



Dr. Chuck Wilson, Dr. Rick Cartwright, Dr. Bob Scott, and Scott Stiles

**June 8, 2010**

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**INTRODUCTION** – The Arkansas Rice Newsletter is published periodically to provide updates, alerts, and recommendations for rice production in Arkansas. If you know of someone who would like to be added to the e-mail list, please send an e-mail to:

[cwilson@uaex.edu](mailto:cwilson@uaex.edu).

I have set up a blog to distribute information in addition to the newsletter. If you are interested, you can visit the blog at

<http://arkansasrice.blogspot.com>.

**CROP CONDITION AND PROGRESS** –

The weather this spring has allowed rice to be planted across most of the state at record pace. As of June 6, rice planting is finally complete. This compares to 99% last week and 97% this time last year. Rice planting is typically complete during the second week of June, although a few acres may actually still be planted later. The USDA estimates that 99% of the rice acreage has emerged. This compares to 89% last year at this time and 96% for the 5-year average. Our planting progress has proceeded about 2-3 weeks ahead of the 5-year average and a month ahead of last year. As of June 6, 18% of the crop is reported to be in excellent condition, 53% good, 25% fair, and 4% poor.

Average temperatures were above normal ranging from 4 degrees above normal at several locations to 8 degrees above normal at Keiser and Brinkley for the week ending June 6. The temperatures ranged from a low of 61 degrees at several locations to a high of 98 degrees at El Dorado. Rainfall for the week ending May 30 ranged from none at several locations to a high

of 1.9 inches at Mena. Overall, soil moisture supplies were 2% very short, 29% short, 64% adequate, and 5% surplus.

Much of the rice is reaching the stage for flood establishment and several thousand acres have already been flooded. Remember to wait until the soil dries to apply pre-flood nitrogen fertilizer and then apply a shallow flood as quickly as possible. Some rice has reached midseason. Remember that there is a window for applying midseason N between green ring and ½” internode elongation.

Very early estimates suggest that CL 151 is the most widely planted variety so far (about 23% of the acreage). The next most widely planted varieties are Wells (16%), Rice Tec CL XL 745 (16%) and Jupiter (12%). These numbers are preliminary and may change as we get more information available.

**DON'T FORGET TO ENROLL LATE FIELDS IN THE RICE DD50 PROGRAM -**

The 2010 version of the Arkansas Rice DD50 Program is up and running. Five new varieties have been added to the program for 2010. The program can be accessed through the county Extension office or online at: <http://dd50.uaex.edu/dd50Logon.asp>. In order to enroll, you need the variety name, the emergence date, and the number of acres. The program will predict the timing of approximately 27 different production practices. This allows growers and consultants to be more efficient in scouting the crop and more timely with treatments. On-time decisions can often be the difference between success and failure.

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## WHAT ABOUT FOLIAR FERTILIZERS?

It seems the salesmen are actively convincing growers to invest in foliar fertilizers for rice. They seem like a good deal, but are they? It greens the crop so it must be “doing some good”, right? Well, maybe for some micronutrients, but probably not for most nutrients.

For rice, zinc is the only fertilizer that the University of Arkansas recommends a foliar application. Even then, applying liquid zinc is not the preferred method. I have received questions about applications of boron, manganese, and other micronutrients to rice. We have no data to support these recommendations. Even in fields where soybeans do respond to boron, application of boron to rice has not been beneficial.

The major nutrients, such as nitrogen, potassium, phosphorus, and sulfur are needed by the plant in large quantities. The amounts taken up by the plant range from as little as 25 lbs/acre for sulfur to as much as 200 lbs/acre for nitrogen. Liquid fertilizer (almost all kinds) typically weighs about 10 lbs for each gallon. The amount of nitrogen in the fertilizer is about 3.2 lbs for each gallon (32%). To get 100 lbs of nitrogen, you need to apply over 30 gallons per acre. A pound is a pound is a pound. Regardless of the form, if the plant requires 90 lbs of potassium, the plant requires 90 lbs regardless of whether it is applied as a granule or in a liquid. When adequate amounts of liquid fertilizer are applied to rice, foliar burn is often a problem. Because of these problems, granular fertilizer is for the major nutrients are much more effective.

The only micronutrient that is recommended by foliar application for rice is zinc. The preferred

method of applying zinc is to apply zinc sulfate (36% zinc) prior to planting. Zinc seed treatments are effective if the soil test levels are only moderately low. However, if the rice has emerged, foliar application of zinc is effective when applied prior to flooding. At least 1 lb/acre of zinc should be applied when using liquid zinc products. For most products, this will require a minimum application rate of 1 gallon of liquid zinc per acre. This is true for any product that is 10% zinc or less. While some products have been marketed at 1 quart or 1 pint per acre rates, these rates are not sufficient to prevent zinc deficiency on soils with low soil test zinc levels.

