



Arkansas Rice Update

Dr. Jarrod Hardke & Scott Stiles

April 18, 2019 No. 2019-08

www.uaex.edu/rice

Progress? What Progress?

“The name of the game is hurry up and wait, but that ain’t puttin’ no food on my plate.”

The 5-year average for rice planting progress is 34% at this time, with us only at 19% this year (Fig. 1). It’s worth noting that we were at 67% in 2017 and 17% in 2014. It’s very difficult to know what the rest of the year holds for us just base on planting progress.

One thing that seems likely is the progress for this week will essentially be a flat line. A few fields were planted over the last day or two, but very few. If the current forecast of more rain next Wednesday through Saturday hold true, we’ll see another flat line for a week. Should that happen, we’ll only be ahead of 2008 for the years included in Fig. 1. That’s pretty daunting.

We all know we can catch up in a hurry once we’re given the opportunity. We just need the chance!

Through the middle of May we can still achieve over 90% of our optimal yield potential depending on the year. Planting date data at Pine Tree in 2018 showed the latter part of April and early May to have the highest yields – hopefully this holds true again for north Arkansas.

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

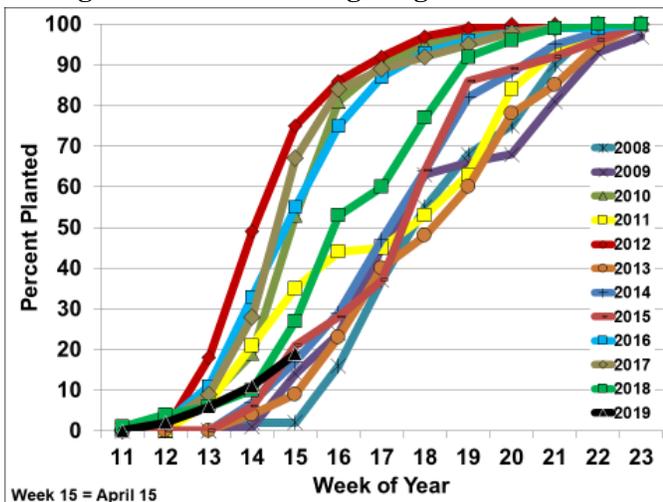


Fig. 2. Fresh water on a future rice field – levees have been marked for weeks.



Fig. 3. Results of 2018 planting date studies at Stuttgart, RREC.

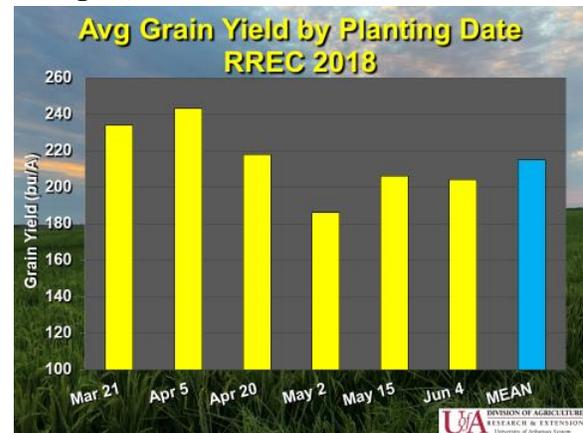
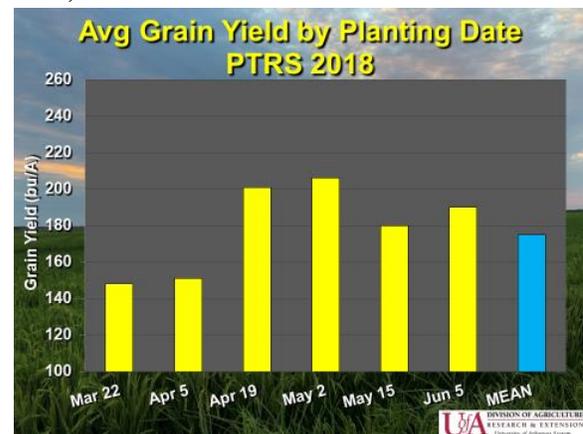


Fig. 4. Results of 2018 planting date studies at Colt, PTRS.



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Results of 2016-2018 Planting Date Studies at RREC

Included in a previous update, but again here for reference is a summary of Stuttgart planting date studies by grain yield and percent of optimal yield:

<https://www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/crops-commercial-horticulture/rice/2016-2018%20Planting%20Date%20Studies.pdf>

DD50 Program is Live

While planting progress has been minimal, 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 2019 season. All log-in and producer information has been retained from the 2018 season, so if you used the program last year you can log-in just as you did last year. Only field data from 2018 has been removed. Log-in and enroll fields here:

<https://dd50.uaex.edu/>.



