



Arkansas Rice Update

Dr. Jarrod Hardke & Scott Stiles

August 21, 2020 No. 2020-22

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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
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Crop Progress

“Well the wind is blowin’ harder now, fifty knots or thereabouts, there’s white caps on the ocean, and I’m watchin’ for water spouts.” We now have double-barrel hurricanes expected to make landfall at the same time Tuesday morning. One is aimed at Texas-Louisiana and the other at Alabama-Mississippi. It seems we haven’t reached peak 2020 – or maybe 2020 means a double-barrel 20 gauge...

Early harvest reports are still very few so far, with many intending to get started next week. That may be pushed later with the incoming weather next week, but it’s too early to tell what these tropical systems are going to do. Having two in the gulf expected to make landfall at the same time is almost unprecedented. In the 1930s one hit Texas and the other hit Florida at the same time, and in 2004 similar hits occurred within days of each other. The point here is who knows how they’re going to act or where they’re going to go as they come in together.

The first of next week we’ll be able to harvest several planting dates and other trials and get a picture of their overall performance to start the year. Those preliminary results we hope to provide in next week’s update.

Table 1. Percent of acres reaching 20% grain moisture by week (based on fields in DD50).

Week	Percent of Acres
At 20% Moisture	6.9%
Aug 24 to Aug 30	26.1%
Aug 31 to Sept 6	35.6%
Sept 7 to Sept 13	20.3%
Sept 14 to Sept 20	5.7%
Sept 21 to Sept 27	3.0%
Sept 28 or later	2.4%

Harvest Aid Do and Don’t

The past few years we have revisited some work on using sodium chlorate as a harvest aid in rice. Roughly 30-40% of acres on average receive a sodium chlorate application to help with harvest, but there are some critical things to keep in mind to make these applications successful while minimizing risk.

- Complete rice harvest in 5 days or less after application of sodium chlorate. Any longer and heavy dew and/or rain can reduce milling yield. Excessive drying of panicle branches can increase shattering potential and excessive plant desiccation can increase lodging. The greatest losses in research trials have been observed from waiting over 5 days to harvest. You can get lucky if conditions happen to be favorable, but the losses can be substantial if conditions are poor.
- Do not salt varieties until grain moisture is below 25%.
- Do not salt hybrids until grain moisture is below 23%.
- Once grain moisture falls below 18%, do not salt the rice. This is an absolute cut-off for medium grains, especially Titan. Long grains may be able to cheat below 18% but harvest must start immediately.
- The lower the grain moisture at time of application, the more you should consider using a lower rate of sodium chlorate. A 1-gallon rate of 5 lb material is an effective rate especially at higher moisture rice, but as rice approaches lower ranges, a 0.5-gallon rate may be justified to decrease the risk of over-drying the rice.

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Fig. 1. Early fields showing good yields but still too early to tell about overall yields.



Rice Market Update

An impressive week for the rice market as November 2020 futures make new contract highs Thursday, trading up to \$12.42/cwt at one point. New crop futures are now well over a \$1/cwt above the July 28 lows. Any bearishness from the July supply/demand report is apparently forgotten. For now, it appears the futures market is trying to draw new crop bushels into the supply line and discourage storage.

CME November 2020 Rough Rice.

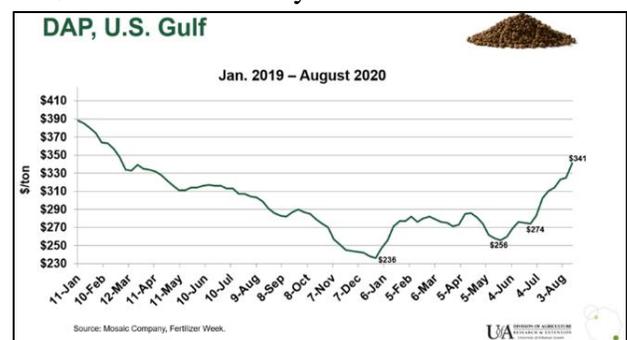


Of key concern to the market would be any interruption in harvest and potential yield loss. The trade is closely watching Tropical Depression 13 which is expected to enter the Gulf side of Florida by Tuesday (8/25).

Harvest is moving along fast in the Deep South, and yield reports are favorable. In Monday's *Crop Progress*, USDA pegged the Texas crop at 55% harvested v. 49% average. Louisiana's crop was estimated at 61% harvested v. 58% average. Private yield reports from TX and LA are in the mid 50 to mid-60 "barrel" range [# barrels / .277 = bushels]. If similar yields materialize in the Delta that could easily change the mindset of the entire market. If so, that will likely happen much later this fall. Old crop stocks are depleted, and early bushels will command a premium.

Crop Inputs:

We are monitoring developments in the phosphate market. Since late June DAP prices at the Gulf (NOLA) have increased roughly \$70/ton and over \$100/ton since early 2020.



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The COVID-19 outbreak in the Wuhan province of China played some role in the price increase as production was halted for a time. For the past month or more phosphate has been moving aggressively into key southern hemisphere markets ahead of planting—particularly South America. Recently the U.S. International Trade Commission ruled that imports of phosphate fertilizer from Russia and Morocco are harming domestic U.S. [phosphate] producers. Thus far, there appears to be little support from U.S. politicians to impose any import tariffs on foreign phosphate.

Dates to Remember

09/11/2020	Final Date to file application for Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP)
09/30/2020	Final Date to update yield for Price Loss Coverage (PLC)

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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