

# Arkansas Rice Update

Dr. Jarrod Hardke, Dr. Yeshi Wamishe, & Scott Stiles

**July 2, 2015**

**No. 2015-19**

## Crop Progress

Continued favorable weather conditions over the past week look to give way to a rainy 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. Most of the state is expected to receive heavy to scattered showers Friday through Monday. This will hopefully give some irrigation efforts a break and allow everyone to enjoy the holiday a little more.

After this round of weather, sunny skies and temperatures in the 90s are set to return. This should help to keep the majority of the crop on track for heading in our traditional window – mid-July. Hopefully temperatures will remain out of the extremes during that time, especially at night.

The big story of this past week was the release of USDA’s acreage report. Full details can be found later in the report, but Arkansas acreage is predicted to be 1.391 million total acres with 240,000 of that in medium-grain. This represents a 6% decline in total acreage with a slight increase in medium-grain acreage.

According to DD50 enrollment, the majority of the crop is past midseason. Also included for reference are the projected dates for 50% heading (**Table 1**) with the earliest fields already there before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

**Table 1. Percent of acres to reach 50% heading by date.**

Date to 50% Hdg	% of Acres
June 29-July 4	2%
July 5-11	20%
July 12-18	24%
July 19-25	33%

July 26-Aug 1	17%
Aug 2-8	2%
Aug 9-15	0%
Aug 16-22	1%

## Scouting and Field Diagnosis of Rice Blast Disease

Leaf blast can be difficult to properly identify in the field without previous experience with the disease. Leaf blast mostly occurs between seedling and tillering stages of the crop. Initial symptoms start as small grayish or bluish spots (**Figures 1 & 2**)

**Fig. 1. Grayish or bluish early blast lesions.**



**Fig. 2. Grayish or bluish early blast lesions.**



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As the disease progresses darker-reddish border with whitish center show (Figure 3). At this stage, the spots can often be confused with brown spot (Figure 4) or herbicides such as Gramoxone (paraquat) (Figure 5) damage.

Older lesions turn into spindle shape (diamond-shape or lens-shape) with white-grey center surrounded with a red-brown margin; i.e. wide center with pointed ends (Figure 6).

Favorable conditions allow multiple infections and lesions to join (coalesce) producing bigger lesions (Figure 7).

**Fig. 3. Darker reddish-border blast lesions with whitish centers.**



**Fig. 4. Brown spot lesions that are often confused with blast lesions.**



**Fig. 5. Paraquat drift lesions that are often confused with blast lesions.**



**Fig. 6. Older blast lesions with diamond or spindle shape.**



**Fig. 7. Blast lesions joining to produce bigger lesions.**



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Light yellowish outside with reddish inner border may be seen as in **Figure 3** as lesions develop. Severe leaf blast results in severe leaf burn and death of rice seedlings (**Figure 8**).

Early leaf blast is best detected on the lower leaves (**Figure 9**).

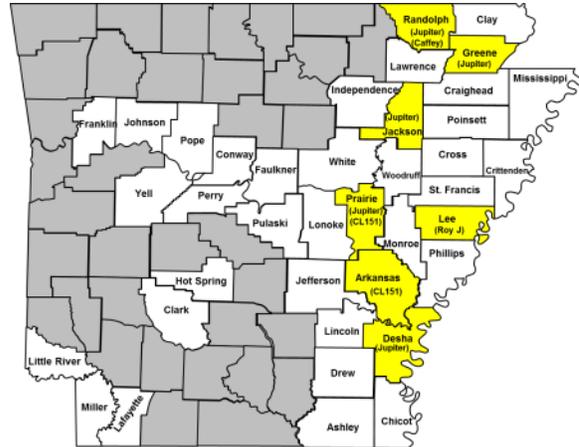
**Fig. 8. Severe leaf blast resulting in leaf burn and plant death.**



**Fig. 9. Early leaf blast on lower leaves.**



**Fig. 10. Counties and cultivars reporting leaf blast to date (7/2/15).**



## Weekly Market Summary

Rice futures traded this week at the highest levels since early May. Sharp higher trade in the entire grain complex and confirmation of lower rice acreage provided fuel for very strong gains Tuesday and follow-through gains on Wednesday. The Chicago Mercantile Exchange closes at noon Thursday (7/2) and will re-open Sunday night. September rice futures are higher Thursday morning ahead of the early close.

### CBOT Rough Rice futures settlements (\$/cwt)

	July '15	September '15
<b>June 26</b>	\$9.96	\$10.245
<b>June 29</b>	\$9.79	\$10.085
<b>June 30</b>	\$10.165	\$10.455
<b>July 1</b>	\$10.355	\$10.625
<b>July 2 (10:00 am)</b>	\$10.43	\$10.66

*Note: Commodity markets are closed Friday July 3 in observance of the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.*

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## CBOT September 2015 Rough Rice daily futures



In a news release Tuesday, Iraq is still considering a recent tender to purchase at least 30,000 tons of rice from the U.S., Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil, and India. The tenders closed on June 28. India was the low bidder at \$431.50/ton. The U.S. bid was \$589.50. All other bids were above \$600/ton.

[Iraq Considering Tender to Purchase 30,000 Tons of Rice](#)

The U.S. and Cuba have agreed to open embassies in each other's capitals. The agreement was reached on Wednesday. Embassies could be opened on July 20 or later.