## RICE DISEASE UPDATE

It seems the worst disease affect rice of late is self-inflicted. Newpath drift has been widespread. When the wind gets high, the farmers start getting nervous about getting their fields sprayed. We don't always use good judgment. I know that the longer we wait, the bigger the grass gets. But if we can't keep it in the field, the big grass is going to seem like a rather small problem. The general misconception is that Newpath does not drift. However, we have tracked cases for more than a mile. The earliest fields are reaching midseason and the impact of Newpath drift onto conventional rice is now even greater. Significant yield losses will be observed if the drift occurs after the rice reaches midseason. We need to be especially cautious around conventional rice.

In regard to true disease problems, rice blast month (June) has officially started with the first reports of leaf blast. Leaf blast has been found on fields of CL 151 and CL 142 in central Arkansas and in southeast Arkansas. Finding leaf blast in June is normal, and it allows you to

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prepare for managing the disease early. A deep flood is the most effective control measure to prevent or reduce neck blast or panicle blast later in the season. Fields should be flooded as deep as possible (4-6 inches on the shallow side) until maturity. Scouting now is critical to be able to manage for the disease later.

## LATE PLANTED RICE VARIETIES

There are still a few folks trying to plant some rice. The most common question is what variety is the best to plant in June. In general, the best varieties are the best varieties planted late. Later maturing varieties do better than earlier maturing varieties. The hybrids are good selections because of the yield potential and disease resistance. My experience with the Clearfield varieties is that they tend to lose more yield potential when planted in June compared to many of the conventional varieties. Be cautious about the increased risk for rice blast. Francis does well if it is planted late, as long as you can manage the flood effectively to control rice blast.

Ultimately, all varieties are going to yield less than they would have if they had been planted in April. Decisions should be made with the assumption that my yield is going to be no more than about 120 bushels/acre. I know that higher yields can be obtained with June planted rice. It is better, however, to expect less than what you get than to get less than enough to make ends meet.

## RICE MARKET UPDATE (Scott Stiles)

Last week's market action was difficult to watch as rice, soybeans, corn, wheat, and cotton all finished lower Friday. The new crop September rice contract lost 88 cents/cwt. last week to finish at \$10.78 ½ - a contract low. Per monthly

charts, rice futures have not traded this low since August 2007.

## ROUGH RICE (DAY) (RR U0)

Last: 1078.5 Change: -- (0%) ▼



Technical selling, ample world supplies, and good crop conditions continue to pressure the rice market lower. Last Tuesday's USDA weekly crop progress report provided no support. Good-to-excellent ratings for the U.S. crop were increased to 74% from 68% the previous week. A year ago, the crop was rated 53% good-to-excellent. The good-to-excellent rating in Arkansas was increased to 71% from 68% the week prior.

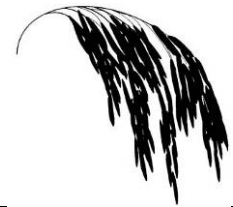
Export sales for this point in the marketing year had been decent until the last week of May. Recent sales to Brazil came as a surprise and are encouraging, but the U.S. continues to miss out on large sales to countries such as Iraq. For the most part, U.S. sales have been to countries in North and South America. Last Monday, the announcement was made that Iraq's state-run Grain Board bought 90,000 metric tons of rice from Vietnam for delivery in August and September.

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Adding to negative market tone, last Friday's weekly USDA [export sales](#) report indicated U.S. rice sales of 22,000 metric tons; a marketing-year low. Export sales for the week ending May 27, were down 52% from the previous week and 65% from the prior four-week average.

Other market news last week included comments on the Indian monsoon, which looks to be more active this year. Historically, back to back Indian monsoon failures are rare and the fading El Nino effect increases the likelihood of a more normal monsoon season in India. Given this outlook, India's rice production will likely bounce back in 2010/11. Some early projections indicate total production will increase 15% over the 2009/10 level. More comments on this can be found at the link below:

[India's rice output may exceed 100 mln tonnes in 2010-11](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Multi-Crop Scouting School – Dumas Community Center, Dumas, AR – June 9, 2010. Contact: Dr. Gus Lorenz (501-944-0942)

Multi-Crop Scouting School – Craighead County Extension Office, Jonesboro, AR – June 10, 2010. Contact: Dr. Gus Lorenz (501-944-0942)

Crops Field Day – Southeast Research and Extension Center – Rohwer, AR – July 29, 2010. Contact: Larry Earnest (870-644-3101)

Delta Classic Scholarship Golf Tournament – Helena Country Club – July 30, 2010. Contact: Dr. Robert Bacon (479-575-2354)

Pine Tree Biofuels Field Day – Pine Tree Branch Experiment Station – Pine Tree, AR – August 5, 2009. Contact: Roger Eason (870-633-5767)

Randolph/Lawrence County Field Tour – Pocahontas, AR – August 6, 2010. Contact: Herb Ginn (870-759-1659)

Rice Field Day – Rice Research and Extension Center – Stuttgart, AR – August 11, 2010. Contact: Dr. Chris Deren (870-673-2661)

## Other Field Days

LSU Rice Field Day – Rice Research Station – Crowley, LA – July 1, 2010

Progeny Rice and Soybean Field Day – Wynne, AR – July 22, 2010

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

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