



Arkansas Rice Update

Dr. Jarrod Hardke, Scott Stiles & Dr. Chris Henry

April 12, 2019 No. 2019-07

www.uaex.edu/rice



DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION

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Fits and Starts

“I don’t want to play, I just want to bang on the drum all day.” As of this past Monday, the state was only at 11%. Note that in **Fig. 1** for 2019 (black) we’re tracking right on line with 2018 (green) progress at this point. Last year represented a very “middle of the road” type of progress when we compare back to 2008.

In 2018 we saw a significant jump in acres over this week and next. However, the current forecast (**Fig. 2**) does not appear to have that in mind for 2019. This figure is for Stuttgart weather, but the forecast for Jonesboro is nearly identical in temperature and rainfall.

We will likely see our planting progress in the report Monday to say we’re around 15-20% planted. Much of that has occurred in very isolated areas throughout the state with more intense planting in far northeast counties that have missed heavy rainfall events.

Forecasts for the weekend through next week are not kind. Over 5 inches of rain is expected across much of the Delta between Saturday and Wednesday rain events. That would definitely move our planting progress in line with the later grouping of years in **Fig. 1**.

However, let’s keep in mind that there were some very good yield years in that group. The 2013 and 2014 seasons were record-setting. We can’t know exactly which hand we’ll be dealt this year, but the odds are a toss up whether we’re allowed to plant earlier or later. The in-season conditions are what drive the bus.

We still have a ways to go before an acreage shift is unavoidable. That being said, if the weather pattern doesn’t change quickly after this round, we’ll have some serious decisions to make about how much rice we continue to plant as we move into May.

Fig. 1. AR Rice Planting Progress 2008-2019.

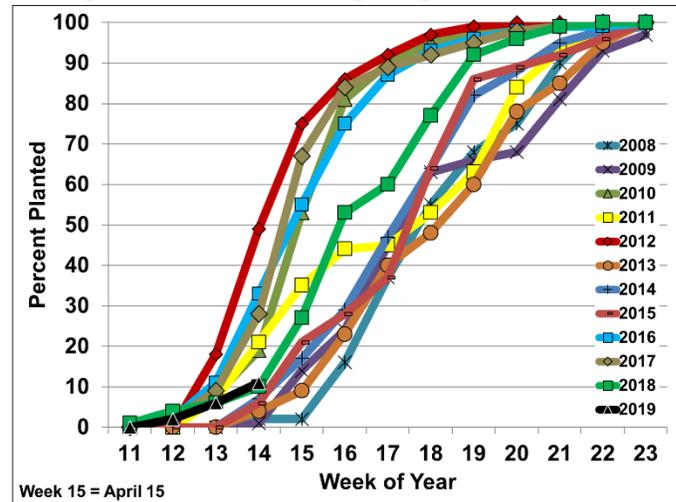


Fig. 2. 14-day forecast for Stuttgart, AR.

DAY	DESCRIPTION	HIGH / LOW	PRECIP	WIND
TONIGHT APR 12	Rain Late	--/55'	↗70%	ENE 8 mph
SAT APR 13	Thunderstorms/Wind	61/51'	↗100%	ENE 21 mph
SUN APR 14	AM Showers	57/42'	↗50%	NW 18 mph
MON APR 15	Sunny	71/53'	↗10%	S 10 mph
TUE APR 16	Cloudy	75/61'	↗10%	S 15 mph
WED APR 17	Scattered Thunderstorms	71/62'	↗50%	S 17 mph
THU APR 18	AM Thunderstorms	66/49'	↗40%	WSW 19 mph
FRI APR 19	Partly Cloudy	65/47'	↗20%	WNW 15 mph
SAT APR 20	Partly Cloudy	69/49'	↗20%	WNW 13 mph
SUN APR 21	Mostly Sunny	73/54'	↗0%	S 12 mph
MON APR 22	Mostly Sunny	73/57'	↗20%	SSE 12 mph
TUE APR 23	Scattered Thunderstorms	74/57'	↗40%	S 13 mph
WED APR 24	Scattered Thunderstorms	74/56'	↗40%	SSW 11 mph
THU APR 25	Partly Cloudy	75/57'	↗20%	SSE 11 mph
FRI APR 26	AM Thunderstorms	75/56'	↗40%	SW 10 mph

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Levee Seed Questions

Several questions have rolled in this year about what to seed on levees in hybrid rice fields to maximize hybrid seed availability. We're focused on both performance and relative maturity to make this situation work. There aren't any perfect matches and management can affect levee maturity so adjust accordingly.

For Clearfield hybrids such as RT CLXL745, consider seeding levees to CL111. For RT 7311 CL, then CL111 would still work but CL153 may be a closer maturity option. RT Gemini 214 CL is later maturing so there it would be best to go with CL153.

For conventional hybrids like RT XP753, the variety LaKast is close in maturity and should do well on levees. Diamond is also an option but is a couple days later maturing. For RT XP760 or another later hybrid, Diamond would be the fit.

