Arkansas Rice Update

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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

Crop Progress

"Keep rollin', rollin', rollin' though the streams are swollen, keep them dogies rollin', rawhide!" Where did some of this rain come from this week? Out of the north apparently so we're catching it from all directions now.

The weather is actually great right now for growing rice. Upper 80s and next week in the low 90s with partly sunny conditions. We're accumulating a lot of DD50 units to keep this crop rolling but avoiding stressful conditions.

Comment of the week: "Go home 2019. You're drunk." No matter which direction we turn, something strange happens this year. Too many firsts to count, and just when we have it figured out, we're wrong.

Around half the crop should be reaching 1/2" internode elongation. For pureline varieties that means more midseason nitrogen if using the two-way split approach. See last week's update for more discussion on optimum timing, but around ½" IE and 4 weeks since flood establishment is the sweet spot.

See market comments below about the rice acreage report released earlier today. Interesting stuff.

Fig. 1. Rice growing weather!

Is That Potassium Deficiency I See?

While already mentioned in an earlier update, more rice reaching midseason has potassium (K) deficiency showing up (**Fig. 2**). Again, all the rain has likely contributed to this situation. Tissue test to be absolutely certain as we can correct even out to late boot. If a deficiency is confirmed, apply 100 lbs of potash (60 lbs K_2O) into a stable flood.

Fig. 2. Potassium deficiency in boot stage rice.

Disease Update

To date we have received reports of leaf blast from Randolph Co. on Titan and Lawrence Co. on Diamond. Most relatively early planted rice is now past green ring. The weather is getting warm with morning dew and rain chances.

Moisture on the leaves in the form of dew, fog, and frequent rain fuels leaf blast (**Fig. 3**). A 9-14 hour moisture period o nteh leaves is enough

for spore germination. The disease can start early at tillering and continues in the season to provide spores that infect panicles causing neck and panicle blast.

Remember neck and panicle blast if severe with no protection can cause near 100 percent grain loss.

If leaf blast is detected early in the season on a susceptible variety neck blast is often predicted and at least a one-time protective fungicide is justified. However, the absence of or inability to detect leaf blast on a susceptible variety in a field with a history of blast does not guarantee that neck and/or panicle blast won't show up later in the season.

Remember blast pathogen spores can be carried by wind and unexpected infection can happen under favorable weather conditions and inadequate water and fertility management.

Continue scouting for leaf blast. Leaf blast is often managed by increasing flood depth to at least 4" depth. However, if a fungicide application is needed in cases of severe leaf burn down, it can possibly be aligned with the need for smut management if your field has a history of either false or kernel smut or both. Protective fungicide application timing to suppress the smuts is from early to mid-boot.

Remember blast is managed with strobilurin and the smuts with triazoles fungicides.

Note: Protective fungicides for neck and panicle blast should generally need to be managed separately from smuts or sheath blight. To read on blast management read the answers to common questions at common-questions on blast management.

Fig. 3. Moisture on leaves in the form of dew, fog and frequent rain fuels leaf blast.

Market Comments

USDA released its' June *Acreage* report this morning. Given the weather challenges this spring, the findings for rice were a surprise for many. On one hand it wasn't surprising that the June *Acreage* totals for Arkansas were below the March intentions and 2018 acres – that was assumed. The real surprise came in how narrow the difference was. According to NASS, Arkansas farmers indicated they would plant 1.140 million acres of long-grain this year, down 110,000 acres from last year and just 60,000 less than intentions in March.

Rice, Planted Acres, Arkansas.

million acres	2018	March 2019 NASS Prospective Plantings	June 2019 NASS Acreage
Long-grain	1.250	1.200	1.140
Med.-grain	.190	.200	.160

Source: USDA, NASS.

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Looking at U.S. rice acres, farmers indicated they would plant 2.057 million acres of long-grain; down just 94,000 acres from the March Intentions. NASS also projected long-grain harvested acreage at 2.027 million. This could be a real problem going forward for the rice market.

Rice, Planted Acres, U.S.

million acres	2018	March 2019 NASS Prospective Plantings	June 2019 NASS Acreage Planted	June 2019 NASS Acreage Harvested
Long-grain	2.198	2.151	2.057	2.027
Med.-grain	.707	.719	.658	.643

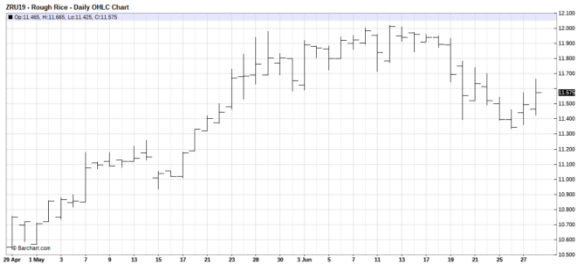
Source: USDA, NASS.

For the June WASDE, other agencies within USDA took a proactive step (and likely the correct one) to reduce long-grain acres given the weather challenges this spring. Recall that USDA reduced long-grain harvested acreage by 268,000 in the June WASDE. That would mean that USDA was projecting long-grain harvested acreage to be 1.860 million. As seen today, NASS' findings in the June *Acreage* report did not support such a steep cut to harvested acreage.

USDA will use the June *Acreage* data in the July WASDE report, which means long-grain harvested acreage will increase to 2.027 million. With no adjustments to the average yield USDA has been using, this will essentially add 12.5 million cwt. back to long-grain production.

It appeared today that Chicago rice futures were dismissing the June *Acreage* report. The September contract closed 8 cents higher Friday at $11.57 ½.

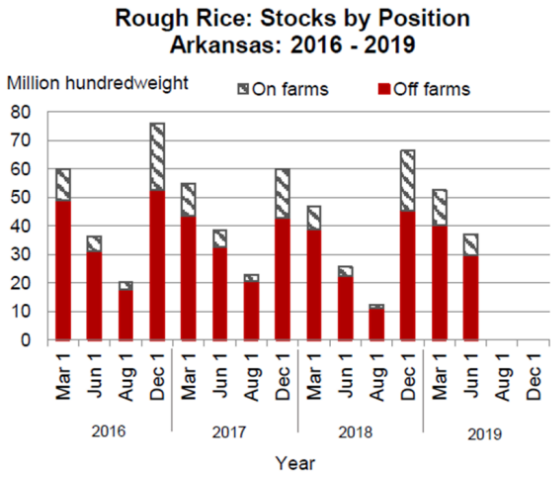
CME September 2019 Rough Rice Futures.



It seems very likely that prevented planting totals this year will surpass previous records. The futures market is a forward-looking market and likely anticipates some downward adjustment in rice acres this fall. This could begin when the first FSA certified acreage report is released August 10th.

Rough Rice Stocks Up 45 Percent

Arkansas rough rice stocks in all positions on June 1, 2019, totaled 37.0 million hundredweight (cwt), up 45 percent from June 1, 2018. Stocks held on farms totaled 7.30 million cwt, up 139 percent from last year. Off farm stocks totaled 29.7 million cwt, up 32 percent from last year.



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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!

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.

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