



# Arkansas Rice Update

Dr. Jarrod Hardke & Scott Stiles

Sept. 11, 2020 No. 2020-25

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## Harvest Progress

“We’re having a heat wave, a tropical heat wave.” We’re definitely not having the major cold spell that was being forecast last week. Actually, the harvest conditions are just about perfect right now.

Arguably the greatest concern for most right now is too much to harvest and too few trucks. Many delivery locations are very backed up with so much rice being harvested and delivered at once. Considering how far behind we have been in harvest (Table 1), we’re doing all we can to catch up.

**Table 1. Harvest progress by week, 2016-2020.**

Year	Week 34	Week 35	Week 36	Week 37
2020	1	5	10	?
2019	3	11	23	44
2018	5	20	33	47
2017	11	18	41	59
2016	12	31	52	73

\* Week 35 corresponds with ~Sept. 1 each year.

The Atlantic continues to stay active and we can only hope things stay out of the Gulf. After the drastic turn between the forecast and what actually happened this week, it’s making it harder to look more than a few days ahead. With that said, conditions look good with breezy conditions and partly cloudy weather. There have been some very low harvest moistures as grain is drying rapidly under current conditions. If you remember last year, when we have dry harvest conditions milling can be excellent, but grain that gets very dry in the field and then experiences rainfall events the milling can turn poor very quickly.

## Preliminary Planting Date Yield Data

Table 2 contains preliminary yield data from the March 27, April 6, April 21, and May 6 planting dates at the RREC at Stuttgart. Data is not finalized. The trends are interesting and may be related to weather and changes in harvest conditions.

**Table 2. Preliminary data for planting date studies at RREC, Stuttgart, 2020.**

Cultivar	Grain Type	Planting Date Emergence Date			
		March 27	April 6	April 21	May 6
		4/9	4/24	5/4	5/15
DGL263x	L	237	256	266	253
Diamond	L	221	186	232	221
Jewel	L	193	182	216	206
ProGold1	L	192	183	232	219
ProGold2	L	206	193	225	207
LAX7-2140	L	197	180	209	199
CLL15	CL	219	202	229	207
CLL16	CL	206	202	224	219
CLL17	CL	212	200	191	205
PVL02	PL	182	160	131	192
RT 7321 FP	FL	237	230	258	248
RT 7521 FP	FL	244	234	241	248
RT 7301	L	244	217	255	245
RT 7401	L	246	230	272	269
RT 7501	L	245	228	277	269
RT 7801	L	226	209	262	252
RT XP753	L	251	225	273	254
CLM04	CM	196	193	212	208
Lynx	M	212	193	192	211
Jupiter	M	194	163	213	193
Titan	M	218	188	223	185
ARoma 17	LA	156	151	188	166

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.

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## Estimating Harvest Loss

Each year there are questions about estimating rice yield lost out of the combine. **Table 3** provides the straightforward answer, but it's not that simple. The combine doesn't spread residue as wide as the header, so simply counting the grains in a square foot behind the machine will overestimate loss.

To be most accurate, you need to count the number of kernels in a strip the width of the combine (**Table 4**). For instance, with a 30 ft header, you would need to count the kernels on the ground in a strip 30 ft long and 4 inches wide (which amounts to 10 square feet). Divide the kernels counted in that strip by 10 to get your number per square foot.

A simpler, and faster, approach is to think of the header width in sections. For a 30-foot header, think of it as having three 10-foot sections. Take a single square foot count in the center of each of these 10-foot sections, total the numbers and divide by three. This will give you the number per square foot and capture areas to the side of and directly behind the combine, while taking a third of the time as the traditional method.

Remember to count kernels on the ground in an area not yet harvested so that you account for shattered grain that isn't being lost from the harvesting process. Subtract any grain already on the ground from your harvest loss estimates.

**Table 3. Converting rice field loss counts into bushels per acre.**

Number of Kernels Per Square Foot	Average Field Loss (Bu/A)
25	1.3
50	2.5
75	3.7
100	5.1
125	6.4
250	12.8

**Table 4. Dimensions for field loss estimate.**

Sample Area to Obtain 10 Square Feet Across Header Width	
Number of Kernels Per Square Foot	Average Field Loss (Bu/A)
20	20 ft x 6 in
25	25 ft x 4.8 in
30	30 ft x 4 in
35	35 ft x 3.4 in

**Fig. 1. Blanks, hulled kernels, and actual lost grain can sometimes be difficult to separate.**



## Questions About False Smut

As happened about this time last year, questions have increased about false smut. While we typically discuss false smut and kernel smut together from a management standpoint with fungicides, they are quite different.

Later planted rice is traditionally more prone to the smuts in general. False smut usually only affects a few grains in a panicle. In very susceptible cultivars, several grains may be affected. Generally, speaking, false smut alone is not likely to result in noticeable losses of grain yield or milling yield. In contrast, kernel smut can have very noticeable negative impacts on both.

The reason for this difference has to do with how the two behave. The false smut fungus can transform

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infected kernels into greenish spore balls and the smut ball is very “showy” outside of the grain, usually leading to an overestimation of the number of kernels affected. In addition, since typically not all grains on a panicle are filled, the plant may be able to compensate for the few kernels lost.

