August 8, 2016

To: Those Involved in Rice and Soybean Production

The early planted early maturing varieties and hybrids are being drained this week. The Express hybrid planted in a few fields is being harvested this week. Harvest will begin for most the end of August or first of September.

**Harvest Aids**

To get harvest underway, many will likely lean toward the use of harvest aids. Sodium chlorate can be used to reduce foliage and grain moisture to move fields closer to desired moisture levels for harvest. However, sodium chlorate should only be applied once grain moisture is below 25%. DO NOT apply if grain moisture is below 18%. In just a few days after application, grain moisture levels can fall up to 5%, so be prepared to harvest no more than 4-7 days after application. DO NOT apply a harvest aid immediately prior to suspected rainy weather that will delay immediate and timely harvest.

It seems there are some questions or ideas out there about using glyphosate as a harvest aid in rice. First of all, that is an off-label application. DO NOT apply glyphosate to rice.

Additional reasons not to do this are related to the effect of glyphosate on rice. It should be well known by now the effects of glyphosate on developing rice plants. A rice plant that is not completely developed will be stopped in its tracks. This means if kernels remain to be filled, that stops. Applications would of course be made by air – a recipe for drift onto nearby susceptible rice.

**Monitoring Populations of Rice Stink Bugs**

Rice stink bug populations have remained low this season, however later planted rice fields should continue to be checked for rice stink bug populations. Many times populations can build up in later fields as fields around it begin to mature. 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. During the last two weeks of heading, 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.

**Worms Still Hanging Around**

We have been monitoring fields for worms all summer. Several acres of soybeans have been treated for corn earworm. Armyworms have been feeding in fields of rice, soybeans, forages and pastures, lawns and flowerbeds, including my wife’s potted plants on the front porch.
We are still finding random fields of soybeans at treatment level so don’t stop scouting just yet. To determine the treatment level, estimate the potential value of the crop and the cost of the insecticide application. For example; if the crop value is $8/bushel and the cost of control is $14/acre, the sweepnet threshold would be 8.6 earworm per 25 sweeps. For more information refer the Insecticide Recommendations for Arkansas - MP144


Kudzu Bug Management in Soybeans

Kudzu bugs have been found more readily in soybeans in Arkansas this year, and we have had a few fields near Helena reach our economic threshold of 25 nymphs in 25 sweeps. In Clay County, we have identified the pest in patches of kudzu but not in soybean fields yet. Data from states that have been dealing with the kudzu bug for some time now demonstrate that it is the nymphs, not the adults, which are driving yield losses. The field we monitored at Helena had approximately 200 adults in 25 sweeps on June 29 – enough to alarm just about any consultant or grower who has not dealt with this insect before. However, it took almost an entire month (July 25) before economic threshold was reached and a treatment was applied. When you combine the relatively slow cycle of infestation with the type of damage that kudzu bugs do (indirect stress placed on the plant due to feeding on vascular fluid), there is a wider time window for a control to be applied than with pests like stink bugs or bollworms that damage the seeds and pods directly.

Kudzu bugs are a new pest that needs to be on your radar if you are scouting soybeans. However, we do not expect them to be all that challenging to manage; our educational push now is to stress proper identification of the life stages and targeting of the nymphs rather than the adults for control. If we use the recommendations that have been developed in other states that have been dealing with kudzu bugs for a while now, we should be able to take this pest in stride.

Field Day Success

Our annual West Clay County Field Day was a success again this year. I would like to personally thank each of you who attended and supported this event. Your continued support for our Extension educational programs is greatly appreciated and needed. I look forward to harvest and continuing our efforts going forward.

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
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