RICE

Check for Rice Water Weevil Soon after Flooding
As you flood your rice fields, or if you water seeded, make sure to scout for signs of rice water weevil (RWW). As we get more hybrid fields, this too, often results in thin stands and open water which attracts this pest. In general, you have a 3-5 day window to scout for leaf scar feeding after flooding to determine if enough adults weevils (roughly half the newest leaves show feeding scars) are present to warrant an insecticide application. Check the U of A’s Insecticide Guide (MP-144) for more details. Fields planted with insecticide treated seed should be safe from damage by the RWW.

Preflood Nitrogen Sets Yield Potential
According to Dr. Trent Roberts, U of A Assistant Professor for soil fertility, research findings show an 85% fertilizer use efficiency when the urea is flown onto dry soil and the field is flooded within three days. When the floodwater moves the urea into the soil, it will convert and stay in the ammonium form, which is safe from being lost.

It is very important to maintain a good flood. The rice will take up the majority of the preflood nitrogen applied within the first three weeks after a field is flooded. If the flood is lost on parts of the field, oxygen will be absorbed into the soil in these places ultimately resulting in some nitrogen being lost.

Many growers use a split application (preflood and again at beginning joint movement) for fertilizing rice. Conventional varieties should receive their midseason nitrogen sometime between green-ring (beginning joint movement) and ½ internode elongation whereas hybrids should receive their mid-season fertilizer at the boot stage.

Greene County Conservation Field Day & IPM Luncheons Scheduled
A field day focusing on conservation and crop genetics has been scheduled for July 22nd. Partnering groups include the Greene County Conservation District, Extension Service, FSA, NRCS, and AR Game & Fish. It will be held on the West side of Crowley's Ridge this year with tools for water conservation being spotlighted. A more detailed schedule will be provided in your next newsletter.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) lunch discussions have also been planned for the summer. They will be held the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each June, July, and August. They will rotate to a different region of the county from one session to the next. A different set of speakers are also scheduled to jumpstart the discussion by giving quick updates about what pests they are seeing, getting called about, selling chemicals for, new products, and doing research on. Comments will be provided by AG Industry reps, AG retailers, consultants, producers, and University experts. An informal discussion format is planned with input from crown welcomed. The sessions will begin at 12 noon and conclude by 1 pm. They are Dutch treat.

An optional field stop will be planned for some locations for those who want to see new products or demo work. Following are locations and speakers for the June luncheons.

**June 12—Miss Addies on Hwy 412 West**    BASF-Tom Franzen, CPS-Andy Swindle, Consultant -Mike Simmons, Producer-Brandon Martin, Ext Specialists -Dr. Jarrod Hardke & Dr. Dharmendra Saraswat

**June 26—Delta Crayfish on Hwy 412 East**  Syngenta-Bryce Anderson, MFA MidSouth-Joe Collins, Consultant-Shane Frost, Producer - David Pique, Extension Specialists - Kevin Lawson & Dr. Glenn Studebaker
2014 Yield Challenge
The Yield Challenge will be administered through the Arkansas Soybean Association (ASA) again this year. Producers in Greene County may compete in the Northeast Delta (east of ridge) or Northeast (west of ridge) divisions. They may also enter in the Conventional (variety) division. Field entry deadline is August 1st. New this year is prize money for the “Arkansas 100 Bushel Club”. For more details, contact the ASA at (501) 666-1418 or swsoy@aristotle.net.

Start Clean, Use Residuals, Spray Small Weeds
According to Dr. Bob Scott, Extension Weed Scientist for Arkansas, to control Glyphosate (GR) pigweed, follow these steps:

1) Start clean at planting with either tillage and/or burndown herbicides.

2) Get out a residual herbicide at planting for all types of soybean systems - Roundup Ready, Liberty Link, and conventional. Your herbicide options can come from Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) class 2 (Scepter, etc.), class 3 (yellow herbicides), class 5 (metribuzin, etc.), class 14 (PPOs like Valor and Authority), and class 15 (Dual, Zidua, etc.). Also keep in mind that none of the residual herbicides will work very well unless they are activated by moisture (generally 1/2 inch or more needed) before weeds begin to sprout. The class 14 and 15 herbicides have been the most consistent in control of GR pigweed, generally providing up to 3 weeks of residual control.

3) Be timely with postemergence (POST) herbicide timing. Applications made early with WSSA class 14 herbicides or premixes – Flexstar, Blazer, Cobra (pigweeds need to be < 2 inches for these products to work) have provided the best results in University trails with Roundup Ready and conventional soybeans. For Liberty Link soybeans, your POST Liberty application will also need timed early when weeds are less than 3-4 inches. If you run a day or two late you may lose a lot of control as pigweeds become too big – this is why it is best to use a residual early to give a little more flexibility with time.

