



Arkansas Rice Update

Dr. Jarrod Hardke, Dr. Nick Bateman, Dr. Gus Lorenz, Dr. Ben Thrash, & Scott Stiles

May 8, 2020 No. 2020-08

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Moving the Needle

“Pretty good, not bad, I can’t complain, but actually everything is just about the same.” Dry days mixed with rain systems continuing to move through. We’re better than we were a week ago, but the weather pattern still remains mostly unchanged.

We made it up to 48% planted as of this past Monday (Fig. 1). Another decent jump after an extremely slow early start. This week saw another surge in planting progress that should put us over 60% to possibly 70% planted.

The rain last night / this morning was a welcome one for many of the newly planted acres with a great opportunity to activate residual herbicides. Some ground was beginning to dry out and seal over where rice has been planted for a while and the rain should help stand establishment. Total rainfall amounts ranged from 0.5-1.5 inches up and down the state.

The 7-day forecast (Fig. 2) calls for small rainfall mostly toward the end of next week, with a low chance on Tuesday. Temperatures will be cooler over the weekend but with sunshine and wind. Maybe by Sunday we can start back again and run until Friday. That would get many in a position to finish up planting as we pass the mid mark of May.

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

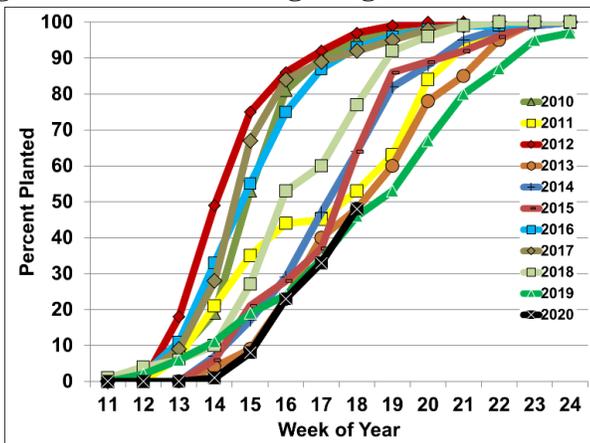
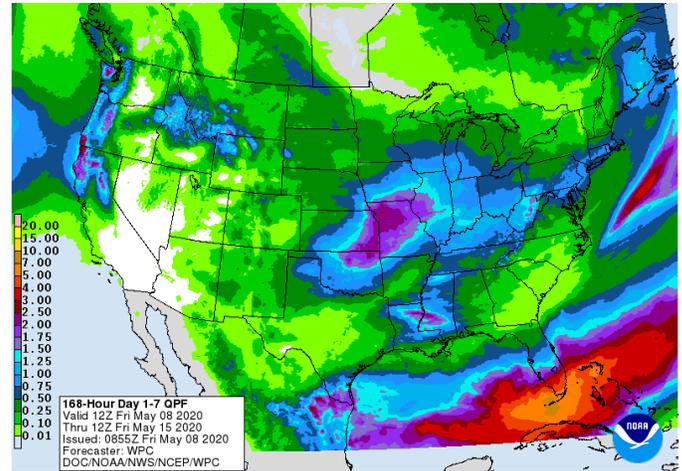


Fig. 2. 7-day precipitation forecast, NOAA.



Defoliation in Seedling and Early Tillering Rice

We have been seeing large numbers of true armyworms in grasses on roadsides for about a month now. Crops such as wheat and oats have been receiving applications for armyworms for a few weeks as well. Now that we finally have some rice out of the ground, armyworms are starting to migrate into these fields. You should also keep an eye out for armyworms moving into seedling corn.

Fig. 1. True armyworm feeding on seedling rice.



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Armyworms can easily defoliate small rice down to the soil line in a short amount of time. This early in the season bar ditches may not have enough water in them to prevent armyworms from moving into the field.

Based on our work, defoliation occurring to small rice planted in April or May is not a major concern. There is little to no yield loss associated with this feeding. Even when 2-3 leaf rice or rice in the early tillering growth stage is defoliated 100%, down the soil line, no yield loss is observed (**Table 1**).

The only real issue with defoliation at these growth stages is a small delay in heading. In April planted rice, no heading delays were observed for 66 and 100% defoliation during early tiller. For May plantings, a 2 and 5 day heading delay was observed for 2-3 leaf and early tillering rice, respectively, at 100% defoliation (**Table 2**).

If seed was over-treated with a diamide (Fortenza or Dermacor), the rice will be protected from armyworm feeding. Our data shows that both products provide excellent control of armyworms through late tiller, and Dermacor even longer than that. If you do feel the need to make a foliar application for armyworms, Lambda-cyhalothrin (Warrior II, Lambda-Cy, Silencer, Kendo, etc.) works fine and will provide adequate control.

Odds are we are going to see armyworms in a lot of small rice soon. This early season feeding is nothing to get too excited over, as there is no yield loss associated with it

Table 1. Yield and days in delayed heading for different defoliation levels in April planted rice.

% Defoliation	Percent Yield		Days in Delay Heading	
	2-3 Leaf	Early Tiller	2-3 Leaf	Early Tiller
0	100	100	0	0
33	103	103	0	0
66	103	101	0	2
100	103	101	0	2

Table 2. Yield and days in delayed heading for different defoliation levels in May planted rice.

% Defoliation	Percent Yield		Days in Delay Heading	
	2-3 Leaf	Early Tiller	2-3 Leaf	Early Tiller
0	100	100	0	0
33	98	98	0	2
66	102	104	0	3
100	98	99	2	5

Rice Market Update

The weekly trading ranges for the September contract are getting tighter as a wedge formation develops (see chart below). Trading has been confined to a 13 cent range this week between \$11.83 and \$11.96. A mostly dry forecast over the next week should advance planting and pull the September contract toward initial chart support at \$11.80/cwt.

September 2020 Rough Rice Futures.



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The first new crop supply/demand balance sheet will be released next Tuesday, May 12th by USDA. Initial estimates of 2020 production will include planted acres from the NASS Prospective Plantings survey completed in March.

Weekly export sales and shipments for the week ending April 30 increased for long-grain rough rice. Weekly sales were 13,305 metric tons. Just over 80% of which went to Mexico. Shipments were 17,664 tons; mostly to El Salvador and Guatemala. Long-grain milled sales were 19,182 mt with Haiti in for 15,000 tons. Total long-grain export sales for the 2019/20 marketing year are 14% ahead of last year. No new crop export sales have been reported by USDA.

U.S. Crop Progress.

The table below includes rice planting progress for individual states as of May 3rd. Louisiana and Texas are planted and emerged at this point. The Midsouth is about 50% planted. A drier weather pattern over the upcoming week should allow for more planting progress. Prices for competing crops are still struggling, although making some improvement this week. September corn currently trades near \$3.26, November soybeans are \$8.60, and December cotton trades at 58 cents. Not very exciting.

U.S. Rice Planting Progress, 2020.				
State	May 3 2020	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg.
<i>Percent Planted</i>				
AR	48	33	43	71
LA	84	81	87	89
MS	33	21	43	64
MO	37	22	44	60
TX	93	91	78	77
Source: USDA, NASS.				

Furrow-Irrigated Rice Handbook

If you haven't already seen it earlier this week, we released a Furrow-Irrigated Rice Handbook. This is a new publication aimed at providing recommendations for the increasing practice of furrow-irrigated rice production. Access the publication here:

[Arkansas Furrow Irrigated Rice Handbook](#)

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.](#)

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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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