



# Arkansas Rice Update

Dr. Jarrod Hardke, Scott Stiles, Dr. Nick Bateman,  
Dr. Gus Lorenz, & Dr. Ben Thrash

March 12, 2020 No. 2020-01

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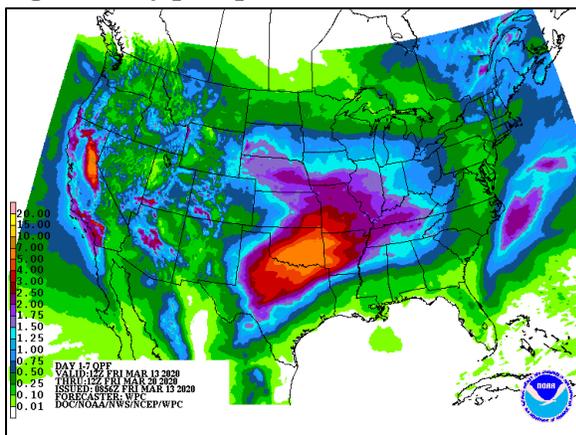
## Well, We're Waiting

"Listen! You smell something?" There's a lot going on the world right now beyond rice, but here we are still trying to get a crop started before long. Hopefully the start and finish will be an easier trip than last year.

A year later and we're still talking about the rain, seemingly non-stop since the fall of 2018. Some field work has been accomplished over the past few weeks, primarily isolated to higher fields near the highways and hillsides. Much of the rest of our rice-growing area hasn't done much other than make some burndown herbicide applications. The current 7-day precipitation totals don't look too kind either (**Fig. 1**).

The long-range forecasts for March through May suggest above average temperatures over the period. However, above average rainfall is also in the mix for that period. Not exactly a comforting forecast, but all we need are windows to get things done. We can still get our dry windows to get the crop in and their forecast be right at the same time. With those comments I'm hoping for an improvement on 2019 of course.

**Fig. 1. 7-day precipitation forecast, NOAA.**



## Just How Much Rice?

Acreage intentions are currently still in the process of being collected, and we'll get some clarity on current intentions at the end of the month. For now, I'll share where I believe we're headed based on all the factors involved.

**Table 1** shows the harvested acreage for different states over the last several years. For many reasons 2020 should represent a year of increased acres in Arkansas. The record prevented planting in 2019 combined with price differences between rice and other crops points to a big number, if we can get it planted.

Given the current outlook for rice over other options, it's not difficult to start seeing 1.5 million acres for AR as a baseline rather than the actual result. Given the window to get it in, we could certainly go higher. The majority of the AR increase will be in long-grain with medium-grain remaining relatively flat compared to 2019. With that I expect 1.3 million acres of long-grain and 200,000 acres of medium-grain rice.

**Table 1. 2013-2019 harvested rice acreage and 2020 projected rice acres (in thousands).**

Year	AR	CA	LA	MS	MO	TX	US
2013	1,070	562	413	124	156	144	2,469
2014	1,480	442	462	190	213	146	2,933
2015	1,291	426	415	149	174	130	2,585
2016	1,521	536	428	194	231	187	3,097
2017	1,104	443	395	114	160	158	2,374
2018	1,427	504	436	139	220	189	2,915
2019	1,126	496	414	113	173	150	2,472
17-19 AVG	1,219	481	415	122	184	166	2,587
<b>2020*</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>2,985</b>

\*2020 numbers reflect estimates for each state by J. Hardke.

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## When to Use Combinations of Seed Treatments in Rice

Over the past three years we have talked a lot about combinations of insecticide seed treatments and the benefits of combining different seed treatments for control of grape colaspis and rice water weevil. We have been comparing combinations of a neonicotinoid (CruiserMaxx Rice or NipsIt INSIDE) with a diamide seed treatment (Dermacor X-100 or Fortenza) for multiple years now.

In our studies when we compare the neonicotinoid seed treatments CruiserMaxx Rice and NipsIt INSIDE we have observed very little difference in efficacy between the two products. In other words, they both perform equally well, particularly on grape colaspis. They also provide control of rice water weevil, but neither provide as great of control as Dermacor or Fortenza.

In contrast, Dermacor does not provide adequate control of grape colaspis. Another thing to remember is that CruiserMaxx and NipsIt protect rice for about 28-35 days. Dermacor, on the other hand, provide protection for 60-70 days after planting or more, with similar results observed for Fortenza.

With combinations of one of the neonics and one of the diamide seed treatments we consistently see an increase in control of rice water weevil and as a result we see better yields compared to a neonic alone. We have seen some increased control when combining CruiserMaxx and NipsIt, but it is less consistent than combinations including a diamide seed treatment.

The question we have been asked a lot recently is: **Do I need this combination on every acre?** The short answer is no, but it's dependent on multiple factors. Planting date and soil texture are the two biggest factors in making this decision.

For rice planted in April, that is more likely to sit in the ground longer and take longer to get to flood, the addition of one of the diamide seed treatments will help tremendously with rice water weevil control. In this planting window there is a much higher likelihood of the neonic seed treatments running out of gas before the flood is applied, which will lead to a reduced control for rice water weevil.

For rice planted in May, a neonic seed treatment will typically suffice. At this point rice is usually coming out of the ground quickly and we can manage to get to flood within the 28-35 day window that the neonics last.

