# Arkansas Rice Update

Dr. Jarrod Hardke, Dr. Trent Roberts, & Scott Stiles

May 15, 2020 No. 2020-09 www.uaex.edu/rice

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System


## Ready for a Stretch Run

"And there's fire on the mountain, lightning in the air, gold in them hills and it's waiting for me there." When we emerge from the weekend rain it is forecast to be very dry and warm. Mostly sunny days with mid-70s then turning into the 80s for high temps. Do you believe?

A big jump last week to 67% planted as of Monday (**Fig. 1**). More was accomplished this week but not that much more due to cold and rain. We should now be around 75-80% planted though.

While the 7-day forecast shows decent rainfall amounts, all of that is actually expected to fall through this Sunday. Let's get it over with and get this crop planted. Then in a week or so we can start griping about needing a rain!

We are fast approaching the May 25 date for prevented planting. Some ground won't dry out by then, but others definitely will given the forecast. It's difficult to give recommendations on whether to PP or continue planting past the date because each situation (insurance coverage and yield potential) is unique for everyone.

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

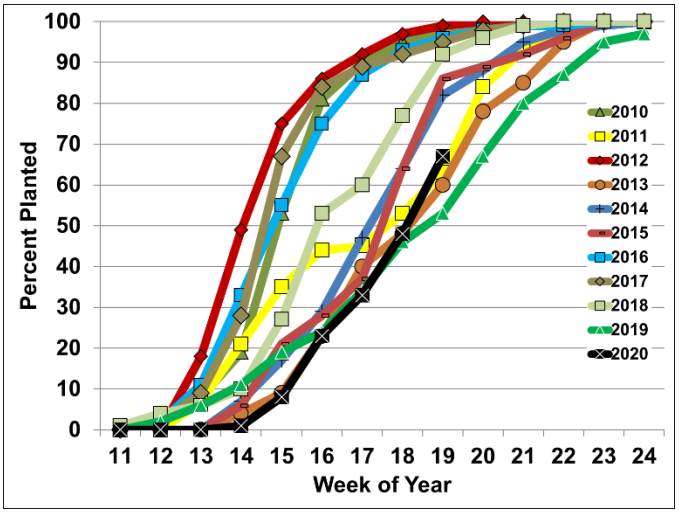
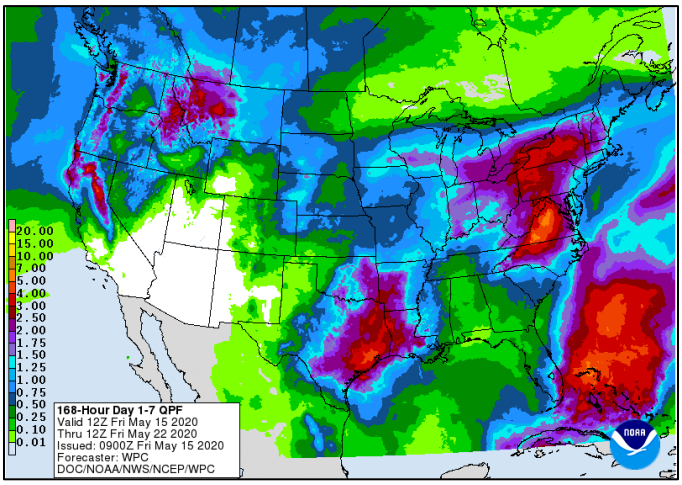



**Fig. 2. 7-day precipitation forecast, NOAA.**




## Gramoxone Can Cause Yield Loss in Young Rice

It's windy and we still have a lot of crops left to plant in the state. With those conditions, paraquat (Gramoxone) is being included for many burndown herbicide applications and the effects are being seen in neighboring rice fields (**Fig. 3**). It has been generally assumed for years that Gramoxone was of little concern to seedling rice and early growth prior to reproductive growth (panicle initiation). Well that's just wrong.

**Fig. 3. Gramoxone drift to seedling rice.**

# Arkansas Rice Update

Dr. Jarrod Hardke, Dr. Trent Roberts, & Scott Stiles

May 15, 2020 No. 2020-09 www.uaex.edu/rice

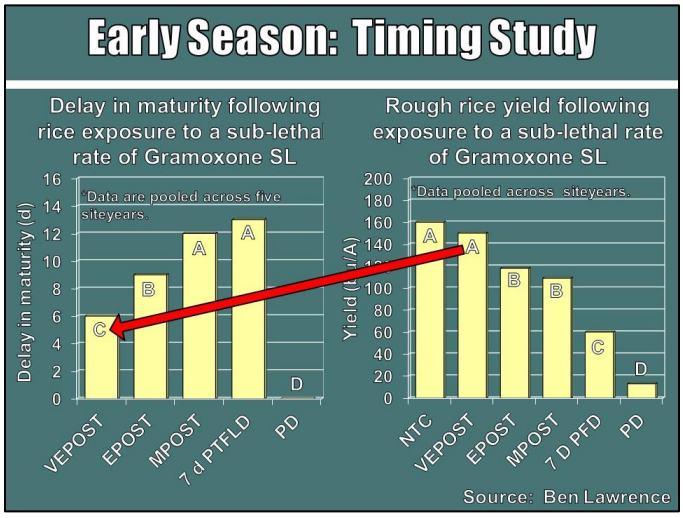
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System


UofA and Mississippi State weed scientists have previously looked at late-season drift of Gramoxone onto rice, but recently MSU looked at early-season drift as they noted an increase in early-season Gramoxone injury to rice in Mississippi.

