



# Arkansas Rice Update

Dr. Jarrod Hardke, Dr. Tom Barber, & Scott Stiles

March 26, 2020 No. 2020-02

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## Waiting Game Continues

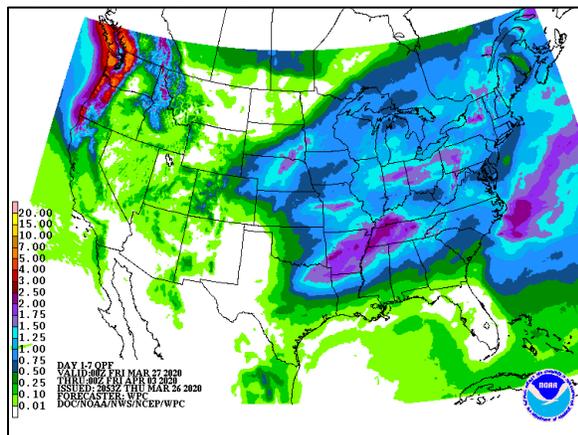
“Just take those old records off the shelf, I’ll sit and listen to ‘em by myself.” Everyone seems to be getting their fill of alone time and family time with the current state of things. We hope to get growers into their isolation pods, I mean tractors, very soon.

There has now been rice planted in Arkansas! Given the amount of rainfall this year it shouldn’t be a surprise that it was water-seeded. If the rain doesn’t start to give way soon, we may be seeing more water-seeded rice this year.

At Stuttgart we have accumulated over 18 inches of rain since Jan. 1 compared to 11.9 inches on average (17.3 vs 11.0 inches at Jonesboro). This time last year we had accumulated 18 and 22 inches at Stuttgart and Jonesboro, respectively.

It doesn’t look like things will be changing much for the next week based on the precipitation forecast (**Fig. 1**). Temperatures are warmer this week but expected to fall back in the 60s next week limiting our ability to dry things out as more rain occurs. It seems like déjà vu all over again in 2020, but things are bound to change. Hopefully some drier conditions will get here fast.

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



## Crop Insurance Coverage for Furrow-Irrigated Rice

Furrow-irrigated rice (FIR) or row rice is now an insurable practice. However, there are a few requirements in order for it to be insurable.

1. Select a cultivar rated as:
  - a. Moderately resistant (MR) or resistant (R) to blast disease based on respective state university disease reaction ratings; or
  - b. Moderately susceptible (MS) to blast disease, if managed with appropriate fungicides and practices to specifically minimize that susceptibility.
2. Plant utilizing drill seeding or broadcast seeding into an un-flooded seedbed. Broadcast seeding into a controlled flood is not allowed.
3. Provide irrigation capacity and equipment capable of applying water down each furrow to ensure adequate water delivery to all rice plants in the field.
4. Utilize adequate row spacing and row depth to convey water evenly throughout the field, allowing for complete saturation of the entire field.
5. Apply irrigation every three (3) but no more than five (5) days in the absence of adequate rainfall events until the crop reaches maturity, unless otherwise recommended by a local agricultural expert.
6. Document irrigation and rainfall events; documentation must be made available upon request.
7. Comply with all good farming practices for rice as well as recommendations of local agricultural experts for timing of irrigation events, fertilization, and weed control for furrow irrigation.

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There have been questions about utilizing other cultivars, such as Jupiter, that only rate as susceptible (S) for blast. This would not be insurable. However, it is our expectation and observation that Jupiter can do well in FIR because despite a tendency for leaf blast it is less prone to develop neck blast – but Jupiter in FIR is not insurable based on the listed requirements.

Other cultivars may also be grown successfully in FIR, but again the risk is much greater than for cultivars rated R, MR, or MS to blast, and are therefore not insurable. Extreme caution should be used when considering blast-susceptible cultivars for FIR.

## Herbicide Selection at Planting for Rice

There have been numerous calls and texts lately with questions about burndown herbicides and plant-back intervals. Although there is not much we can do about the rain (it will eventually stop), one thing we can do is be prepared and ready to roll when the weather clears.

Regardless if early burndown programs were successful, there will likely be some weeds emerged by the time the fields dry out enough to plant. Many options exist for burndown applications just prior to or immediately following planting and recent updates on pre-plant intervals can be found in the [MP-519](#) and sections of the [MP-44](#) or [Arkansas Rice Management Guide](#).

Most questions have been around 2,4-D and clethodim (Select) prior to planting rice. Herbicide combinations containing 2,4-D and glyphosate (Roundup) are very common at burndown because they are cheap and control a wide range of winter annuals. Many 2,4-D labels indicate that plant-back intervals are 90 days or until dissipated for most crops. Some specific 2,4-D products may indicate 30 days prior to planting rice, depending upon rate applied.

University data agrees that these are accurate for rice to allow for the best crop safety. However, University data does suggest that cutting the interval back to 21 days following an inch of rainfall is sufficient for planting rice following 2,4-D applications.

