



Arkansas Rice Update

Dr. Jarrod Hardke

April 30, 2016 No. 2016-07

www.uaex.edu/rice

Crop Outlook / Progress

In 4 weeks' time the state has gone from 3% to 75% planted. It's been an amazing run, though the northern half of the state continues to have better luck with the weather so far. This week's rains look a little more democratic.

The missed rain forecasts for much of this week resulted in a frenzy of activity with folks trying to beat the rain with a few more acres. A stop at any dealer or co-op and everyone was in that half-run/half-walk mode as seed and chemical were flying out the door. One blessing with the regular rain is always good soil moisture and herbicide activation (and re-activation in many cases).

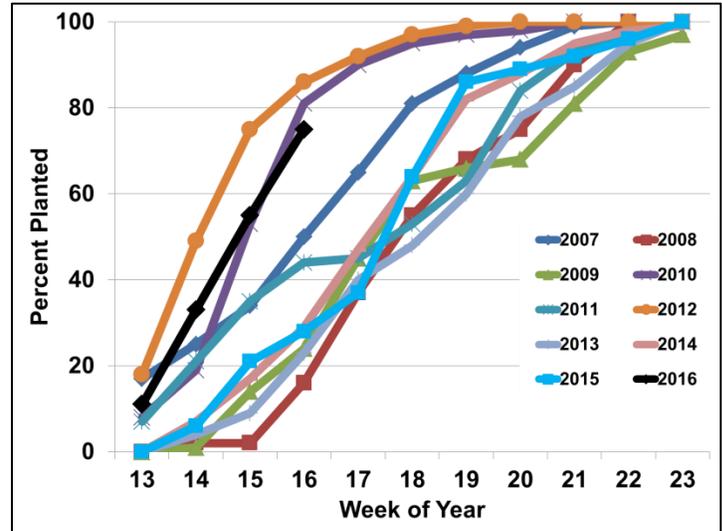
With all that activity we should see yet another good jump in the planting progress, likely as high as 90%. The majority of acreage remaining probably still sits in the southeast corner where rainfall hasn't been kind. This week many were floating like a butterfly and planting like a bee – hitting every high and dry spot they could find before yet another heavy rain event.

So just how fast have we progressed? It's felt like breakneck speed and clearly almost the entire crop will go in before May 1 (which could point to a high yield potential year). Looking at **Figure 1** there's no question we haven't been anywhere near this level of progress since 2012.

For those keeping score at home, 2012 was the first year in a while that we had set a new state yield record, which we then bested in 2013. In 2014 we had another great year but of course the wheels came off in 2015.

A great shot at having a production year like 2012/2013 is to get most of the crop in before mid-May when we begin to see steep yield drop-offs. Now that's not what happened in 2013 but we were bailed out by extremely mild and favorable midseason weather.

Fig. 1. Arkansas Planting Progress by Week of Year, 2007-2016.



Preflood Nitrogen Management

We'll go into more detail in the coming weeks just ahead of the first big push to flood, but for now here is the [Rice Nitrogen Fertilizer Recommendations for 2016](#). The first few fields could be fertilized and go to flood as early as next week.

If you have any questions about the numbers or about cultivars not listed please let us know.

N-STaR Sampling

There's still time for N-STaR sampling (when the soil dries). For sampling protocols visit <http://uaex.edu/rice> and look under the N-STaR section.

If the Wind is Blowing Hard Enough, Anything Will Drift

Drift reports are starting to pick up. When everyone gets in a hurry mistakes can happen. In many instances where stand loss is a factor the outcome is a given. However, in many cases where glyphosate is the culprit on small rice it's a little more gray. If there is little stand loss but

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the rice has clear visual symptoms, many will attempt to apply fertilizer (AMS or DAP) in an effort to aid in recovery. These applications will make the rice look better, and make you feel better, but they're usually not worth the expense. Very little yield benefit is ever seen from these applications. If plant loss is enough to drop stands below 10/ft² on varieties and 4/ft² on hybrids, then you should consider adding 20 units N to your pre-flood N application.

Fig. 2. Glyphosate + Sharpen drift.



The DD50 program is back and better than ever and can be found at <http://DD50.uaex.edu>. Major changes have been made to make the overall process simpler and easier to use. Changes to midseason N recommendations have also been incorporated. As always, all feedback is welcome so we can continue to improve the program for you. It also now works great in the browser window of your mobile device!

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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