**Fig. 4** provides some the data they accumulated over 3 years of study. The take-home message is that early post (EPOST; 2-3 lf rice) lost yield when exposed to a 1/10x rate of Gramoxone. The older rice was beyond that, the greater the yield loss (right side of figure). Also, the older rice is when exposed to this dose of Gramoxone, the greater the delay in maturity (left side of figure).

Not every rice field showing spots from Gramoxone drift will have been hit with a 1/10x rate, but this gives you an idea that potential yield losses are real from drift events like this. Be careful in your fields and around your neighbors fields when rice is emerged – let's not rob each other of yield to start the year.

**Fig. 4. Mississippi State study on effect of Gramoxone (paraquat) drift onto early-season rice (courtesy: B. Lawrence, J. Bond, B. Golden).**




## Consideration for Using Starter N Fertilizers in Rice

Cool, wet conditions with high winds causing rapid drying have rice appearance leaving something to be desired. In these situations, it's not uncommon for ammonium sulfate (AMS) or diammonium phosphate (DAP) applications to be made as 'starter' applications to get the rice growing. Unfortunately, there is not much basis for these applications, and they carry significant costs.

Do not expect a yield response from a starter application made at the 2-3 leaf stage. The seedling won't take enough up to significantly contribute to yield. If you apply earlier than 2-3 leaf you can expect little or no response because the plant is still living off the seed.

On silt loam soils the growth response from starter fertilizers is minimal. You are unlikely to get more than a 'green-up' from the application. It might make you feel better but will mostly waste $25-30 out of your budget (that could be used on something like additional residual herbicides).

On clay soils you can expect a positive growth response from starter N fertilizers. A direct yield benefit can happen, and the time to flood can be greatly reduced, possibly saving a herbicide application and allowing for earlier harvest.

Occasionally there may be times when it's advisable to apply a starter when the crop is not doing well. However, if conditions are cool and the rice is generally not growing, the N uptake and growth response will be further reduced. Most often, a flush and better growing conditions are what give us the best crop response, not the starter.

Don't use the sulfur (S) as justification for the starter application, most soils on which we grow rice contain plenty of S. Response from AMS is from the

# Arkansas Rice Update

Dr. Jarrod Hardke, Dr. Trent Roberts, & Scott Stiles

May 15, 2020 No. 2020-09 www.uaex.edu/rice

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System


N, not the S. The only exception are fields with known S deficient areas (sandy fields or those with sand veins) which may need S early and blended with preflood N.

If you do apply starter N, do not count the N units toward your preflood N. Just act like they aren't there. The rice plant will only take up, at best, 5-10 units of N from a starter application but it can be all over the board. Use your normal preflood N rate.

## Rice Market Update

USDA released its May supply/demand report this week. The only revision this month to the old crop (2019/20) long-grain balance sheet was a 1.0-million cwt reduction in exports to 70.0 million cwt. – 6% above the prior year. Weekly export sales reporting implies a stronger 11% year to year increase. However, the remaining 12 weeks of the marketing year will be very competitive with U.S. prices reaching multi-year highs in April and less expensive South American production becoming available to the export market.

| U.S. Long-Grain, Supply, Demand, and Price. | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Unit: million cwt.** | **2019/20** | **May 2020/21 proj.** |
| Planted Acres | 1.78 | 2.10 |
| Harvested Acres | 1.73 | 2.07 |
| Yield (lbs./ac.) | 7,261 | 7,503 |
| | | |
| Beginning Stocks | 32.6 | 14.7 |
| Imports | 25.5 | 26.0 |
| Production | 125.6 | 155.5 |
| **Total Supply** | **183.7** | **196.2** |
| Domestic Use | 99.0 | 103.0 |
| Exports | 70.0 | 72.0 |
| **Total Use** | **169.0** | **175** |
| **Ending Stocks** | **14.7** | **21.2** |
| **Stocks-to-Use %** | **8.7%** | **12.1%** |
| **Avg. Farm Price ($/bu.)** | **$5.40** | **$5.31** |
| Source: USDA, May 2020. | | |

Of most interest in Tuesday's USDA reporting was the first run of the new crop 2020 balance sheet. Of little surprise, ending stocks are expected to increase along with higher production. In its' initial production estimate USDA relies on the planted acreage from the March *Prospective Plantings* survey. A 5-year Olympic average planted-to-harvested ratio is used to estimate harvested acres. Projected yields are based on 20-year trends. As a start, long-grain production for 2020 is projected at 155.5 million cwt, up 24 percent from last year.

Total Supply is projected to increase 12.5 million cwt. over last year largely on a 30 million cwt. increase in production. Total Use for 20/21 is expected to increase just 6 million cwt. The 6.5 million difference goes directly to ending stocks, which are projected to increase to 21.2 million cwt. The average producer price for the 2020 crop is expected to be $5.31 per bushel.

