



# Arkansas Rice Update

Drs. Jarrod Hardke & Yeshi Wamishe

August 17, 2018 No. 2018-25

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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
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## Crop Update

“I said hey, what’s going on?” My calendar must be broken, because this doesn’t seem like August to me. We should be cutting quite a bit of rice and instead we’re getting rain. In some locations across the northern part of the state there have been up to 10 inches of rain the last two days. Time for a weather audible.

Hopefully we wrap up this rain system by Monday and get on with harvest. Certainly we’ll need a few days to dry out, but with sunny conditions and highs in the 80s and lows in the 60s we should be in for some drying.

It’s still very early for yield reports given the rain, but there have been a few. Of those limited reports, yields have been very good to outstanding. High early yields is no guarantee for the rest of the crop, but it’s definitely a good sign. If the early rice is bad, then it generally doesn’t improve. If we can start getting this crop out soon we may have a very good one in store.

**Fig. 1. Ideal conditions last week have been replaced by clouds and rain.**



## FSA Acreage Report

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) released its August acreage report last week (**Table 1**). Numbers will still go up from here, but it paints a much larger acreage picture for Arkansas rice than was previously predicted in the June acreage

report. The currently total is 1,419,655 planted acres in Arkansas, but be prepared for that number to get a lot closer to 1.5 million. Total acres for each major rice-producing state can be found in **Table 2**.

**Table 1. FSA Acreage, Arkansas, Aug. 2018.**

Crop	Planted	Failed	Prevent Plant	Planted + Failed
Long-grain	1,240,953	2,950	30,574	1,243,903
Medium-grain	178,702	8,045	12,242	186,747
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,419,655</b>	<b>10,995</b>	<b>42,816</b>	<b>1,430,651</b>

Source: USDA Farm Service Agency

**Table 2. FSA Acreage, U.S., Aug. 2018.**

State	Total
Arkansas	1,419,655
California	463,098
Louisiana	433,218
Mississippi	134,862
Missouri	220,066
Texas	191,678
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,862,577</b>

Source: USDA Farm Service Agency

For those curious, other major commodity acres are found in **Table 3**. Soybean acres are currently well below June predictions. Corn, cotton and wheat are slightly below to right on June predictions. There’s still a long way to go for harvest, so there could always be a big difference between these planted acreage numbers and the eventual harvested acreage.

**Table 3. FSA Certified Acreage, Arkansas, August 2018.**

FSA Certified Acreage, Arkansas, August 2018	
Crop	Total
Corn	649,825
Cotton	473,869
Rice	1,419,655
Sorghum	10,591
Soybeans	3,241,677
Wheat	161,846

Source: USDA Farm Service Agency

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## Disease Update

**False smut:** Recently, rain and lower temperatures appeared to enhance the development of false smut (**Fig. 2**). Similar to kernel smut, rice fields with a history applied with heavy nitrogen fertilizers often show considerable false smut in susceptible rice cultivars under favorable weather conditions.

Unfortunately, most commercial cultivars including hybrid rice are either moderately susceptible, susceptible, or very susceptible. Currently, we are largely seeing considerable levels of false smut in Diamond, RT Gemini 214 CL, and RT XP760 in fields planted earlier than the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April. The severity varied on field history and nitrogen management.

**False smut in fungicide-protected fields:** Fields with a history, managed inadequately with nitrogen may also show some level of false smut in rice fields that received fungicide applications. Fungicides containing propiconazole can suppress false smut from 50% to 75% in well-managed fields when at least 6 oz/acre rate of Tilt equivalent is applied at the recommended timings of early boot to mid-boot.

Using adequate water volume for good coverage is highly essential. Ten gal/acre is the recommended volume. Using less than 5 gal/acre water volume to carry the fungicides does not give good coverage to offer the required suppression. Similar recommendations apply for kernel smut. However, there is better suppression of kernel smut by fungicides than false smut.

**Kernel smut:** We have seen kernel smut in some fields but the severity levels were low in already matured rice. Kernel smut occasionally can be seen more in late tillers than the earlier tillers (**Fig. 3**). Such phenomenon is more common in hybrids than varieties.

**Fig. 2. False smut.**



**Fig. 3. Kernel smut on late tiller.**



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## Insect Update

Rice stink bug numbers have increased in late planted rice just now reaching heading. Some numbers have been found at 50+ RSB per 10 sweeps. Those with rice finishing up, remember that insecticide applications can be terminated once rice is beyond 60% hard dough (straw colored kernels).

## Enroll Fields in the DD50 Program

Check out <http://DD50.uaex.edu> for the overhauled DD50 Rice Management Program. We have tried to make this version extremely user friendly, but in doing so it is a little different than the old version. If you run into any issue, please call or text me directly at 501-772-1714 or send emails to [riceadvisor@uaex.edu](mailto:riceadvisor@uaex.edu). It also works great on mobile phones and tablets.

## 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

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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