



Arkansas Rice Update

Dr. Jarrod Hardke

August 2, 2019 No. 2019-22

www.uaex.edu/rice



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Crop Progress

“I’ll gladly take ten seconds in the saddle for a lifetime of watching from the stands.” It’s been far from easy this year, but it’s better to be in the game than out of it.

The cool snap from a week ago has some of the crop knocked back a few days. This resulted in a noticeable shift in heading percentages in **Table 1**. One thing that won’t show in just DD50 predictions is the tendency for rice have trouble “restarting” from cool temperatures. Rice that was near heading when we dropped to the low 60s may have taken a few days to get back going again and head which won’t be captured in heat unit accumulation.

The earliest rice is starting to be drained right now – today in fact. Even more fields are having water run through them for the last time and will be drained in the near future.

It continues to be an interesting ride, but draining some fields has the end in sight. And a welcome sight it is.

Overall, stink bug numbers are mild – a rare positive on the year. Fields are still exceeding treatment level, but it looks as though many will make it through with only a single insecticide application. The latest planted rice is still a concern, but that’s still in wait-and-see mode.

Temperatures look good in the extended forecast, but of course there continue to be some scattered rain chances. With that, sheath blight management will remain a concern. Keep your eyes open and focus on scouting for stink bugs and sheath blight to finish this one out.

Next week we can start focusing on how close we are to reaching harvest with the earliest fields. Also, on August 12 we’ll get the FSA acreage report and have a much better idea of planted and prevent planted acres.

Table 1. Percent of acres predicted to reach 50% heading by week based on DD50 enrollment.

Date	Percentage As of 7/19/19	Percentage As of 8/2/19
July 6 – 12	9.2%	9.0%
July 13 – 19	22.2%	21.6%
July 20 – 26	30.0%	27.1%
July 27 – Aug. 2	17.6%	17.7%
Aug. 3 – 9	9.8%	10.9%
Aug. 10 – 16	5.8%	5.7%
Aug. 17 – 23	3.3%	3.8%
Aug. 24 – 30	1.5%	2.2%
Aug. 31 – Sept. 6	0.7%	1.7%

Fig. 1. Sunrise over heading rice.



Drain Timing

Time to roll out the annual drain timing picture (**Fig. 2**). We recommend draining at about 25 days after 50% heading for long grains; but wait until 30 days after 50% heading for medium grains.

The days are an estimation to be used as an approximate guide. To better help time a safe draining, it helps to begin looking at grain maturity as we near the dates mentioned above.

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For loamy soils, it's typically safe to drain when 2/3 (67%) of panicles are straw colored. For clay soil, it's typically safe to drain when 1/3 (33%) to 1/2 (50%) of panicles are straw colored. With field variability there's no perfect answer, so lean on the safe side. Better to drain a few days late than a few days too early, especially if conditions are warm and dry.

Fig 2. Rice panicles at different maturity levels described by kernel percent straw color: (L) 100%, (C) 67%, and (R) 33%.



Upcoming Field Days w/ Rice

- **Aug. 5** – Mississippi Co. Rice Irrigation Field Day.
- **Aug. 7** – Clay Co. Field Day.
- **Aug. 8** – Pine Tree Research Station Field Day.
- **Aug. 13** – Prairie / White Co. Field Day.
- **Aug. 15** – Greene Co. Field Day.
- **Aug. 23** – Woodruff Co. Field Day.

Thanks to all attendees of the 2019 Rice College

The 2019 Rice College had nearly 100 registered attendees this year. Attendees got up-close, boots-on demonstrations with managing fertility issues, disease management, herbicide symptomology, weed control programs, insecticide seed treatments, and cultivar selection. See you again in 2021!

Fig. 3. Attendees play soil fertility games at the 2019 Rice College.



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!



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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>.

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