[U.S., Cuba restoring diplomatic ties after 54 years](#)

## USDA Reports

### Monday: Crop Progress

For the week ending June 28, U.S. rice condition ratings held steady at 68% good-to-excellent, compared to 69% a year ago for the same week. Crop conditions improved week-to-week in Arkansas, Missouri, and Mississippi, but declined 10 points in Louisiana. Overall,

U.S. crop conditions are equal to the five (5) year average for this point in the growing season.

State	Good/Excellent (%)	
	Week ending 6/21	Week ending 6/28
Arkansas	67%	69%
California	85%	85%
Louisiana	67%	57%
Mississippi	73%	77%
Missouri	54%	59%
Texas	49%	49%
<b>6-states</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>68%</b>

### Tuesday: USDA Acreage and Rice Stocks Acreage

USDA's "all rice" acreage estimate of 2.767 million was well below the March 31 *Prospective Plantings* estimate of 2.915 million. Compared to 2014, total rice acreage is down 172,000 acres or 6 percent. Most in the trade were anticipating 5 to 10% year-over-year reduction especially given this year's planting delays.

Tuesday's *Acreage* report revealed the difficulties of getting this year's crop planted. Long-grain acreage was cut by 124,000 acres to 2.073 million compared to 2.197 million in the March 31 intentions. Arkansas accounted for most of the March to June reduction, dropping 70,000 acres. Mississippi cut back 30,000 acres and Missouri and Louisiana 10,000 acres each.

### U.S. Rice Planted Acreage

	2014	March 31	June 30
<b>All Rice</b>	2.939	2.915	2.767
<b>Long Grain</b>	2.207	2.197	2.073
<b>Medium Grain</b>	.696	.686	.661

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Arkansas' long-grain acreage estimate came in at 1.150 million; down 120,000 or 9.4% from last year. Medium-grain acreage was estimated to be the highest since 2011 at 240,000 acres. The June 30 medium-grain acreage estimate was 20,000 acres above the March 31 grower intentions.

### Arkansas Rice Planted Acreage.

	2014	March 31	June 30
All Rice	1.486	1.441	1.391
Long Grain	1.270	1.220	1.150
Medium Grain	.215	.220	.240

### Rice Stocks

The report confirmed what most in the trade already knew: growers were holding significant amounts of 2014 crop on-farm. As of June 1, Arkansas growers were estimated to be holding 6.4 million hundredweight (cwt) on-farm, compared to 2.85 million a year ago. This is the highest level of June 1 rice stocks held on-farm since 2011. Arkansas rice stocks held in "all positions" (on-farm and off-farm) were estimated at 38.787 million cwt compared to 23.965 million last year. The estimate of U.S. rice stocks held in "all positions" as of June 1 was 71.340 million cwt.

### Thursday: Export Sales

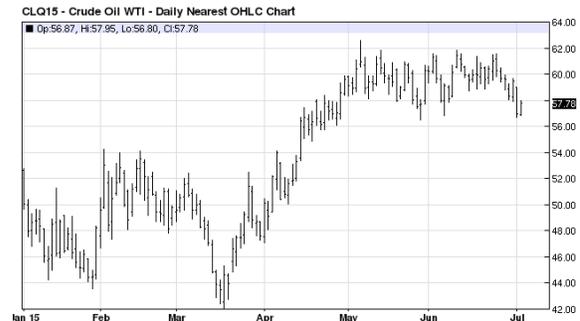
Old crop (2014) net sales and shipments of both long-grain rough and milled rice were lower for the week of June 25. There was a new crop rough rice sale of 800 metric tons (MT) to "unknown", bringing total new crop sales to 16,800 MT. One new crop long-grain milled rice sales of 3,184 MT to Canada was reported.

Total new crop milled rice sales are now 4,504 MT.

### Fuel

The energy markets have been trading lower this week and crude oil and diesel are both near the bottom of some long-term trading ranges. From a fundamental perspective, the American Petroleum Institute (API) reported this week that distillate supplies (includes diesel) rose by 263,000 barrels. Also negative to the market was news that OPEC production hit a three-year high. Iraq's oil production is now at an all-time high.

### NYMEX Crude Oil daily futures



Crude oil has been in a \$6 dollar trading range between \$56.51 and \$62.58 since May 1. Trading is now very near the lower end of this long-standing price range (at Wednesday's close, August Crude traded at \$56.96. August Diesel futures closed at \$1.8393). From a technical standpoint, Crude needs to close below \$56.51 to build any downside momentum. If prices can close below this key support level, the next downside objective could be \$54.73. A

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break lower in crude oil out of its' trading range will put downward pressure on diesel prices.

[Energies Futures Prices](#)

## Upcoming USDA reports:

July 10 (11:00 a.m. central):

- *Crop Production*
- *Supply/Demand (WASDE)*

NASS *Crop Progress* is released each Monday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. central.

[USDA-NASS reports](#)

FAS *Export Sales* are released each Thursday morning at 7:30 a.m. central.

[USDA-FAS Export Sales](#)

USDA-FSA information on projected 2014 PLC payment rates is available at this link:

[ARC/PLC Program Data](#)

## 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](mailto: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>.

## Acknowledgements

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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**.

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