Some growers have said that they spray 2,4-D at planting and haven't seen any issues. I agree, sometimes you can get by with no waiting period, however many times planting prior to 21 days will result in poor, weak rice stands, especially if environmental conditions are already marginal for rice emergence. Every year I walk or get pics of poor rice stands following an application of 2,4-D too close to planting. Alternative herbicides should be considered if you absolutely will not wait to plant rice a minimum of 14 days (after 1-in of rain) following a 2,4-D application, keeping in mind you may see some injury then.

FirstShot, Sharpen, or Gambit mixed with Roundup at planting provide good broadleaf knockdown and are good alternatives to 2,4-D for rice acres. Make selection based off of weeds present and historical weed issues on a field by field basis.

For example, Sharpen may get most of these acres because of residual activity on pigweed. FirstShot can provide additional control of broadleaves but will not provide any residual following application. Gambit will aid in controlling a wide range of broadleaves with residual control but will not help with most of our pigweed populations. It should go without saying that Command should be mixed with any at planting burndown application on all rice acres, for residual grass control.

Gramoxone (paraquat) is a good option prior to planting any crop. If ryegrass is present, Gramoxone is really the best option other than clethodim (Select). Plant-back to clethodim is 30

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days to rice following 16 oz Select Max (1 lb ai/gallon) or 8 oz clethodim generic (2 lb ai/gallon). Know which formulation you are spraying to apply the appropriate rate.

**Always check specific herbicide labels for plant-back restrictions prior to planting.**

**Table 2. Plant-back intervals for common burndown herbicides.**

Herbicide	Plant-Back Interval
2,4-D	21 days*
Dicamba	22 days*
Elevore	14 days
Select / Select Max	30 days
Valor	30 days
FirstShot	Immediately
Gambit	Immediately
Glyphosate	Immediately
Glufosinate	Immediately
Gramoxone	Immediately
Sharpen	Immediately

\* After 1-inch rain.

## Rice Market Update

The May futures contract has rallied about 50 cents off of Monday's low of \$13.15. There have been a number of news stories this week regarding potential reductions in grain trade, most notably by key wheat exporters. However, Vietnam announced it would place a temporary hold on rice export sales through March 28 in order to evaluate domestic stocks. Iraq indicated this week it would need to import 250,000 MT of rice over the coming months to rebuild reserves.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed consumer behavior. With families preparing more meals at home and concerns about interruptions in local food supplies, it's evident this week there is growing concern about food security around the world.

## May20 Rough Rice Futures



The new crop September contract has rallied about 40 cents off its recent low of \$11.50, made last Friday (3/20).

## Sept20 Rough Rice Futures



Continued delays in fieldwork in most of the Midsouth is price supportive. However, NASS did indicate Monday that rice planting in Louisiana was moving along. For the week ending March 22, rice planting progress was estimated at 26% complete compared to the 5-year average of 18%.

## Louisiana Crop Progress, USDA-NASS.

### Crop Progress for Week Ending March 22, 2020

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Corn planted	40	3	37	28
Corn emerged	2	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Rice planted	26	7	19	18
Rice emerged	6	(NA)	1	2
Winter wheat headed	14	1	25	15

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In regard to COVID-19, there are pockets of concern around the state regarding delays in getting H2A farm workers. Also, the potential exists for input suppliers to be faced with temporary labor shortages if any employees contract the coronavirus. Many debate if there will be logistical problems and delays in getting adequate farm inputs in place throughout the entire growing season? Will trucking, rail, river systems and ports continue to operate smoothly? The potential impact from all of these issues is unknown, but certainly a recognized risk to getting the 2020 crop planted and delivered in a timely manner.

On a final note, rice futures have not endured the sharp price declines seen this month in corn, soybeans, and cotton. As of Wednesday's close (3/25), September rice futures were down only .3% year to date. New crop corn and soybean futures have recovered some over the past week but are still down 11% year to date. The situation in cotton is far worse, with December futures down about 23% and trading below 55 cents this week.

September corn trades at \$3.56 and November soybeans at \$8.78 as of this writing. As a result, new crop rice futures have not had to bid for additional acres—prices for competing crops have done all the work. If the weather will cooperate, the rice market knows the acres are bought. Note the September contract is spending less and less time at or above \$12—only closing above \$12 three times this month. Two of those days were March 2nd and 3rd and most recently March 18th. More-than-usual liquidity exists in September '20 rice futures with open interest currently at 2,426 contracts. Have a plan in place to manage the potentially large downside price risk facing the 2020 rice crop. Consider protecting a profitable price level through hedging to enhance the potentially large PLC

payments that could be available following the 2020 marketing year.

## DD50 Program is Live

While planting progress has only just begun, we do have rice emerged. With that in mind, the DD50 Rice Management Program is live and ready for fields to be enrolled for the 2020 season. All log-in and producer information has been retained from the 2019 season, so if you used the program last year you can log-in just as you did last year. Only field data from 2019 has been removed. Log-in and enroll fields here: <https://dd50.uaex.edu/>.

Here's a recent article on the DD50 program: [Use the DD50 Rice Management Program to Say Ahead in 2020](#).

## UAEX Row Crop Text Message Updates

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).

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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 [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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