom Barber

Yes. And so the, you know, depending on what I say, four days, we're already past past it really in north east Arkansas where we start seeing. I know Zach and I and I did a podcast last week, I guess, talking about some of this. But, you know, once you get past the 20th, if you're farming in the Jonesboro area, Leachville, up into Clay County. I mean, any day past

the 20th, we can, on an average year, start losing yield on cotton. But, we got a little more time down in southeast Arkansas. But, yes, you know, if we don't get this crop in in the next 4 or 5 days, we'll see. Probably likely see the cotton makers shift to beans or or something else. It's just too much risk involved to plant it later than that.

[05:29] Bob Scott

I have the memory of a goldfish. We were just talking about this before we started. But May 25th? Is that the preventive plant date Jarrod?

[05:38] Jarrod Hardke

That's the. Yeah. May 25th is the final plant date for rice and then you enter, you know the late planted period. And the late planted period ends June 9th. And for you know, subtle reminder anybody that doesn't remember what does that mean. Well that means after May 25th, your your crop insurance coverage declines by 1% per day through June 9th. And then after June 9th, any any rice planted after that is not insurable. Even if for you it was covered that you plant after that point. So that's when we get into the decisions. Okay. Here May 25th, which the rains we just got, a lot of acres still will not be dry enough on May 25th, so are you are you still going to keep trying to plant rice? Are you going to take the PP? The preventive planning. If you do take preventive planning, are you going to take 100% of that? And leave it fallow, or are you going to take a third of that payment and plant beans after? But you can't start planting beans until June 10th? In that, in that window, going that route. So there's still a lot of decisions and shuffles to be made. But we're we're there now, to the point on most of our remaining rice acres where it's it's your deciding right now. It's here. Am I still plant any more rice or my out? And there's quite a few acres I've already been told yesterday, after those rains hit really deep in some places, like, yep, we're done. I'm antsy. Well, it'll be 7 to 10 days before we get back.

[07:13] Bob Scott

So I've seen your data on this and I understand that there's some some seed that has matriculated because of the year we've had, we thought we were going to have problems with replanting and and having enough seed. But my understanding is there is some seed out there. And I mean, this later planted rice, I mean has hybrid. The availability of hybrid to me has pushed that late planting date back a little bit and to still have an expectation of a good yield, is that correct?

[07:45] Jarrod Hardke

Yeah. That's that's definitely true. So we've we've certainly shuffled over the years and kind of what our expectations are out of late planted rice. But you know having said that you know, when we start getting into the very end of May and obviously from here with, with these wet conditions, we're really talking about very end of May, beginning of June, if we're talking about planting any more rice and I get everything, if there's, there's a gradient to the state because of the late summer, early fall heat units, we still may have the potential to accumulate that are going to help decide whether or not we make a decent crop or an acceptable crop or not. And the problem is, we don't know what each fall is going to bring,

and that's where the variability comes in. So at the end of the day, I'm a pretty strong advocate for, you know, far northern Arkansas around the very 1st of June, you know, needs to be where we try to be out of there. We made some great rice in just end of June a little bit some years. Sure, but odds are it's not going to go great. And you can stretch that date a little bit later as we head south and all the way gone into mid June all the way to South Arkansas again with hybrid where where we've seen some surprising numbers some years all the way that way. But you got to get lucky on the back end, and I've heard it said quite a few times this year, given the the economics, we're in, all that stuff. Hope is not a strategy. I think that's that's appropriate. As we start talking about late May, early June. Planted rice this year when it's already not penciling very well for stuff planted, you know, back in April in our optimum window talking about yeah, you know, your yield potential starts, you know, sliding by 20 something bushel an acre. Like how how is this going to work? But it is a farm-by-farm decision. It is still a business. We do still have to spend some money to make money to make things cash flow. So it's it's not like there's a single right decision for everybody.

[10:01] Tom Barber

Well and I think Jarrod some of that too, we've got to consider how much it’s going to cost. Right. And what kind of field we're planning on and what's the history of that. Because if we've got a big-time resistant barnyard grass issue or weedy rice issue or whatever the weed issues may be, it's going to it's going to be harder to control those weeds later in the year on a later start. And so, you know, it's probably going to cost us more money, at least on weed control. I don't know what else, but at least on weed control, I figure it cost us a little more money on this little later planted crop.

