



Arkansas Rice Update

Dr. Jarrod Hardke, Dr. Tommy Butts, & Scott Stiles

May 10, 2019 No. 2019-11

www.uaex.edu/rice



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Shelter From the Storm?

“Gloom, despair, and agony on me; deep dark depression, excessive misery.” We’re not just talking about Hee Haw anymore.

We’re still under 50% planted as a state (**Fig. 1**), though small pockets of progress this week should push us over that mark for Monday. We remain very close to 2013 in terms of planting progress – and that turned out to be the state yield record that stands today.

The upcoming forecast is, wait for it... POSITIVE! Warm temps, some sun, some wind, low or no rain chances? Bring it on! We can plant 25-30% of acres in a week if get the right conditions and I’m hoping we’re finally there.

The rice that has been planted looks very good so far. There are always some issues here and there, but the gradually increasing temperatures and some days with sun have those acres in a good situation with herbicides activating and working well. These next waves of rice planting could be another story, but we’ll all be happy to get it planted and then figure that out. Maybe we can start to roll Tuesday.

Rice Acreage Intentions

Still discussing acreage because everyone keeps asking. As mentioned previously, 1.4 million acres looks like a long ago pipe dream. For now, 1.2 million acres is still not impossible. Before you call me crazy, I’ll explain.

The flooded out river systems have us pointed to a very large amount of acres that will go to prevented planting because they’ll never clear in time. In fact there may be a record amount of prevented planting (2013 had just over 300,000 acres).

However, rice can still yield through the end of May, and so can corn. They can especially do so compared to soybeans at \$8/bu. If given the opportunity it appears is coming, we may still see 1.1-1.2 million acres of rice. However, if things turn south (further) and rains carry us into June then falling below 1 million acres is certainly possible.

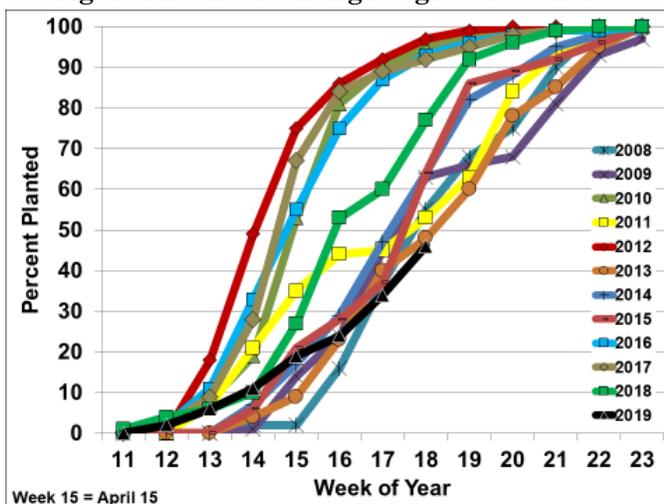
These are all attempts to read the moving pieces of the acreage puzzle, but in the words of Cousin Eddie, “I don’t know.”

Rice Yield Potential by Planting Date

A good first rule of thumb on rice performance by planting date is that anything can happen in a given year. In recent years, we have observed very late planting dates perform similarly to very early planting dates. This is easier to accomplish in trial work because timely management is typically that much more difficult with later planting dates – it’s hotter so the rice grows faster.

Fig. 2 shows planting date trends for recent years at Stuttgart. The Stuttgart location continues to show that for south Arkansas in general, early planting is the best, but similar yield potential is achievable for a wide window thereafter before falling off dramatically into June.

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



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The Pine Tree location in Fig. 3 shows a little different story. But keep in mind it only covers the last two years. It says that for north Arkansas, or at least maybe the southern half of north Arkansas, late April through mid-May achieved the greatest yields. There was some fall off in late May but a rebound in early June.

These figures are averaged over CL153, Diamond, Jupiter, Titan, CLXL745, and XP753. Some other cultivars growing in popularity just haven't been in the trials as long, and these represent a large portion of our current acreage.

Generally speaking, hybrids perform most consistently planted later. By that, I mean they hold a greater percentage of their optimum yield potential. Diamond and Jupiter are other options that perform well late. CL153 is very rapid to key growth stages, but in situations where you can manage it properly, it can still perform. The longer maturities of Diamond and Jupiter can make things a little easier to hit those key timings.

Anything is possible in a given year. Spread and manage your risk accordingly. The later we plant the more we need to run DD50 reports to manage on time! <http://DD50.uaex.edu>.

Fig. 2. Rice Planting Date Study Results at Stuttgart, RREC, 2015-2018.

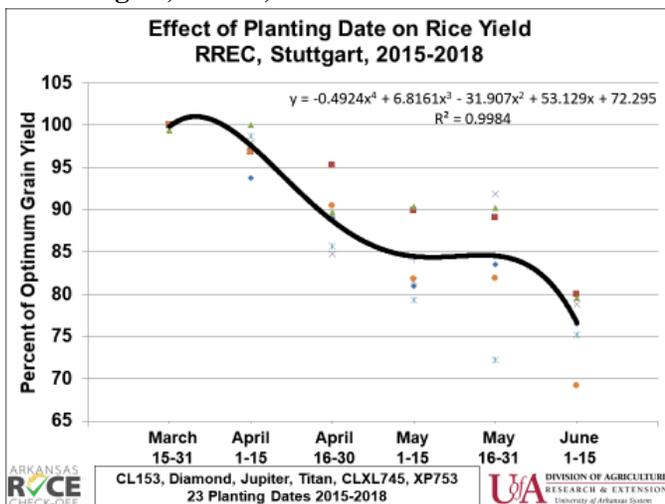
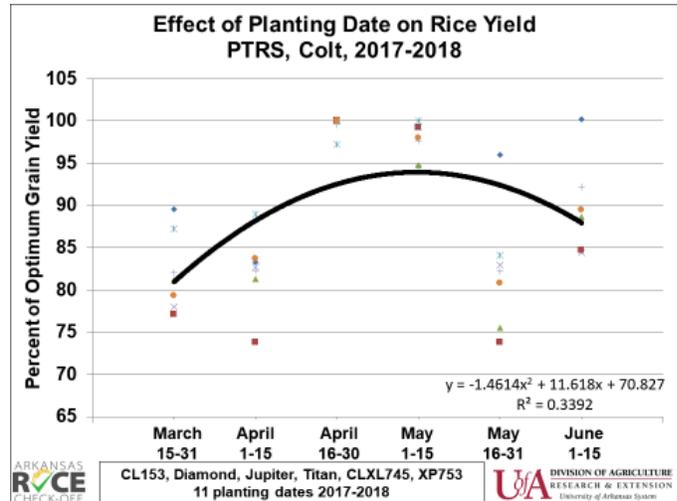