Rice Market Update

In USDA's April supply/demand report there were no changes to supply in the 2018/19 U.S. long-grain balance sheet. There were, however, offsetting adjustments in usage. Domestic Use was increased 1 million hundredweight (cwt) to 106 million. Exports were reduced by 1 million cwt to 67 million. Ending Stocks are currently projected at 34.8 million cwt. The midpoint of the 2018/19 season-average farm price was unchanged at \$10.80/cwt or \$4.86/bu.

U.S. Long-Grain, Supply, Demand, and Price.		
Unit: million cwt.	March 2018/19 proj.	April 2018/19 proj.
Production	164	164
Beginning Stocks	20.3	20.3
Imports	23.5	23.5
Total Supply	207.8	207.8
Domestic Use	105	106
Exports	68	67
Total Use	173	173
Ending Stocks	34.8	34.8
Avg. Farm Price (\$/bu.)	\$4.86	\$4.86

Source: USDA, April 2019

Significant adjustments were made in medium and short-grain balance sheet. Domestic Use was lowered 1 million cwt and Exports were lowered 3 million cwt. Medium and short grain Ending Stocks were increased 4 million cwt to 17.4 million. The midpoint of the 2018/19 season average farm price was unchanged at \$12.20/cwt or \$5.49/bu.

U.S. Medium/Short Grain, Supply, Demand, and Price.		
Unit: million cwt.	March 2018/19 proj.	April 2018/19 proj.
Production	60.3	60.3
Beginning Stocks	7.6	7.6
Imports	5.5	5.5
Total Supply	73.4	73.4
Domestic Use	30	29
Exports	30	27
Total Use	60	56
Ending Stocks	13.4	17.4
Avg. Farm Price (\$/bu.)	\$5.49	\$5.49

Source: USDA, April 2019

The next USDA WASDE report will be released on May 10, 2019. This will include the first balance sheets for the 2019/20 marketing year. Planted acres from the March *Prospective Plantings* report and trend yields will be used as a starting point for 2019 production.

Chicago rice futures have been pricing-in a bearish new crop balance sheet. This is due in part to the fact that the March *Prospective Plantings* revealed only a slight 2% decline in long-grain acres from last year. Since the last week of March, the September 2019 futures contract has slipped from \$11.20 to \$10.57 per cwt. This is a good indication the futures market senses a bearish balance sheet with the potential for long-grain ending stocks to continue building.

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Rice PLC Update:

2018 Projected PLC Payment Rates, Rice (as of April 2019).

	A	B	C	(A minus higher of B or C)	-6.8%
Unit: \$/bu.	Ref. Price	Loan Rate	Mktg. Year Avg. Price	Proj. PLC Payment Rate	Net PLC Pmnt. Rate
Long-Grain	\$6.30	\$2.925	\$4.86	\$1.44	\$1.34
Med.-Grain	\$6.30	\$2.925	\$5.49	\$0.81	\$0.75

The final 2018 marketing year prices and PLC payment rates for rice are expected to be announced in October 2019. Projected 2018 PLC payment rates are updated monthly on the USDA Farm Service Agencies' ARC/PLC website found here: [ARC/PLC Program Data](#).

Look under the heading "Program Year 2018 Date" for "Projected 2018 PLC Payment Rates".

U.S. Crop Progress:

The table below includes rice planting progress for individual states as of April 7th. Most states are tracking closely with the historical average. However, intermittent rains have kept Arkansas and Texas behind the five-year average pace. Historically, rice planting in Arkansas has been around 33% complete by April 15th.

Rice Planting Progress, 2019.				
State	As of April 7	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg.
<i>Percent Planted</i>				
AR	11	6	9	15
LA	70	49	74	66
MS	14	4	8	13
MO	5	-	-	4
TX	38	17	64	49

Source: USDA, NASS.

Diesel on the Move:

NYMEX Diesel futures broke out of a long-standing sideways channel this week. Since mid-February, Diesel futures have traded in a 10 cent range between \$1.95 and \$2.05 per gallon. The nearby May futures contract closed above \$2.05 on Monday and traded slightly above \$2.08 mid-week.

Diesel futures reached a high of \$2.45 last October before collapsing to \$1.64 by early January. A 62% retracement of the 81 cent price drop would project a price recovery to \$2.14 per gallon.

NYMEX Diesel Futures, Nearby Contract.



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Rice Irrigation Training for Multiple Inlet Rice Irrigation Using the Mobile App

The UofA Division of Agriculture rice irrigation program is conducting several help sessions this spring for using the mobile app for MIRI (multiple-inlet rice irrigation). These online trainings will be used as a refresher for experienced users, but also an opportunity to teach new users how to work the app. These are expected to last approximately one hour depending on questions.

- April 15, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.
- April 22, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.
- April 29, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

Download and import the following iCalendar file to your calendar system:

<https://uaex.zoom.us/meeting/983281319/ics?icsToken=786b92229704904e304b8d6897e51cb1c0eafd00b976be466f092c0a69032ebe>

Or you can join by computer:

<https://uaex.zoom.us/j/983281319>.

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.

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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