[10:35] Jarrod Hardke

I think that's a great point. It's it is that that added variable, potential, additional cost. The only upside if you're prepared to move on, on decent ground, is that that rice will come out of the ground moving fast, if you'll move with it, you know, we can potentially again how how much resistance do you have? How heavy is your weed pressure. There's there's quite a bit of this ground that's been going the last week or so. Again, a day at a time that rice will be moving so fast that if they'll, they'll run with it they arguably won't need anything but a pre at planting and try to get it to flood on the early side, one clean up shot and get out of there. But but this changes by ground. Okay. If you've got ground that just say, planted optimum timing, you know, has 220 something bushel, you know, potential. And we're talking about you still might reasonably make 190 200 bushel rice planted late. I mean, it's a big drop, but where you're still looking at profit, you know, on some of that better ground, that's a far different story than one that was only ever in the 190 to 200 to start. Now you're talking about falling to 175 and going way under cost of production. You know the kind of that's kind of a hybrid focused example, yields and balance and profitability. But just generalizing. It's a different story by ground. Is this high yielding ground or already kind of questionable production ground. So that's that's going to contribute to acres that that go to PP, come the 25th this week or acres we’ll try to push.

[12:13] Bob Scott

I thought that was a good point Tom made too and I was going to add to it on the other side of that is if if you don't get rise planted and we do think about fallow or a bean crop, and I guess this is me looking for a silver lining. We got a lot of fields that have a lot of resistance issues in them, and that either of those scenarios is a great opportunity to address some of those resistance issues with a different crop, different herbicides, that you can kind of clean up some of these weeds, especially if it's been in continuous rice. So, I don't know what's going to happen, especially with the lay out stuff, but I hate to see it grow up in red rice or barnyard grass and, hopefully a landowner out there or somebody will take the opportunity to, you know, to kill out of an entire season or an entire flush of barnyard grass and red rice in some of these fields.

[13:06] Jarrod Hardke

While we're on this isn't this won't be a this year thing. But speaking of fallow ground, good opportunity to remind that, you know, if you do have some, that you do go fallow and focus on cleaning up, like, let's say it's a field that's been in, you know, Clearfield or full page for consecutive years than it should have been, that these fallow years, they have a different impact on our plant back intervals. And we've seen that too many times over the years where, I'll just give you a quick example, like, okay, you had some clear field rice and then you went fallow and then come back with conventional rice. That 18 month plant back does not always behave appropriately when we didn't grow a crop on it in that fallow year. So be be careful thinking forward on that seed. Some weird stuff over the years of, some of these chemicals showing back up well outside of the plant back when we didn't grow a crop in between, they ran fallow.

[14:11] Bob Scott

Yeah, I think it's kind of like winter time if you have a dry year and then that you don't get a lot of degradation, kind of like in the winter, if it's. And you don't want it flooded either. Because, you know, new path doesn't degrade much in a flood. So it, it's very environmental dependent. And you're right, not having a crop there does, does make a difference. And I've been guilty of recommending a year clear field with beyond applications now that that label exists. Yes. For one more year, just to be.

[14:46] Jarrod Hardke

Safe, I agree. You know, I agree. Good rec.

[14:48] Bob Scott

Rick. You know, Tom, the other thing we'll move along. The other thing that, we're running into now with the the conditions that we've had, I can't tell you how many guys have not been able to spray. And unfortunately, some of the ones that have forced it, we'll get on that subject next, which is drift and some issues there, but, I'll get it started. The biggest thing I've noticed coming back to the field is the number of calls I'm getting on the sedges, and and I'll be honest, I think I put it in Jarrod's newsletter. I'm at a loss sometimes as to what to recommend, because they're a little uncertain about the ALS chemistry. And what I mean

by that is permit, permit plus, Gambit, new path, beyond, regiment. All that chemistry, you know, if they think they're having some slippage there and it's not working as good, or if it's a new farm and they don't know, I'm struggling whether to tell them to spray Gambit and find out, or just automatically go to, like, a basagran, propanil, or a Loyant or some other program to address sedge. So, I, I'm at a loss on some of these fields as to what to recommend.

