March 23, 2015

To: Those Involved in Rice and Soybean Production

**Rice Production**

**Planting Projections** – Current planting projections are variable. Last year, producers in Clay County planted 81,500 acres of rice with just over 10% being medium grain varieties. Clay County was ranked 7th in terms of rice acres among the other rice producing Counties in Arkansas. Over the past few years, Clay County rice acres have averaged around 76,000 acres with a high of 90,000 acres in 2010. I think it’s safe to say rice acres will at least be equal to last year. I predict that rice acres will increase in 2015, how much will depend on planting conditions in the spring.

**Herbicide Plant-Back Intervals** – With winter weather extending well into March this year, it has been difficult to get burndown herbicide applications applied. That means that 2,4-D may not be an option since the plant-back interval is 21 days. Roundup + Sharpen (2oz/A) will control most annual weeds including glyphosate-resistant horseweed if it is small. Roundup + FirstShot is also an excellent option with an immediate replant interval, and this combination will control most all winter annuals with the exception of glyphosate-resistant horseweed. Gramoxone is an option with no pre-plant interval to rice, and is good on most winter annuals as long as they are small. Following the initial burndown application, Roundup tankmixed with Command and/or other PRE herbicides will help finish off winter annuals or early grass flushes at planting. For more information please see the MP519 Row Crop Plant-Back Intervals for Common Herbicides.

**Planting Date** – Technically, recommend planting for rice is when the soil temperature is above 60° F. For us, that typically occurs around the 15th of April, however I have no reservation in planting after April 1st if conditions are favorable. Planting earlier can increase the time required for germination and increase risk factors. Generally, earlier planted rice has the potential for higher yields but that is not always the case.

**Seeding Rate** - Seeding rates vary depending on cultivar, due to differences in seed size and/or weight. Under most conditions where rice is drill-seeded, 30 seeds per square foot are adequate to obtain the optimum stand density of 10 to 20 plants per square foot for conventional varieties (or 6 to 13 seedlings per 7.5-inch drill row foot). For hybrids, 10 to 15 seeds per square foot is needed to obtain optimum stand density of 6 to 10 plants per square foot (or 4 to 6 seedlings per 7.5-inch drill row foot). Stand densities above the optimum density increase disease, plant height and lodging. Lower seeding rates are capable of producing high yields provided that germination and emergence is excellent and plant distribution is uniform. For example, planting 60 lb/acre of CL151 could result in 27 seeds/ft². Reducing the rate to 50 lbs/acre could result in 22 seeds/ft². For CLXL745, 31 lbs/acre could result in 15 seeds/ft² and 21 lbs/acre 10 sees/ft².

---OVER---
DD50 program - Today the DD50 program assists growers with 26 management decisions based on growth stage, including herbicide application, critical times to scout and spray for insects and diseases, and N application. The DD50 program is a very important tool for farmers growing new cultivars. Please consider entering your fields in the DD50 program this year. This can be done on line at dd50.uaex.edu, or just write down the emergence dates and give me a call.

New Publications – Below is a list of new or updated publications that may be an interest to you. They can be found on our web page at www.uaex.edu or come by the office and pick one up.

2015 Arkansas Rice Quick Facts
2015 Arkansas Rice Pocket Guide
Estimating Nutrient Removal for Row Crops Grown in Arkansas - FSA2176
Tank Clean-Out Recommendations for Common Herbicides - MP532
2015 Row Crop Plant-Back Intervals for Common Herbicides –MP519
2015 Upland Rice – RIS174

Cache River Watershed Public Meeting, March 30, 2015 – Free public information meetings have been scheduled in McCrory and Jonesboro by the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) to explain the process that will be followed in the development of watershed-based management plans for the Lower and Upper Cache River. Over the course of the next 16 to18 months, the agency will develop voluntary watershed-based management plans that are designed to help reduce nonpoint pollution. The purpose of these plans is to provide a framework for landowners, communities, and qualifying organizations that want to voluntarily participate in the watershed program to be able to apply for grants from ANRC and other sources and undertake projects.

The Jonesboro Upper Cache River meeting will be March 30 at 2 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce, 1709 East Nettleton Ave, and focus on the Cache River watershed upstream of Grubbs. Each public meeting will last about an hour.

For more information, contact ANRC, (501) 682-1611; Allen Brown, Allen.Brown@arkansas.gov or FTN Associates, (501) 225-7779; Terry Horton, twh@ftn-assoc.com

For more information, visit our web site our call 857-6875. facebook.com/uaex.claycorning

Sincerely,

Stewart Runsick
County Extension Agent-Agriculture

Andy Vangilder
County Extension Agent-Staff Chair