Fig. 3. Rice Planting Date Study Results at Colt, PTRS, 2017-2018.



Weed Control in Water-Seeded Rice

Check out this article by Dr. Tommy Butts on the Arkansas Row Crops Blog if you're thinking about water-seeding rice: [Weed Control in Water-Seeded Rice](#).

Fig. 4. Deep water from rainfall draining from a rice field and eroding levees.



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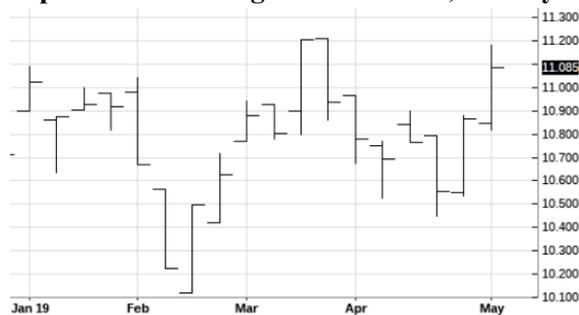
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Rice Market Update:

For commodities it's been "hell week" for everything except rice. New crop rice futures posted solid gains for the second week in a row. The September contract has added 53 cents/cwt over the past two weeks. Price resistance showed up this week at \$11.18; near the March 26th and 27th highs seen for the September contract.

September '19 Rough Rice Futures, Weekly.



USDA's May supply/demand report did not provide anything bullish for the rice market. However, CBOT rice futures did not react noticeably following the release of Friday's report. The primary focus is still on Mid-South planting delays.

In the initial new crop balance sheet it's customary for the USDA to use the planted acres from the March *Prospective Plantings* report. It appears that is exactly what USDA did in their first run of the 2019/20 balance sheet. In other words, no assumptions were made that final acreage might be reduced due to weather. USDA will most likely wait until after the June 28 *Acreage* report to make any adjustments.

As it stands today, the long-grain supply situation is obviously bearish. Again, USDA is presently using long-grain planted acres of around 2.151 million (est. 2.128 million harvested) and a trend yield of 7,504 pounds – all subject to change. Total Usage was projected at 180 million cwt; the highest since 2010/11.

However, ending stocks at 37.9 million cwt would be the highest since 1985 and equate to a stocks-to-use ratio of 21% - also the highest since the mid-1980s. The initial guess for the 2019/20 season-average farm price for long-grain was \$10.00/cwt or \$4.50/bu.

U.S. Long-Grain, Supply, Demand, and Price.		
Unit: million cwt.	2018/19	2019/20
Production	164	159.6
Beginning Stocks	20.3	35.3
Imports	23	23
Total Supply	207.3	217.9
Domestic Use	106	108
Exports	66	72
Total Use	172	180
Ending Stocks	35.3	37.9
Avg. Farm Price (\$/bu.)	\$4.82	\$4.50

Source: USDA, May 2019

The next USDA WASDE report will be released on June 11, 2019.

Rice PLC Update:

2018 Projected PLC Payment Rates, Rice (as of May 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	\$4.82	\$1.48	\$1.38
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 at this link: [ARC/PLC Program Data](#).

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

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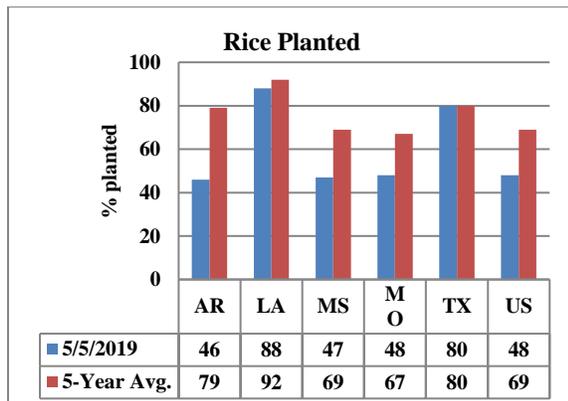


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U.S. Crop Progress

The graph below includes rice planting progress for individual states as of May 5th. Planting progress in Louisiana and Texas is at or near the historical average. The remaining Mid-South states were close to 50% planted at the start of the week.



Rice Advisor Now Available

We've been working on a new site with links and calculators that is now posted for you to check out: <http://www.RiceAdvisor.com>.

This site was built "mobile first" so that it will work great on your phone or tablet. This will hopefully serve as your landing spot for DD50 login, calculators for seeding rate, drill calibration, and fertilizer, and links to videos and publications. Let us know what you think!



Talk to Someone if You Need Help

Times are not easy in agriculture right now. If you need to talk to someone, please do it. One resource is the Farm Crisis Center <https://farmcrisis.nfu.org>. There are many resources there to help. Take care of yourself.

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

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