



# Arkansas Rice Update

Dr. Jarrod Hardke, Dr. Nick Bateman, & Scott Stiles  
August 28, 2020 No. 2020-23

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## Harvest Progress

“Against the wind, we were runnin’ against the wind, we were young and strong we were runnin’ against the wind.”

Hurricane / Tropical Storm Laura has come and gone this week, and for the most part, the damage was far less than expected. The wind speeds seemed lower and in many areas the rainfall totals were lower. The majority of rice fields in east-central and northeast Arkansas have some amount of lodging in them. Most of the lodging is minimal with small spots or streaks, but many levee tops are lodged and there are fields with large areas or the entire field flattened. In general, the damage is worse in the south and lessens as you move north. However, small wind blow-ups did happen and make for some severe areas scattered throughout the state.

As expected, cultivars that are more susceptible to lodging saw more occur. Also, areas with thicker stands from higher seeding rates and areas where nitrogen fertilizer was streaked or overlapped saw increased lodging.

The biggest concern from here is that the lodging has begun, even minimally, on many fields. Another storm system is expected this weekend bringing more wind and rain. Lodged areas increase with time and pressure from wind and rain. Generally, we always end up harvesting more lodged rice than we thought we had. Pushing a return to harvest out a week from now with all the rain, and more rain coming, will make it a race to harvest before things deteriorate too much.

“Too early to tell” yield reports have been good. Most reports are in the average to above-average range with a few very good yields mixed in. We’re still probably 5% or less harvested, so there’s not a great feel yet.

## Preliminary Planting Date Yield Data

Table 1 contains preliminary yield data from the March 27 and April 6 planting dates at the RREC at Stuttgart. Preliminary because we haven’t fully analyzed the data yet – so this data may look different in its final form presented later this year. Since we start getting questions about performance data already, we’re showing this now for an ‘early look’.

**Table 1. Preliminary data for planting date studies at RREC, Stuttgart, 2020.**

Cultivar	Grain Type	Planting Date	
		March 27	April 6
		Emerge 4/9	Emerge 4/24
DGL263x	L	237	256
Diamond	L	221	186
Jewel	L	193	182
ProGold1	L	192	183
ProGold2	L	206	193
LAX7-2140	L	197	180
CLL15	CL	219	202
CLL16	CL	206	202
CLL17	CL	212	200
PVL02	PL	182	160
RT 7321 FP	FL	237	230
RT 7521 FP	FL	244	234
RT 7301	L	244	217
RT 7401	L	246	230
RT 7501	L	245	228
RT 7801	L	226	209
RT XP753	L	251	225
CLM04	CM	196	193
Lynx	M	212	193
Jupiter*	M	194	163
Titan	M	218	188
ARoma 17	LA	156	151

Grain Type: L = long-grain; M = medium-grain; CL = Clearfield long-grain; CM = Clearfield medium-grain; FL = FullPage long-grain; PL = Provisia long-grain; LA = long-grain aromatic.

\* Jupiter did not thresh well.

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## Rice Stink Bug Update and Termination

We are still getting calls on rice stink bug, and now that a good portion of our rice is done, it is starting to cause a sink for rice stink bugs in our later rice. Extremely high numbers haven't been the norm, 20-30 RSB on 10 sweeps has been common in some of these late heading fields. Our threshold is 5 RSB per 10 sweeps during the first two weeks of heading to protect from yield loss, and 10 RSB per 10 sweeps during the second two weeks of heading to protect us from 'pecky' rice.

RSB applications can be terminated at 60% hard dough, but what is that? We consider 60% hard dough as the point where 60% of the kernels on a given panicle are straw colored (Fig. 1). Keep in mind that, given the current forecast over the next 7 days, it looks like we will be in for a lot of cloudy and rainy weather. This can soften the kernels enough that RSB can still cause peck past 60% hard dough. When we suggest terminating at 60% hard dough, this means going into 60% hard dough clean and well below threshold.

**Fig. 1. Panicles in the center of the picture are 60% hard dough or beyond.**



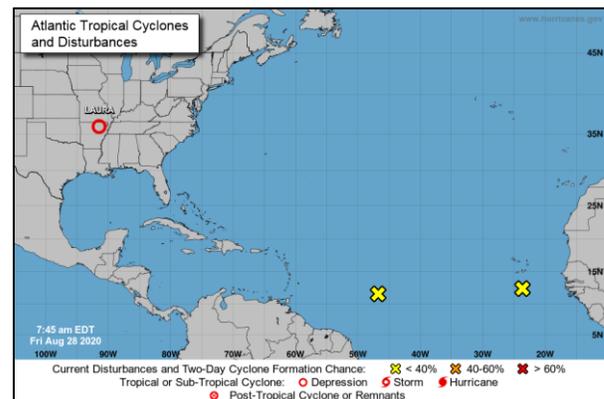
## Rice Market Update

As we wait for Laura to exit the Midsouth, we've seen November rice futures make new contract highs this week. The weekly chart below illustrates that November futures are now trading at the highest level since September 2017. In early trading Friday, the November '20 contract traded up to \$12.67 before turning lower on profit taking.

### November Rough Rice Futures, Weekly.



Whether the market can reach the September 2017 high of \$13.04 will be a function of the damage assessments made over the coming week. Furthermore, the map below illustrates the potential for more tropical activity in the weeks ahead. Unfortunately, the 2020 harvest is expected to include a very active series of tropical weather systems.



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**Crop Progress:** In Monday's *Crop Progress*, USDA estimated the Texas crop was 71% harvested v. 64% average. Louisiana's crop was estimated at 73% harvested v. 69% average. The Midsouth was barely underway with Mississippi at 3% harvested and Arkansas at 1% harvested.

**Export Sales:** Thursday's *Export Sales* report was encouraging. Long-grain rough rice sales and shipments were the highest seen so far in the 20/21 marketing year. Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala and Costa Rica bought a combined 41,142 MT of rough rice last week. That is the highest weekly sales total since February 13, 2020. Long-grain milled sales were 20,502 MT last week, with nearly 75% of the total to Haiti.

## Dates to Remember

09/11/2020	USDA supply/demand report NASS <i>Crop Production</i> FSA certified acres update
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)

## Farm Policy News:

[Second round of CFAP could come after Labor Day](#)

## 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>.

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