Rice Market Update: Futures Higher

Following positive technical signals late last week, CBOT rice futures posted impressive gains Monday with both the July and September contracts finishing 16 cents higher. The remainder of the week was not as impressive. By Thursday the July contract had erased over half of those gains to finish the week just 7 cents higher at \$10.67 1/2. Markets were closed Friday.

CME July19 Rice Futures, Daily Chart.



This week's *Crop Progress* report confirmed planting delays and weather forecasts included more rain this week for the Mid-South. Otherwise, it was a bearish week for the major CBOT grains. Nearby soybean futures lost 14 cents on the week and wheat lost 19 cents. Planting delays are not a concern yet for the Midwest. Also, more trade talks with China appear to be planned. And, the U.S. Dollar traded higher this week and may be heading for a retest of the highs made in early March.

The new crop September rice contract has very light trading volume and open interest of 100 contracts. Gains were impressive Monday with the contract up 16 cents to \$10.85 1/2. It finished the week 7 cents higher at \$10.76 1/2.

Keep in mind rice balance sheets have heavy ending stocks going into the 2019 crop year. The March *Prospective Plantings* report provided no relief, indicating only a 2% decline in long-grain acres. The market understands that rice can afford to lose some additional acres or face

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another year of increasing ending stocks. Planting progress and possible acreage shifts will be key drivers of price direction in the weeks ahead.

million cwt; up 6% from 2017. Medium-grain exports were projected at 27 million cwt in April; an increase of 14% over the previous year.

Crop Progress: Falling Further Behind

The table below includes rice planting progress for individual states as of April 14th. Noticeable planting delays are starting to show up in some states. NASS indicated in Monday's report that planting in Arkansas was 19% complete. This compares to the historical average for the week of 34% planted.

Rice Planting Progress, 2019.				
State	As of April 14	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg.
<i>Percent Planted</i>				
AR	19	11	25	34
LA	77	70	85	76
MS	17	14	17	27
MO	15	5	9	16
TX	55	38	69	64
U.S.	26	19	30	35

Source: USDA, NASS.

With limited fieldwork again this week, planting is no doubt falling further behind. Looking ahead to next Monday's *Crop Progress*, Arkansas has historically been about 50% planted by April 21st. Slow planting progress could continue to offer some support to new crop rice futures.

Export Sales: On Track to Meet USDA

The table below includes U.S. rice export sales thru April 11th. Both long-grain and medium-grain sales are currently on track to meet USDA's 2018/19 export projections. In the April WASDE, long-grain exports were pegged at 67

U.S. Rice Export Sales, thru April 11.				
Unit: MT	2018/19	2017/18	Y/Y MT Change	Y/Y % Change
Long-grain rough	1,176,554	977,031	199,523	20%
Long-grain milled	710,733	803,975	(93,242)	-12%
Long-grain brown	35,710	15,846	19,864	125%
Total Long Grain	1,922,997	1,796,852	126,145	7%
Med.-grain rough	90,632	45,887	44,745	98%
Med.-grain brown	146,145	65,660	80,485	123%
Med.-grain milled	590,252	589,955	297	0.1%
Total Med. Grain	827,029	701,502	125,527	18%

Source: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service.

Trade Update: More Talks Planned

The U.S. and China have set a tentative timeline for the next round of trade talks with a possible signing ceremony in late May or early June. For now, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin plan to travel to Beijing the week of April 29. The following week Chinese Vice Premier Liu He will come to Washington. During his visit, officials want to announce the sides have struck a deal and details of a signing summit, probably set for late May.

[U.S., China Aim for Early-May Announcement on Trade Deal](#)

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Favorable WTO Ruling for U.S. Rice

In a press release, USDA announced today that a World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute settlement panel found that China has administered its tariff-rate quotas (TRQs) for wheat, corn, and **rice** inconsistently with its WTO commitments. In August 2017, the United States requested that the WTO establish a dispute settlement panel to consider whether China administers its TRQ for **long-grain rice, short-and medium-grain rice**, wheat, and corn in a manner inconsistent with its WTO commitments. China's grain TRQs have annually under filled. **USDA estimates that if China's TRQs had been fully used, it would have imported as much as \$3.5 billion worth of corn, wheat, and rice in 2015 alone.**

[United States Wins Dispute Finding China's Administration of Grain Tariff-Rate Quotas Breaches WTO Commitments](#)

2018 Farm Bill Update:

USDA issued a farm bill implementation update that summarizes progress to date and an expected timetable for key upcoming decisions. **Of note, the ARC/PLC election for 2019 and 2020 crop years will begin in September.**

The complete update is in USDA's news release at <http://bit.ly/2KxKHPx>

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>.

Acknowledgements

We sincerely appreciate the support for this publication provided by the rice farmers of Arkansas and administered by the Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board.

The authors greatly appreciate the feedback and contributions of all growers, county agents, consultants, and rice industry stakeholders.

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