[16:09] Tom Barber

Yeah, no, I agree. I mean, it's I, I probably tend to sway the propanil, basagran or at least having basagran in the mix, just kind of as a kind of a failsafe because I know it'll work whether it's resistant or not. But, you know, in some cases the permits may still work. But I don't know, a few years ago, this was, may been before you came back to to be a weed scientist, but, you know, it was pretty widespread, the ALS resistance in, in the annual sedges. And so, I don't know, I'm sure somebody can still kill it somewhere or, I'm sure it's not over 100% of the state, but I'm almost to the assumption that I'll just assume that we're not killing annual sedge with with the and or the gambit. And and just move on to the basagran. But, like you say, it's hard. You don't know until you fail it you know?

[17:05] Bob Scott

Yeah. Well, we know the the old weed scientists saying the most expensive weed control treatment is the one that doesn't work. Because then you have to come back with God only knows what.

[17:17] Jarrod Hardke

Oh. I'm. I'm in agreement with y'all. Same, same argument with conversations I've had. And perfect comment, Bob. The one that doesn't work being expensive. I'm trying to have guys do kind of some like, tell me what all we're trying to kill and doing some pushing and pulling. Seeing what I can maybe work out of the program to fit in the propanil and basagran that again, to try to keep costs down and and get all that we can with that really changing that amount. Like, hey, if you got a small field, you want to go ahead and run an ALS on and know, you know, are you only actually getting 30% control or something like that? Fine. But when we're talking about spraying some big acres that have that sedge problem, I'm like, we can't afford for you to miss on all this in the and still have to come back with propanil and basagran on a separate trip. I know we can't afford that, so it's a it's a necessary default, I think, for us to recommend.

[18:18] Tom Barber

Yeah. And a lot of times if we miss it with that first application, it's going to take two to clean it up. So now we're not coming back with one propanil and basagran. But we might have to come back with another something and basagran or you know, basagran's going to have to be in it again, to clean up the rest because that y'all know this. But, I mean, that annual sedge gets so thick, it's, it's hard to get good coverage with just one out, but especially as the rice gets bigger.

[18:46] Bob Scott

Getting a lot of calls. Also, can I tank mix this with that? Can I put this with that? How bad is it if I do this or that? They already know it's not recommended. Which tells me there's some some pretty weedy fields out there. You know, one of the big ones is Provisia and, and, you know, just what can I put with quizalofop whether it's hybrid or Provisia rice. And in general, my answer is I haven't had too many problems with anything beyond like a 2,4-D or a Loyant. I don't like the phenoxy's going out with with those. The ALS chemistry is generally safe. I haven't had too many problems with the residual products like Prowl and Command and facet even. But I think there is an understanding that anytime you put anything with these grass herbicides, there's a risk of antagonism. So, Jarrod, a lot of times I'll ask the scenario, you know, how big is the grass, what are the broad leaves that are out there. And and really the decision comes down to do I need to make two separate applications or not. If the grass is manageable and it's good conditions and all that, I may tank mix. If not, I may recommend two shots. And and of course, with provisia you got to factor in is the red rice up or not? And are you wasting a shot because there's no residual there? Are you wasting the shot before you have red rice, which is the real target for that technology. So, getting a lot of calls along those lines as well right now. And it's really kind of a case by case basis, I guess. So, I guess the elephant in the room right now, I'm going to not mention any names to protect the innocent and the guilty. But I'm getting ready to go look at several hundred acres of roundup on, on rice, drift. Unfortunately, some of it is pretty bad. I know a couple of these fields have already resulted in replants. Whether that was right decision or not, it's kind of a judgment call. If you've been looking at rice a long time, you know that it's pretty resilient. And eventually it can recover from both New Path and Roundup drift. But also, you know, it's going to be delayed. And you look at the calendar year a lot of times to decide. I like to, Jarrod, I like to look at that first new leaf coming out. I don't know how you approach a field to determine whether you think you ought to keep it or replant, but I like to see a nice green leaf coming out that that makes me feel good. Any other, words of wisdom on these fields that are out there? I know there's a lot of new path up north. I've heard from several farmers and several people that are walking fields. There's quite a bit of new path drift. In fact, one consultant up there made the comment to me that they believed that they could identify every non new any non-clearfield fields, any conventional fields from the road. They said they just look a little more stunted, a little more yellow. They're just not growing as good. Not anything really identifiable but just not as healthy.

