July 12, 2016

To: Those Involved in Rice Production

**Integrated Pest Management**

**Rice Disease** – One positive to the high temperatures is the lack of disease development. So far blast development has been kept to a minimum due to the temperatures and lack of rainfall. An increase in rainfall or dew periods, combined with a decrease in temperatures, and we could see disease conditions take off. The same can be said of sheath blight. To date we have very few reports of sheath blight issues. Given the economic situation this year I doubt there will be many complaints. Remember the threshold for sheath blight and avoid blanket treatments just because sheath blight is present. If the disease isn’t moving up the canopy and threatening the upper leaves there’s no need to treat. Be scouting for disease. If blast is found please report it to me so I can collect samples for analysis. I will also be scouting fields in the county looking for the disease.

**Fungicide Timing for Smut Prevention**

Rice fields with a history of kernel and/or false smut with excessive N rates are prone to smut development in susceptible cultivars. Unfortunately, under favorable conditions, most rice cultivars are susceptible including hybrids. False smut often is more severe in late planted rice since it is favored by lower temperatures than kernel smut.

If preventative fungicide applications for smut management is warranted, triazole fungicides containing propiconazole (Tilt or equivalent) are still the only existing options. Fungicides are more effective on kernel smut with up to 90-95% suppression provided the rate, timing, and coverage are correct. Well managed fields benefit the most from fungicide application. False smut can be suppressed 50-70% when application is done correctly.

**Management Key:**

*If attempting to spray with a fungicide for management of both smuts and blast – the application timings do not line up. A single application will result in failure to manage one or both diseases.*

Fungicide rate: In the past few years the Tilt (or equivalent) rate has been raised from 4 fl oz to a minimum of 6 fl oz per acre.

Fungicide Timing: The correct timing to apply fungicides to protect against kernel and false smut is from early to mid boot development of the main tillers. Fungicides applied after boot split are too late (Fig. 5). Fungicides applied beyond boot split when heads are out are a waste of money. Fungicides applied earlier than boot stage are too early for the fungicides to stay effective until heading.
Coverage: For adequate coverage a minimum of 10 gallons of water per acre is recommended. Where this is not possible, use the maximum amount of carrier volume possible closest to 10 GPA. Low volume applications can have a significant lack of coverage to provide the smut suppression desired.

Table 1. Triazole contents of commonly used fungicides for kernel and false smut suppression.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fungicide</th>
<th>Rate fl oz / acre</th>
<th>Triazole Rate fl oz / acre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quilt Xcel</td>
<td>21.27</td>
<td>5.9-7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quilt</td>
<td>21.34.5</td>
<td>6.1-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stratago*</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tilt</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Propimax</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Use maximum rate of Stratago or add Tilt equivalent to achieve 6 oz of triazole.

Monitoring Populations of Rice Stink Bugs

Rice fields should be checked for rice stink bug populations weekly or twice weekly when heading starts. Sampling should begin when 75 percent panicle emergence has been reached and continued through the fourth week of heading. A sweep net, 15 inches in diameter, should be used for sampling. The best time for sampling is from around 7 a.m. through 11 a.m. Sampling during the hottest portion of the day usually results in fewer bugs being found. The populations around the edges of the fields are usually higher and thus samples taken solely around the edges will contain higher numbers. Similarly, areas containing grasses such as barnyardgrass also contain higher numbers of bugs. When sampling, swing the sweep net in 180 degree arcs while walking through the field. Ten consecutive 180 degree arcs constitute a sampling unit. Ten or more randomly selected sites should be sampled in each field and the average number of rice stink bugs per 10 sweeps calculated. Within the first two weeks following 75 percent panicle emergence, fields should be treated with an insecticide if population levels reach 5 or more bugs, adults and nymphs, per 10 sweeps. During the following two weeks, when rice is in the milk and soft dough stages, treatments should be made when populations reach an average of 10 bugs per 10 sweeps. Insecticide treatments should be applied in the morning hours for best results.

For more information, visit our web site at www.uaex.edu/clay or call 857-6875. Find us on facebook.com/uaex.claycorning

Sincerely,

Stewart Runsick
County Extension Agent-Staff Chair