Planting Progress

Progress slowed over the past week with the return of wet weather. Private estimates now peg Arkansas rice acres at 1.425 million, down from 1.441 forecast by USDA in March (and 1.45 by me at the same point). Given conditions and the current outlook – somewhere at 1.3-1.4 million acres looks about right for a final planted acreage. There are no certainties at this point and those final reported acreage estimates are still a long way off. The acreage report will be released June 30.

More overall planting progress info in Figure 1. The increase to 89% planted puts us right in the center of progress for recent years, behind only 2012, 2010, and 2007.

Rain this week and a next week is full of rain chances. The % rain chances are the same for the entire eastern half of the state with a few degrees variation in temperature. Basically looks like the end of rice planting for 2015 for the most part. Figure 2 shows the 7-day precipitation forecast from May 22-29. Varying amounts of total rainfall from all the chances, but a couple inches total across the board seem likely.

Those that still have either private seed or treated seed that can’t be returned will be putting it in the ground. Cold storage an option? Difficult to say whether that’s economical given prices – probably better to put it in the field versus putting it in storage, but that’s a personal decision.

DD50 Enrollment

DD50 enrollment appears to be down compared to this time last year. In addition to the benefits we believe this program provides for managing individual fields, high enrollment of acres is also extremely beneficial to research and
extension personnel. Being able to monitor the stage and progress of the crop throughout the state with this program helps us tailor our programs and the future focus of our work.

Efforts have been made to improve the usability of the program on desktop computers and the program should now be much more user-friendly. However, we are always interested in feedback to improve it.

While we are beginning work on a mobile app for the DD50 program, it will take a little time. In the meantime, we have optimized the way the program works and appears on handheld devices when used through mobile internet browsers. Below are a set of ‘screen saves’ of how the program looks on a mobile phone. Enroll at http://dd50.uaex.edu.

If you need help enrolling fields, or would like us to enroll them for you, please send the following information to your local Extension agent or directly to me at jhardke@uaex.edu to have them entered.

Information needed for DD50 enrollment:
1. Name
2. Complete address
3. Email
4. County where field resides
5. Consultant name & email (if applicable)
6. Field Name
7. Variety Name
8. Emergence date (mm/dd)
9. Acreage

Visit our website at http://www.uaex.edu
Prevented Planting

Per RMA (USDA Risk Management Agency) the final planting date for rice is May 25. The late planting period begins the day after the final planting date and ends 15 days after the final planting date. For insured crop acreage planted during the late planting period, the production guarantee for each acre will be reduced for each day after the final planting date by 1 percent for the first through the 15th day. Your prevented planting coverage is 45 percent of your production guarantee for timely planted acreage.

Armyworms in Wheat

Armyworms have been reported in wheat lately. Keep an eye on your rice fields that are near wheat, as this pest can move over and start feeding on the rice when it gets tired of the wheat field. The wet conditions may have an impact on their movement, but you can’t bank on that. Be on the lookout and remember they can hide so look closely around on the ground and under clods.

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 jhardke@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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The DD50 program can be accessed at http://DD50.uaex.edu. It has now been improved for use on both your computer and your mobile devices.