



# Arkansas Rice Update

Dr. Jarrod Hardke & Scott Stiles

May 24, 2019 No. 2019-13

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## All Go No Quit

“Running down a dream, that never would come to me, working on a mystery, and going wherever it leads.” No one said it would be easy, but then no one said it would be this hard.

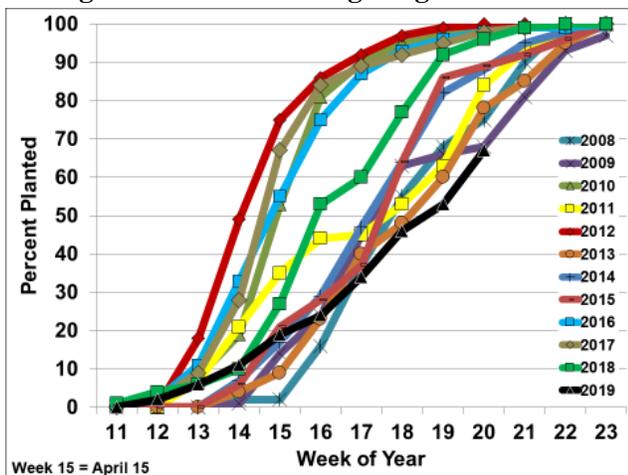
As of right now the state progress is just shy of 70% planted (**Fig. 1**). Be aware that is not an indicator of percent planted of original March intentions. That’s a reflection of percent planted progress of current intention as relayed by county Extension agents.

Where I’m going with that is I’ve been prepared for us to finish at around 1.1 million acres. Then I looked at the extended forecast, which has above average rain chances in the 8-14 day outlook.

I believe we have two weeks remaining to successfully plant rice before yield risk and general decline become too great. If this forecast is true, then we really just have this coming week and that has a few rain chances itself.

If these rain chances happen I’ll be prepared for the state to fall below 1 million acres of planted rice for the first time since 1983. That’s not a current prediction, but instead where we could easily find ourselves if we don’t finally make a getaway from these conditions.

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



**Table 1. Percent of acres predicted to reach the end of the optimum flood window by week based on DD50 enrollment.**

Date	Percentage
May 5 – 11	2.5%
May 12 – 18	6.2%
May 19 – 25	28.8%
May 26 – June 1	34.5%
June 2 – 8	22.2%
June 9 – 15	4.8%
June 16 – 22	0.6%
June 23 – 29	0.2%

## Increase Seeding Rate as Planting Date Moves Late

The general recommendation has been to increase seeding rate by 30% when seeding after June 1. Recently we have started revisiting this topic and continue to find **an increase in seeding rate can lead to higher yields when planted late**. This work has been done with Diamond the past two years so I am most confident in the data for varieties. I understand if you don’t want to go the full 30% increase, but the data does show that’s about where we should be. Increase some at least.

I believe that hybrids can benefit from an increase as well, but we’ll need to revisit that topic more in the future. I would consider a slight increase in seeding rate for hybrids for the same reason we see the benefit for varieties – it puts greater emphasis on primary tiller production where more grain is produced earlier.

So, we continue to plant rice for the next two weeks, keep in mind you could see a yield benefit from a seeding rate increase.

Looking at **Fig. 2** at Pine Tree, it’s clear that at times we can do extremely well across a range of seeding rates when we plant in the optimal window. However, once we move into late May