Soil texture is another major concern. Soil texture will dictate whether or not grape colaspis will be a concern. Grape colaspis do not occur in heavy clay soil, which is typically rice ground in large portions of Northeast and Southeast Arkansas, and in these areas a single diamide or neonic seed treatment should suffice if rice is planted in May.

Grape colaspis is very likely to be found in our finer, more loamy soils throughout the Grand Prairie and White River regions, so regardless of planting date we have to have one of the neonic seed treatments on our seed to protect it.

The bottom line is we need seed treatments in rice to stay profitable, and while it may cost more money, combinations of insecticide seed treatments will pay for themselves in early planted rice. We can still see benefits in later planted rice from the combinations, but in most cases, they are not needed. Commodity prices are not great right now, so we need to be mindful of how we spend our money and be sure to put these combinations of insecticide seed treatments where they belong.

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## Rice Market Update

**Reminder: Enrollment Deadline for 2019 ARC & PLC Programs is Monday, March 16.**

Producers that have not completed their 2019 crop year elections and enrollment in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, should schedule an appointment with their local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) by Monday, March 16.

Farms not signed up by March 16 will not be enrolled in ARC or PLC for the 2019 crop year **and will be ineligible to receive any ARC or PLC payments that may be available for the 2019 crop year.**

## Projected 2019 PLC Payment Rates

Commodity	2019 Projected PLC Payment Rate*
Long-Grain Rice	.90 /bu.
Medium-Grain Rice	.94 /bu.
Wheat	.95 /bu.
Sorghum	.65 /bu.
Peanuts	.0615 /lb
Seed Cotton	.0664 /lb
Corn	0.00
Soybeans	0.00
*full payment rates shown (not adjusted for sequestration).	

## Market Update:

In Tuesday's USDA Supply/Demand report, old crop (2019/20) supply and use estimates for long-grain were unchanged from last month. The projected season-average farm price for 2019 was also unchanged at \$12 per cwt or \$5.40 per bushel. Projected 2019 PLC payment rates are 90 cents and 94 cents per bushel respectively for long-grain and southern medium grain.

As a discussion point, USDA currently projects old crop exports at 71 million cwt. That is a 5.3 million cwt (8% increase) over last year's 65.7 million export total. **It's worth noting that long-grain export sales are**

**currently running 17% ahead of last year's pace**, according to USDA weekly export sales reporting. Also supportive is the fact that long-grain shipments are running 23% ahead of last year. To date, U.S. exporters have shipped 78% of the long-grain export sales total compared to 74% last.

## March USDA Supply / Demand Tables

LONG-GRAIN RICE	2019/20 Proj.	2019/20 Proj.
Unit: million cwt.	February	March
Harvested Acres (mln.)	1.73	1.73
Yield (pounds/acre)	7261	7261
Beginning Stocks	32.6	32.6
Production	125.6	125.6
Supply, Total	<b>184.2</b>	<b>184.2</b>
Domestic & Residual	99	99
Exports	71	71
Use, Total	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>
Ending Stocks	14.2	14.2
Avg. Farm Price (\$/bu)	\$ 5.40	\$ 5.40

Rice is now in the second half of its marketing year with 21 reporting weeks remaining. If export momentum can be maintained for the balance of the 2019 marketing year, it lends support to the argument that old crop exports can be increased further. The old crop futures contracts appear aware of rice's export strength. Below is a daily chart for the May '20 contract. Although prices broke below \$13 last Friday and traded to a low of \$12.69, a significant recovery bounce of over 60 cents has been in play the last four trading sessions. May trades at \$13.31 at this writing.

**CBOT May 2020 Rough Rice Futures, Daily.**

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It's disappointing to see new crop September rice now trading between \$11.70 and \$11.90. Driving the price weakness in rice over the past month is the fact that rice doesn't have to compete heavily for acres with November soybeans trading at \$8.70 today, September corn at \$3.70 and December cotton at .6140. There are no good alternatives to rice at the moment—as we sit here on March 13. This portends a wall of rice production in 2020 and massive downside price risk with a favorable growing season.

Growers should focus on a marketing plan that includes locking down the largest input costs—like fuel, fertilizer and seed. Knowing those costs will provide added confidence in calculating break-even prices. Utilize our University budgets and budgeting tools.

Amidst all the chaos of the moment is tremendous opportunity—especially in the energy markets (ie. fuel). Discuss with your marketing advisor the prospect of hedging fuel costs for 2020 and 2021 possibly. In the same conversation, design a plan to manage downside price risk on 2020 rice production.

If you are interested in receiving rice production and management information notifications via text message, signing up is easy. You can also sign up to receive messages from other commodities and topic areas.

Text the number **69922** with the following word to join that list:

- Rice
- Soil
- Cotton
- Sorghum
- Weeds
- Soybean
- Fieldcorn (one word)
- Wheat

Once you've sent the list word to **69922**, you should receive an automatic reply confirming your enrollment in the group. If joining multiple groups, each word must be sent as a separate text message. Reply STOP to cancel, HELP for help. Msg&data rates may apply. Terms & privacy: [slkt.io/5eSz](http://slkt.io/5eSz).

### 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 [rice@uaex.edu](mailto:rice@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>.

### Acknowledgements

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