Kernel smut, however, replaces all or part of a kernel inside the hull. So, it is less likely that the plant can compensate. This results in lower yields and an increase in the number of broken or partially filled kernels that reduce milling yields.

Kernel smut, by forming inside the hull, is also very difficult to remove in the milling or cleaning processes. It may end up in the milling process resulting in a reduction in grade and is more concerning to rice used to parboil. False smut, however, will dry down and can be removed in these processes.

We still need to keep false smut under control, but it will always be worse in later planted rice, and even worse in very susceptible cultivars such as Diamond, RT Gemini 214 CL, RT 7521 FP, and PVL01 to name a few cultivars. Additionally, even higher rates of propiconazole may only reduce false smut by 50-70% if an application is properly timed. In the future, consider rotating fields and avoid excessive nitrogen rates on susceptible cultivars.

**Fig. 2. False smut in rice.**



## Rice Market Update

The September supply/demand report was not friendly to the rice market. For starters, USDA made some bearish adjustments to the old crop (2019/20) balance sheet. Imports were increased by .3 mln. cwt. Domestic use and exports were both lowered by 2.1 and .4 mln. cwt., respectively. As a result, old crop ending stocks increased by 2.7 to a total of 16.9 mln cwt.

U.S. Long-Grain Supply and Demand				
unit	2019/20	2020/21	2020/21	Change
million cwt.		August	Sept.	August to Sept.
Beginning Stocks	32.6	14.2	16.9	+2.7
Production	125.6	159.1	168.9	+9.8
Imports	29.8	29.0	29.0	-
<b>Total Supply</b>	<b>188.0</b>	<b>202.3</b>	<b>214.8</b>	<b>+12.5</b>
Domestic Use	106.4	109.0	111.0	+2
Exports	64.6	69.0	71.0	+2
<b>Total Usage</b>	<b>171.1</b>	<b>178.0</b>	<b>182.0</b>	<b>+4</b>
Ending Stocks	16.9	24.3	32.8	+8.5
Farm Price (\$/bu.)	\$5.40	\$5.22	\$5.09	-.13

Source: USDA WAOB, September 2020.

On the new crop balance sheet, along with the 2.7 million increase in beginning stocks, long-grain production was increased by 9.8 million cwt. to 168.9 million. That would be the largest long-grain production since 2010 (183.3 million cwt.). USDA did lower yields this month in some key long-grain states. Arkansas’ state average yield was lowered 50 pounds/acre to 7500. Louisiana was lowered 350 pounds and Texas 300 pounds. No yield changes were made to Missouri and Mississippi. The

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production increase comes from the fact that USDA has found another 150,000 acres of long-grain since the June *Acreage* report was released--85,000 more in Arkansas and 66,000 more in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Missouri combined. The June Acreage report pegged long-grain harvested acreage at 2.156 million. USDA's September estimate is now 2.306 million.

Increases in demand this month offset almost a third of the total supply increase. Domestic use was increased by 2 million to a record 111 million cwt. Exports were also increased by 2 million cwt. Total demand at 182 million cwt. would be the highest since 2010.

Projected 20/21 ending stocks were increased to 32.8 million cwt., up 8.5 million from last month and the highest since 2010's 35.6 million cwt. The 2020/21 season-average farm price was lowered 30 cents to \$11.30 per cwt (\$5.09 per bushel).

The sharp increase in new crop production and ending stocks turned November '20 futures 35 cents lower at midday Friday. The technical (chart) picture turned negative with trading slipping out of the up-trending channel that has been in place since late July. Initial support for the November contract is being found near \$12.10 or the 38% retracement of the monthlong July 28<sup>th</sup> to August 28<sup>th</sup> uptrend.

## November Rough Rice Futures, Daily.



**Revenue Protection (RP) Harvest Price.** The price discovery period for the Revenue Protection (RP) "harvest price" is currently underway. The "harvest price" is determined by averaging the daily closing price of the November rough rice futures contract for the entire month of September. The final "harvest price" will be announced in early October. **As of September 10<sup>th</sup>, the average "harvest price" is \$12.38/cwt. (\$5.57/bu.).**

## Revenue Protection (RP) Harvest Price Calculation, Long-Grain Rice.

Date	November Futures Price (\$/cwt.)	Rolling Average Price
9-1-20	\$12.230	\$12.23
9-2-20	\$12.285	\$12.26
9-3-20	\$12.345	\$12.29
9-4-20	\$12.400	\$12.32
9-8-20	\$12.455	\$12.34
9-9-20	\$12.440	\$12.36
9-10-20	\$12.480	\$12.38

Base Contract: CBOT November Rice 2020.

## Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Payments:

The tables below include the season average farm prices and projected PLC payment rates per bushel for 2019 and 2020. The 2019 long-grain average farm price was unchanged this month at \$5.40 per bushel. The southern medium-grain average price was lowered 5 cents per bushel to \$5.22.