[22:19] Jarrod Hardke

And yeah that's that's not an unfair comment at all. I agree with you on what what I'm looking for from a growth standpoint, giving, giving, whether it be glyphosate or, you know, new path, you know, that that type drift, we know it takes a little time for it to work and do what it's going to do, and that's stunting. So, I mean, you're you're going to be watching it for ten days or so. But by then typically see that, you know, a new green leaf coming out on what's going to survive. And far too often we have a lot of this young rice survive it and it will baby it it. By babying it, I mean not selling any herbicides at it that are going to further injure it. And not try to go to flood too early. Let it get up and recover. I've seen too many times where that yield is, extremely close, again, severity matters. You know how hard did you get

hit, sure. But too many times we're even like glyphosate stands out pretty good, stuff like that. But if we let it get to the size it needed before we go to flood, just how well those fields can still do. But you got to drag your feet and let it recover. We pretty much got, you know, a cruiser type, you know, neonics seed treatment on almost all of our acres anymore. We know from, you know, Bob, you know, work that you guys and I helped. I'll say that, in showing, you know, how much more we tolerate this kind of stuff with those treatments on than if we didn't have them? I think that's one of the differences today than than years and years ago, when we didn't have those treatments on all acres, we can expect better tolerance now and recovery and getting out of it. And so we just need to drag our feet.

[24:18] Bob Scott

Yeah, I agree, and I get a lot of questions about what if I throw ammonium sulfate. You know for years it was our recommendation. Oh flush in 100 pounds of sulfate immediately. And I think and you can refresh my memory on this, but I believe what we really found in all that is kind of a feel good treatment. It might green the rice up. You might could make an argument that you get to flood a few days sooner, but really at the end of the year didn't have much impact on yield. At least that's my memory from the research that we did. Has anything changed since we did that work? That's been a long time ago.

[24:54] Jarrod Hardke

Nothing has changed so far. We're we're going to take I'm taking some opportunity. Yeah. I'll be putting out some, some treatments tomorrow. On on some drifted on rice. Again just to repeat and get some more fresh data on the topic. But anytime we put out anything that contains nitrogen, you're going to make any green leaf material on that rice look greener just because there's more readily available nitrogen. But, my response is, if you're lucky, 20 to 25% of the time, maybe you see some kind of any response out of an ammonium sulfate app, you know, type application. And I'm not saying that's a true growth and yield benefit, just that you may see the rice change at all from that application. It's a feel good. And I'll personal insight, if it helps you sleep better at night I mean I guess go for it. But this is not a year where it's going to pay for it. It's 100 pounds and one of those products needs six bushels of rice to pay for the cost of it, and I'm not seeing it. And I'll add one more layer where we've always been focused on ammonium sulfate in DAP. Well, for the money, I can spend the same amount of money on urea. It has twice as much nitrogen, and as long as I put an NBPT product on that, it's very close to as stable as ammonium sulfide or DAP the nitrogen portions in there that. But you get twice the amount of nitrogen. So I'll lean toward if somebody was going to fly something on and feel better, I could run 100 pounds of urea treated with NBPT product on there to prevent volatilization, and then it's on par. So you're going to get, you know, closer to the full 46 units, because it's protected versus the 21 units, you're spending the same money on the run, ammonium sulfate or, you know, 18 units for that. So in that way, if you were going to do anything but honestly, it's, wouldn't do anything but give it time.

[27:07] Bob Scott

That it's sadly, that's patience. My my thing has been patience, and I, I used to say time to dry those fields up. But I think just through field observations where the where the fields have been moist. Down in the furrows on row rice or just kind of where water stayed a little bit longer. Actually, what we've seen, at least with New Path, is a is a little bit faster growing up. So I used to say dry it up and let it, you know, don't do anything. But now I'd kind of like it to be moist without a flood, if that makes any sense. If you could catch a rain, you're probably better off, but I'm not so sure I wouldn't flush a field if it got too dry on the well.

[27:51] Jarrod Hardke

So that's the funny thing. You're I'm spot on with you. But that dance is, if you could control the weather, I wanted to I wanted to hurry up and dry up real quick just to, you know, get a little dry and shut some stuff down. Then I want to rain. Yeah, as soon as it gets dry. Then I want to rain to get it to take off. But, you know, you can't luck into those timings.

[28:12] Tom Barber

I think some sunshine would be better than anything right now.

[28:16] Jarrod Hardke

Isn’t that the truth? And in terms of inputs going at them or any foliar product, you know, I just again, I've, we played with it. We've tried I mean Bob, and we focused on the fertilizer part. But several years ago, Bob, you took a bunch of foliar products and tried that attempt, and you got a little extra green color out of some stuff. Nothing showed at the end if memory serves. I've done similar, but I remember years, if you get drifted on rice, the fastest way to double your money is to fold in half and put it back in your pocket. It's just waste, I agree.

