



## Crop Overview

Rice harvest for the state should exceed the 80% mark this week. Cooler temperatures through this weekend will see a slight warmup next week, but the main thing is no rainfall is in the forecast. If the grain will dry, harvest weather should be ideal for the acres still waiting to be harvested. However, humidity levels look like they'll stay in the 60-80% range so fields may not dry down as quick as we would hope.

As the southern half of the state seems to be roughly 10% below last year's yields, the northern half of the state seems more likely to settle 5% below. A state average yield in the 155-160 bu/acre range seems likely, down from 168 bu/acre in 2014.

Milling yields were poor early with reports of a high number of chalky kernels. As harvest has progressed in later plantings and in the northern half of the state, milling yields seem to be improving overall. Overall averages appear to be running in the mid-50s for head rice across cultivars. A much needed improvement in a difficult year.

## Planting Date Studies

The preliminary results of selected cultivars in planting date studies conducted at the Rice Research & Extension Center near Stuttgart, AR can be found in **Table 1**.

Results are interesting to say the least, but correspond fairly well with grower yield reports by planting date. In a strange twist, many growers have reported their best yields from fields planted in May – this typically just doesn't happen. Genetics combined with weather can lead to some interesting results, with different cultivars responding very differently to the weather at different planting dates. This can have to do with differences in maturity (such as

differences in growth stage during stressful conditions) as well as the basic genetics of the plant that help it deal with stressful conditions.

Because we can't plant a trial every day, these numbers still don't account for every acre and situation out there. Actual grower yield swings at times have been even greater than those shown here. For the most part, area fields with similar planting dates have reported similar yields to those in this planting date study. The hybrids seem to perform a little more consistently in these trials than some surrounding reports. One possibility is that our use of a 25 lbs/acre seeding rate is above the range of 18-22 lbs/acre used in the area on similar soils. This may have allowed our plots to establish a better stand under early adverse conditions. If you're wondering, varieties are planted at about 70 lbs/acre. All seed also receives an overtreatment of insecticide and fungicides.

**Table 1. Preliminary results of planting date studies at RREC, 2015.**

Cultivar	Planting Date			
	Apr-3	Apr-21	May-5	May-19
CL111	173	152	171	143
CL151	182	142	178	178
Jupiter	183	157	165	161
LaKast	197	174	183	192
Mermentau	178	131	170	183
Roy J	193	142	165	180
CLXL745	180	198	201	194
XL753	225	227	232	225

## Arkansas Variety Testing Website

Preliminary rice yield results for the Arkansas Rice Performance Trials (ARPT) and the Producer Rice Evaluation Program (PREP) on-farm trials can be found at <http://arkansasvarietytesting.com/home/rice/>.

Visit our website at <http://www.uaex.edu>



# Arkansas Rice Update

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## 2016 Comparative Returns for Arkansas Row Crops

As seed sales for 2016 are already beginning, crop selection for next year is underway even as we finish 2015 harvest. To aid in decision-making, a comparative budget of the major row crops in Arkansas can be found at the following link: <http://www.arkansas-crops.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2016-Comparative>Returns-for-Arkansas-Row-Crops.xlsx>.

## NRCS Accepting Applications for USA Rice and DU RCPP Project

Farmers and landowners in 30 Arkansas counties have until October 16, 2015, to submit applications to receive financial assistance to implement conservation practices through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) – Rice Stewardship Partnership Project sponsored by USA Rice and Ducks Unlimited. Applicants can sign up at their local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field service center. Funding will be available to eligible landowners through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

The 30 counties open for sign-up in RCPP are: Arkansas, Ashley, Chicot, Clay, Conway, Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Desha, Drew, Faulkner, Greene, Independence, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lee, Lincoln, Lonoke, Mississippi, Monroe, Phillips, Poinsett, Pope, Prairie, Pulaski, Randolph, St. Francis, White, and Woodruff.

## Upcoming Webinars

Global Rice and Commodity Markets Will Move Higher... Have We Hit Bottom! – with Jeremy Zwinger, Farm and Trade, Inc. and The Rice Trader, Inc. October 6, 2015 at 2 p.m. Central. Registration link: <https://uaex.zoom.us/webinar/register/99728e411b97c868c5b9141539e44ee6>.

Rice – Global Competitiveness of the U.S. Industry – with International Trade Analysts at USITC John Giamalva, Marin Weaver, and Lesley Ahmed. October 7, 2015 at 11 a.m. Central. Registration link: <https://uaex.zoom.us/webinar/register/3dea358b06d7fc0bc5b9141539e44ee6>.

## FSA Acreage Report

The latest FSA update to planted acreage was released Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>. **Table 2** shows the reported acreage for major Arkansas row crops. Most notable are the prevented planting acreages for several crops. The highest prevented planted acreage for rice was in 2013 at over 300,000 acres and 2011 had similar prevented acreage to 2015.

**Table 2. Arkansas FSA Acreage, Sept. 16, 2015**

Crop	Planted	Failed	Prevented	Plant & Fail
Rice	1,276,767	18,668	268,847	1,295,435
Soybean	3,161,048	7,292	104,306	3,168,340
Corn	447,964	8,720	189,822	456,684
Cotton	204,657	971	26,900	205,629
Sorghum	419,367	7,083	21,528	426,449

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## **Additional Information**

Arkansas Rice Updates are published periodically to provide timely information and recommendations for rice production in Arkansas. If you would like to be added to this email list, please send your request to [jhardke@uaex.edu](mailto:jhardke@uaex.edu).

This information will also be posted to the Arkansas Row Crops blog (<http://www.arkansas-crops.com/>) where additional information from Extension specialists can be found.

More information on rice production, including access to all publications and reports, can be found at <http://www.uaex.edu/rice>.

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