Think about herbicide chemistry. Glyphosate readily translocates in the plant. This is why it worked so well before resistance. It went to the growing points and root system. On the other hand, herbicides like Flexstar (fomesafen), and Liberty (glufosinate) generally work as contact type products and have very little movement in the plant. This is why thorough spray coverage (15 gpa minimum spray volume by ground and 5 gpa with aerial applications) is a must along with, yes, tiny weeds (under 2-3 inches).

If pigweeds are too big for the PPOs or Liberty to completely burn back the seedling, you will be left with a stub that has new shoots ready to form. Don’t forget the root was not even touched by the herbicide!

A couple of other key components for a GR pigweed management system are the use of crop rotation (incorporating more herbicide families) and narrow rows (crop canopies more quickly to shield pigweed seed from sunlight needed to sprout). Good luck in this year’s war on pigweed!

Insecticide Seed Treatment Often Good Investment
Have you tried insecticide seed treatment on soybeans? In 80% of recent research trails conducted in Arkansas and other southern states, a significant bump in yield has been recorded when insecticide seed treatment was used. Make sure to give it a look on your farm.
**Corn**

**Herbicide Cutoff**
Persistent rain and wind has delayed some farmers from getting out herbicides. Remember for corn you have a cut off application size of 12 inches (6 leaf) for atrazine and 30 inches (8 leaf) for glyphosate and Calissto (mesotrione). With our wet weather, the Plant Board did approve a section 24c special local need label for the aerial application of Halex GT on glyphosate tolerant corn.

**Side Dress Fertilizer**
Some producers are applying nitrogen (N) fertilizer in a 3-way split for corn, with the final shot (typically 100 lb urea) flown on 1-2 weeks before the tassel emerges. The goal is not to use more fertilizer, but to save some of the fertilizer that would have been used early in the season for this application. Yield increases up to 25 bu/A have been observed in farmer’s fields and in small plot research, however this yield bump has not been consistent. Large amounts of residual nitrate-N, yield potential, soil variability, weather, and even hybrid selection can all influence yield response. In a wet season such as we have seen in 2014, the triple spilt should result in good N use efficiency for those using this approach.

**U of A Fungicide Recommendations**
Automatic fungicide applications in corn will result in economic losses for many growers. Researchers advise that most corn fields in Arkansas never reach a level of disease development to warrant the use of a fungicide. Keep in mind, some foliar diseases such as southern rust, northern leaf blight, and gray leaf spot, occasionally infect corn early enough to get a yield response when a foliar fungicide is used. If you or your crop advisor determine a fungicide is needed, try to time your application around brown silk. This timing should allow protection of green leaf tissue through kernel fill. Slow down to check your fields for presence of disease before automatically flying on a fungicide.

**Flag The Technology Cloud (FTTC) Update**
It is nice to see several fields marked with bicycle flags indicating the herbicide trait in the crop being grown. It is also wonderful a few folks (some from Greene County) have entered fields online in FTTC. With the online program, you can set up an account as a producer, consultant, or commercial applicator. The producer determines who can see the information (field name, acres, his name) entered for each field he or his consultant (he has to give consultant permission) enrolls in FTTC. Once fields are enrolled, farmer employees, farmer neighbors, and commercial applicators can go to the FTTC website and see what color fields are coded (ex.-red for conventional crop) next to the field they intend to spray. The main goal is to avoid herbicide misapplication and harmful drift. The more who sign up online, the more useful the tool is to all. Thanks to those who have already boarded the sprayer!!! Here is the website.
https://fttcloud.uaex.edu
Protect Squares from Tarnished Plant Bugs TBP

June is the time to protect first position squares (fruit) from plant bugs. On normal fruiting fields, treatment threshold is 3 TBP per 5 row feet when using a shake sheet, or 8 per 100 sweeps with a sweepnet. Remember, for resistance management, hold off using organo-phosphate insecticides until after bloom. Registered insecticides are listed in the MP144, “Insecticide Recommendations for Arkansas”.

Upcoming meetings & field days.

July 22 - Greene County Conservation Field Day
August 1 - Rice Expo, Grand Prairie Center, Stuttgart

Have a great year,

Allen Davis
County Extension Agent-Staff Chair
ardavis@uaex.edu
870-236-5039

Dave Freeze
County Extension Agent-Agriculture
dfreeze@uaex.edu
870-476-9891