



Arkansas Rice Update

Dr. Jarrod Hardke & Scott Stiles

April 24, 2020 No. 2020-06

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Slowly Gaining Traction

“A bushy, bushy blonde hairdo, surfin’ USA.” I need a haircut and there’s so much wind and rain we could surf in Arkansas. Mullets might be making a comeback!

The wide range of planting progress continues throughout the state. Last week we were able to make the jump to 23% planted (**Fig. 1**). This week progress was made in some areas that received minimal rainfall amounts from Sunday. So, we should keep relatively close pace with 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2019 and settle somewhere in the 30-40% planted range in Monday’s survey. If we come in under 34% that will be the slowest progress at this point since 1993 (less than 2019 even).

Continued rain Wednesday night, with more expected Friday and Tuesday, could stall progress further (**Fig. 2**). That may leave us under 50% planted by the time May rolls around. I just know we’re going to miss one of these events and we’ll get that big planting surge we’re looking for. In a single dry week we can plant 30-40% of our rice crop. Just waiting on our window!

Fig. 1. AR Rice Planting Progress 2010-2020.

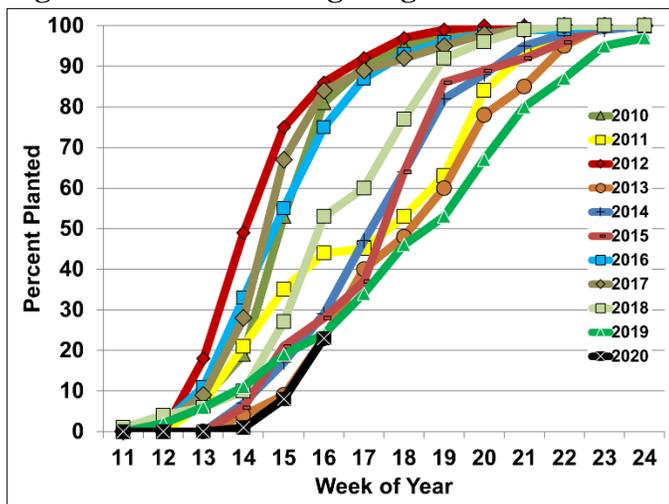


Fig. 2. 7-day precipitation forecast, NOAA.

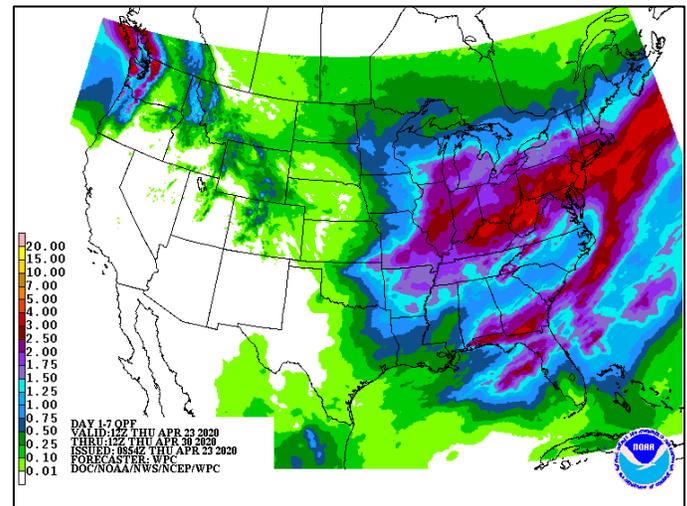


Fig. 3. Electric pole snapped at the base due to straight line winds (landing in rice field).



Rice Market Update

Monday’s *Crop Progress* report pressured new crop prices as planting advanced in some areas last week. The table below includes rice planting progress for individual states as of April 19th. Planting in Louisiana and Texas is winding down. Rains this week will continue to keep Arkansas,

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Mississippi and Missouri behind the five-year average pace.

ahead of last year. To date, no new crop export sales are reported.

U.S. Rice Planting Progress, 2020.				
State	April 19 2020	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg.
<i>Percent Planted</i>				
AR	23	8	23	45
LA	80	75	81	82
MS	11	5	18	38
MO	8	3	21	31
TX	82	79	61	67

Source: USDA, NASS.

NYMEX Diesel Futures

The collapse in diesel continues as the energy sector runs out of storage. In January, nearby NYMEX diesel futures traded as high as \$2.12/gallon. This week the expiring May contract has traded down to **67 cents**. In conversations with growers earlier this week, some were quoted 95 cents per gallon for tanker loads of dyed diesel. A tremendous benefit to crop budgets this year.

As of this writing Friday morning, the new crop September contract appears set to lose about 10 cents this week—compared to last Friday’s close of \$12.11/cwt. A window of opportunity to plant next week will continue to pressure new crop below \$12/cwt. The futures market is also aware that the rice planting window is wider with November soybeans trading at \$8.40 per bushel.

NYMEX June 2020 Diesel Futures.



CBOT September '20 Rice Futures.



2019 ARC / PLC Enrollment.

USDA released a report this week detailing the 2019 base acres enrolled by program (ARC or PLC) ([PDF, 82 KB](#)). No surprise, 99.9% of long-grain and 99.4% of medium-grain base acres were enrolled in PLC. Based on current USDA price forecasts for the 2019/20 marketing year, the projected PLC payment rate would be 81 cents per bushel for long-grain and 95 cents per bushel for southern medium grain ([PDF, 77 KB](#)).

Thursday’s *Export Sales* report showed weekly long-grain sales of 58,812 metric tons. Nearly all of rough rice sales were to Mexico. Haiti was the top market for milled sales. Long-grain shipments totaled 32,479 metric tons. Total long-grain sales are 13% ahead of last year and total shipments are 18%

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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 Stay Ahead in 2020.](#)

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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