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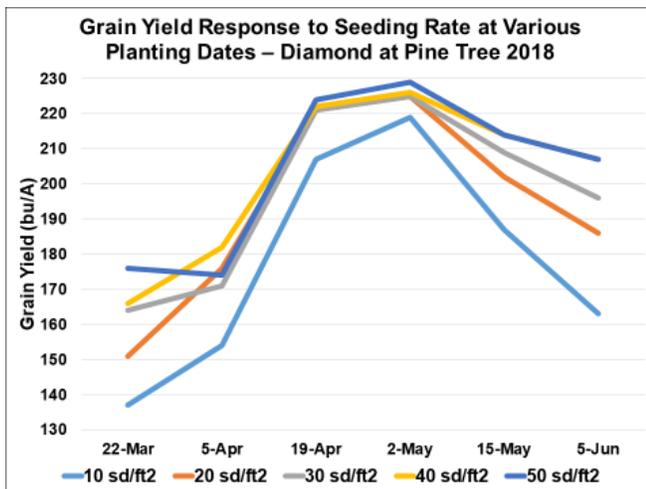
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and early June, we see that 40 and 50 seed per square foot can have higher yields.

NOTE: The same study at Stuttgart did not show a significant response to seeding rate by planting date, suggesting that location and environmental conditions come into play as usual.

**Fig. 2. Seeding rate by planting date studies at Pine Tree Research Station in 2018.**



## N Management in Late Planted Rice

Let's keep it simple. Regardless of planting date, stay with your nitrogen (N) management plan. Research hasn't shown a reason to deviate from your normal N fertilization practice and it is increasingly important to develop biomass as quickly as possible when planting late. Stay the course!

## Market Facilitation Program

We are working hard to interpret the second round of Market Facilitation Payments (MFP). Growers have a number of questions about payment limitations and payment rates. As far as we can tell, the second round of MFP payments is only made if a program crop is planted and up to 2018 acreage levels. Though this may change,

it appears prevent plant acres will not receive a payment. There are no individual payment rates for each crop in this round of MFP, but rather a single payment rate per county. For now, these county payment rates are not public. Many details are lacking in yesterday's press release by USDA. However, it does appear that the first round of MFP payments will begin in late July.

Link to USDA's press release on the 2019 MFP program:

[USDA Announces Support for Farmers Impacted by Unjustified Retaliation and Trade Disruption](#)

## Rice Market Update

Rice futures are in the fourth week of an incredible run-up. The September contract has added about \$1.25/cwt over the last four weeks. This is understandable given the lack of planting progress. A weekly chart of the September '19 contract is included below. This week's trading range is finding resistance at a chart gap that was made in early August last year. Note the chart gap that spans from \$11.71 to \$11.88 1/2. For now, the lower end of this gap serves as resistance. If trading "refills" this gap and prices close above \$11.88 1/2, then the prospect of retesting the life of contract highs (\$12.35 1/2) becomes a possibility. There were indications Friday that Iraq would be tendering for U.S. rice over the weekend; an item to follow.

## September '19 Rice Futures, Weekly Chart.



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As a cautionary note, the futures market typically overshoots fundamental value. Without strong or increasing demand, expect to see the basis begin to weaken and flat price levels reflect the cash market realities. A futures rally of this nature, as we've seen over the last month, should be rewarded with sales.

As a reminder, the crop insurance "Final Planting Date" for rice is Saturday, May 25th. The fifteen day "Late Planting Period" for rice ends June 9th.

## Rice Advisor Now Available

Visit <http://www.RiceAdvisor.com> for your DD50 login, calculators for seeding rate, drill calibration, and fertilizer, and links to videos and publications. Let us know what you think!



## Crop Insurance Planting Dates, Arkansas.

Counties	Rice			Cotton	
	Earliest Plant Date	Final Plant Date	Late Plant Period Ends	Final Plant Date	Late Plant Period Ends
All counties except those listed below	April 1	May 25	June 9	May 25	June 9
Clay, Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Greene, Independence, Jackson, Lawrence, Mississippi, Poinsett, Randolph, St. Francis, Woodruff	-	-	-	May 20	June 4

Source: USDA, Risk Management Agency (RMA).



A full listing of crop insurance planting dates for all crops can be found on our website at this link: [Risk Management](#).

A flowchart is also available at this site which may assist in Prevented Planting decisions.

## 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](mailto: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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