[28:58] Bob Scott

And really, if all of that work that we did on drift mitigation, the seed treatment was the best defense against drift that we looked at. I mean, it was really yeah, anything post drift happening was real hit or miss. And there's so many variables with drift that it's just hard to it's hard to say. Well, I think we've covered a lot today and we, we've gone a little bit, well, we're actually right on time. I would just give everybody any chance to make any final comments, anything we've left out, I don't want to cut this off. So good discussion. It's timely for sure, at least from my perspective. I'll be looking at this, at drift and a couple of weed issues, probably for the next two weeks. Any anything else going on, Tom? Any crops? Anything else you want to mention?

[29:52] Tom Barber

I'll. I'll just say with any of this later planted stuff. I know we've had very few days to do field work this year. Probably the fewest I've ever seen in my career, I'd say over the last 20 years being a specialist or whatever. And so I would just say, we're going to all be in a hurry when we can get back in the field. Don't forget the residual herbicides up front, because every call I get, Bob, if it's not about drift, it's about, hey, I didn't get the pre down and now I've got

40 inch corn and 50 inch weeds or whatever size rice, two, three, four leaf in the weeds. Or I can see them out at the top, you know, I mean, and that happens just because we haven't had any days really in a long stretch to do field work. I mean, guys, we can plant this crop in ten days. We've planted the state of Arkansas in ten days. And so we've got the equipment to do it. We need some help, but we can't forget those pre-emerges. I think, you know, that's the best money spent, regardless of what crop we're planting in and that's even more important. The lighter we get.

[30:52] Bob Scott

Tom. We're in a we're in a, we're in a situation where we got about half our trials planted. We're going to wait on a day that we get the right wind. We have got three and four leaf grass out there. Some of it is red rice, which we don't want in these trials. And and I know I mean, we're going to be using a ground rig. We're going to be real careful. We're going to get in there and put a couple of quarts and roundup out ahead of that field cultivator, at least 24 hours, maybe 48 hours ahead if we have time. Because you know what'll happen. You roll those big weeds around, you put a pre out, and then you've got grass and you think you pre didn't work. But really, a lot of that big grass just stools back out and stands up and that's a problem. Maybe it may be difficult. I hate to recommend roundup going out this time of year because there's rats everywhere. But if you're in a situation with a hooded boom or a ground rig or something where you can get in there amongst, it's safe, it sure does help get off to a better start. Along with that pre, Jarrod, anything timing wise, we're looking at, rice seems to be a little bit all over the place, depending on where you're at in the state. But there's rice that's already went to flood. Any, any other things guys need to be aware of?

[32:14] Jarrod Hardke

Yeah, we're we're going to flood and and more and more acres are speeding along with the temperatures we've had coming up on kind of, you know, the back end of our, you know, window for, for getting pre-flood nitrogen out. And we keep getting all these rains and everything going on. So I know this is a whole much longer topic, but I'll just kind of direct folks. You know the Arkansas Rice Update newsletter. We're continuing to put out kind of more information and research and recommendations in there to kind of get a little deeper on the plan B, C, and D of our pre-flood nitrogen options as it continues to stay damp or wet or flooded. And it kind of the approaches we recommend and that we have seen have good success. Unfortunately, in the '24 season, we did a lot of this under suboptimal conditions. But we did really well with some of these program approaches, you know, not going to spend the 20 minutes it'll take to rattle it all off and walk through it now. But, be ready to make a move. Big concern right now is on, fading yield potential because of failure to act and do something to feed this rice some nitrogen before it gets too late to close the joint movement. We've got to get enough nitrogen in there to make enough grains to start with, to have our top end. So, let's continue to have those conversations and call if we can help and talk through specific scenarios.

[33:45] Bob Scott

All right. Well, I want to thank you guys. I know, Jarrod, you're going to another meeting. We're not going to keep you any longer. We appreciate you taking time out to join us, here on this week's episode of the Weeds AR Wild podcast. I will remind everybody if you have a question or if you have problem, feel free to contact your county office. They know how to get Ahold of us, and, we'll be glad to help you guys in any way you can. Thank you all for joining us this week.

[34:17] Intro/Outro

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