## 2019 Projected PLC Payment Rates, Rice.

	A	B	C	(A minus higher of B or C)
Unit: \$/bu.	Reference Price	Loan Rate	Mktg. Year Avg. Price	Proj. PLC Pmt. Rate
Long-Grain	\$6.30	\$2.925	\$5.40	<b>\$0.90</b>
Med.-Grain	\$6.30	\$2.925	\$5.22	<b>\$1.08</b>

Source: USDA, September 2020.

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The final 2019 marketing year prices and PLC payment rates for rice are expected to be released October 30, 2020. As a reminder, for ARC and PLC payments a sequestration percentage will be applied to the payment rate. In recent years the sequestration reduction has been in the range of 6.2 to 6.6 percent.

The **2020** crop year farm prices were reduced this month to \$5.09 per bushel for long-grain and \$5.13 per bushel for southern medium-grain. The projected 2020 PLC payment rates are shown in the table below.

## 2020 Projected PLC Payment Rates, Rice.

	A	B	C	(A minus higher of B or C)
Unit: \$/bu.	Reference Price	Loan Rate	Mktg. Year Avg. Price	Proj. PLC Pmt. Rate
Long-Grain	\$6.30	\$2.925	\$5.09	\$1.21
Med.-Grain	\$6.30	\$2.925	\$5.13	\$1.17

Source: USDA, September 2020.

Projected PLC payment rates are updated monthly on the USDA Farm Service Agencies' ARC/PLC website at this link: [ARC/PLC Program Data](#)

## Dates to Remember:

<b>09/30/2020</b>	Final Date to update yield for Price Loss Coverage (PLC)
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## September 30<sup>th</sup> is Deadline to Update PLC Payment Yields

Farm owners have a one-time opportunity to update Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program yields for covered commodities. The deadline is September 30, 2020, to update yields, which are used to calculate the PLC payments for 2020 through 2023.

Additionally, producers who elected Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) should also consider updating their PLC yields.

Updating yields requires the signature of one owner on a farm and not all owners. If a yield update is not made, no action is required to maintain the existing base crop yield on file with FSA.

For program payments, updated yields will apply beginning with the 2020 crop year which, should payments trigger, will be paid out in October of 2021.

To update PLC yields, average yields per planted acre in crop years 2013-2017 will be needed. That excludes any year where the applicable covered commodity was not planted. If the reported yield in any year is less than 75 percent of the 2013-2017 average county yield, the yield will be substituted with 75 percent of the county average yield.

Contact your local FSA county office for assistance.

**Crop Progress:** In Monday's *Crop Progress*, USDA estimated the Texas crop was 93% harvested v. 84% average. Louisiana's was 86% harvested v. 85% average. There was limited progress last week in the Midsouth as field conditions remained wet. Mississippi was estimated at 14% harvested compared to the 5-year average of 38% and Arkansas was 10% harvested v. 28% average.

## Rice Harvested (%)

State	Week ending		5-Yr. Avg.
	Aug. 30, 2020	Sept. 6, 2020	
Arkansas	5	10	28
Louisiana	80	86	85
Mississippi	4	14	38
Missouri	-	-	8
Texas	77	93	84

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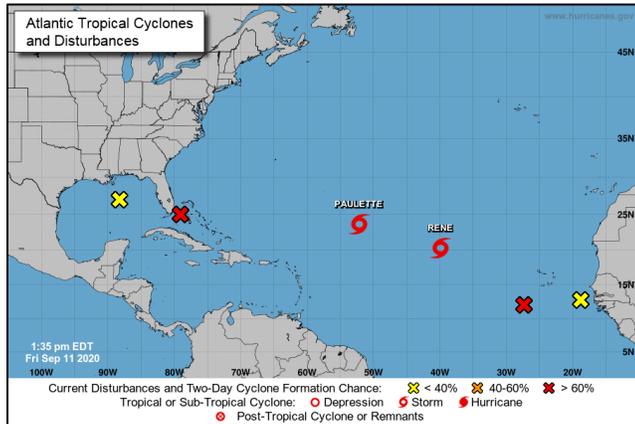
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## Gulf / Atlantic Activity (9/11/20).



**Export Sales:** This week's *Export Sales* report reflected better long-grain rough rice sales of 17,800 metric tons (MT) compared to 7,300 MT the week prior. Shipments were just 168 MT for the week ending Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> with Mexico the only destination.

Of key concern is the lag in cumulative rough rice sales to date. For the week ending September 3<sup>rd</sup>, total long-grain rough rice sales are 237,683 MT compared to 544,390 MT a year ago. Long-grain milled sales also lag last year's pace at 88,680 MT compared to 339,653 MT last year.

On a more optimistic note, Brazil's Foreign Trade Board voted this week to provide duty-free access for up to 400,000 MT of paddy and milled rice from all origins, effective Sept. 9 through Dec. 31, 2020.

Prior to this announcement, all rice imports from outside of the MERCOSUR bloc (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay), including the United States, faced a 12 percent import duty on milled rice and a 10 percent duty on paddy rice. This three-month period may create an opportunity for U.S. rice exports to be more competitive in the Brazilian import market.

## 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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