Looking ahead, the first survey of actual plantings will be reported by NASS in the June *Acreage*, scheduled for release on June 30. The results will be used in the July supply/demand estimates. The first objective yield forecast for the 2020 crop will be released on August 12 in the NASS *Crop Production*.

The next USDA *WASDE* report on June 11th will offer very little clarity to the market in regard to 2020 production. However, new crop futures already have ideas about the June *Acreage* report and are becoming more reluctant to trade through $12/cwt. Following Tuesday's USDA report, the September contract is spending the back end of the week near $11.90/cwt. Crop budgets still favor rice and extending the planting window further into May.

# Arkansas Rice Update

Dr. Jarrod Hardke, Dr. Trent Roberts, & Scott Stiles

May 15, 2020 No. 2020-09 www.uaex.edu/rice

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System


## Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Update:

The tables below include the projected PLC payment rates per bushel for 2019 and 2020. The 2019 average farm price for each class was lowered this month. The long-grain price was lowered 9 cents to $5.40 per bushel and the southern medium- and short-grain price was reduced 4.5 cents to $5.31 per bushel.

The final 2019 marketing year prices and PLC payment rates for rice are expected to be released October 30, 2020. As a reminder, for ARC and PLC payments, a sequestration percentage will be applied to the payment rate. In recent years the sequestration reduction has been in the range of 6.2 to 6.6 percent.

**2019 Projected PLC Payment Rates, Rice.**

| | A | B | C | (A minus higher of B or C) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Unit: $/bu.** | **Reference Price** | **Loan Rate** | **Mktg.Year Avg. Price** | **Proj. PLC Pmt. Rate** |
| **Long-Grain** | $6.30 | $2.925 | $5.40 | **$.90** |
| **Med.-Grain** | $6.30 | $2.925 | $5.31 | **$.99** |
| Source: USDA, May 2020. | | | | |

**2020 Projected PLC Payment Rates, Rice.**

| | A | B | C | (A minus higher of B or C) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Unit: $/bu.** | **Reference Price** | **Loan Rate** | **Mktg.Year Avg. Price** | **Proj. PLC Pmt. Rate** |
| **Long-Grain** | $6.30 | $2.925 | $5.31 | **$.99** |
| **Med.-Grain** | $6.30 | $2.925 | $5.31 | **$.99** |
| Source: USDA, May 2020. | | | | |

Projected PLC payment rates are updated monthly on the USDA Farm Service Agencies' ARC/PLC website at this link: ARC/PLC Program Data.

## Crop Progress:

The table below includes rice planting progress for individual states as of May 10th. The Arkansas crop was reported 67 percent planted; ahead of last year's rain-delayed 51 percent but still behind the 5-year average of 82 percent.

| U.S. Rice Planting Progress, 2020. | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **State** | **May 10 2020** | **Last Week** | **Last Year** | **5-Yr Avg.** |
| | *Percent Planted* | | | |
| AR | 67 | 48 | 51 | 82 |
| LA | 87 | 84 | 89 | 93 |
| MS | 57 | 33 | 52 | 76 |
| MO | 51 | 37 | 52 | 74 |
| TX | 95 | 93 | 82 | 84 |
| Source: USDA, NASS. | | | | |

**Reminder:** The crop insurance Final Planting Date for rice in Arkansas is May 25th. Acres planted on or before this date receive the full yield or revenue guarantee that was selected. Acres planted after this date receive a reduced guarantee. Acres not yet planted as of this date should be reported to your insurance agent within three days.

A late planting period begins after the Final Planting Date and typically lasts for 15 days (check with your insurance agent). For acres planted after the beginning of this period, the value of the yield or revenue guarantee is reduced daily (generally 1% per day).

# Arkansas Rice Update

Dr. Jarrod Hardke, Dr. Trent Roberts, & Scott Stiles

May 15, 2020 No. 2020-09 www.uaex.edu/rice

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System


## 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 Say 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.


## 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.




| Specialist | Area | Phone Number | Email |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Jarrod Hardke** | Rice Extension Agronomist | 501-772-1714 | jhardke@uaex.edu |
| **Tom Barber** | Extension Weed Scientist | 501-944-0549 | tbarber@uaex.edu |
| **Nick Bateman** | Extension Entomologist | 870-456-8486 | nbateman@uaex.edu |
| **Tommy Butts** | Extension Weed Scientist | 501-804-7314 | tbutts@uaex.edu |
| **Gus Lorenz** | Extension Entomologist | 501-944-0942 | glorenz@uaex.edu |
| **Ralph Mazzanti** | Rice Verification Coordinator | 870-659-5507 | rmazzanti@uaex.edu |
| **Trent Roberts** | Extension Soil Fertility | 479-935-6546 | tlrobert@uark.edu |
| **Scott Stiles** | Extension Economist | 870-219-8608 | sstiles@uaex.edu |
| **Yeshi Wamishe** | Extension Rice Pathologist | 870-659-6864 | ywamishe@uaex.edu |