



Arkansas Rice Update

Dr. Jarrod Hardke & Scott Stiles

Sept. 4, 2020 No. 2020-24

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Harvest Progress

“The fields ain’t what they once were, the rains just seem to flood...” The expected rains this week were even more prevalent than expected following Hurricane Laura. Some areas have now seen rainfall for 6-7 consecutive days. Areas that experienced initial lodging from Laura have worsened and will likely continue to do so, but some have held firm.

From here the game is getting into the field as quickly as possible, with the need to see some sunshine over the weekend. Next week will begin a hard run at harvest as we have lost more than week of harvest progress on our earliest rice that is ready to be cut. The falling temperatures and humidity next week should aid in rapidly drying the crop – but we will need to work quickly as any rains that return after rice has dried rapidly will have the potential to re-wet the grain and cause fissuring which can lower head rice yields.

Spotty harvest attempts have occurred this week around rainfall events and more will try to make progress where possible over the weekend. But many areas still need a couple more days before they can even get turn rows dried out enough to get in and out of fields.

Fig. 1. Some fields had large areas flattened by Hurricane Laura and subsequent rain and wind.



Cool Temperature Effect on Late Rice

There is enough June planted rice to be concerned about the upcoming forecast. Over the weekend highs are to remain in the 80s but lows will be around 60 and below depending on south versus north end of the state. Even more concerning are the temperatures into next week when we are expected to see highs in the 70s and lows around 60 in the south and mid-50s in the north.

Fig. 2. Extended forecast for Stuttgart (L) and Jonesboro (R), AR.

Today	87°/65°	PM Thunderstorms	Today	81°/61°	Mostly Cloudy
Sat 05	86°/61°	Partly Cloudy	Sat 05	84°/61°	Partly Cloudy
Sun 06	89°/63°	Sunny	Sun 06	88°/63°	Mostly Sunny
Mon 07	90°/68°	Sunny	Mon 07	88°/67°	Sunny
Tue 08	88°/68°	Mostly Sunny	Tue 08	87°/67°	Mostly Sunny
Wed 09	81°/63°	Partly Cloudy	Wed 09	81°/62°	AM Showers
Thu 10	76°/59°	Partly Cloudy	Thu 10	73°/57°	Partly Cloudy
Fri 11	77°/60°	Mostly Sunny	Fri 11	74°/57°	Mostly Sunny
Sat 12	78°/62°	Mostly Sunny	Sat 12	76°/60°	Partly Cloudy
Sun 13	79°/63°	Mostly Sunny	Sun 13	78°/61°	Sunny
Mon 14	80°/63°	Mostly Sunny	Mon 14	79°/62°	Mostly Sunny
Tue 15	81°/63°	Mostly Sunny	Tue 15	79°/60°	Mostly Sunny
Wed 16	80°/62°	Mostly Sunny	Wed 16	78°/59°	Mostly Sunny
Thu 17	80°/63°	Partly Cloudy	Thu 17	78°/60°	Mostly Sunny

If rice is around panicle initiation (PI) [doesn’t really apply to us right now], then temperatures down close to 60 and below can cause yield loss by reducing the number of kernels and branches formed in the panicle. The recommendation would be to increase flood depth to buffer the temperature drop and protect the growing point, which would be near the ground.

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If you have rice that is 7-10 days before heading, then temperatures this cool can disrupt pollen formation and lead to spikelet sterility as a result. Increasing flood depth may help buffer the microclimate in the field, but probably not well as the flood only buffers the temperature 4-6 inches above the water line. There are very few fields that may be in this position.

Fields flowering during this cool period may see a lack of pollination of kernels due to decreased humidity. There is little we can do except hope that flowering dodges the worst of the temperatures.

For rice past flowering but in the grain filling stages, there is little direct risk of negative impact. However, plant progress will slow (almost appear to stop) and however long cool temps last, it will likely take twice as long to see noticeable plant progress again. So, our biggest concern is overall delay in crop maturity which will delay harvest and potentially reduce grain weight as a result.

Overall, there is little we can do but hope that temperatures are not as cool as forecast and that we get lucky on the timing of the cool spell relative to our rice growth stage. Keeping the flood depth up (shouldn't be an issue with all the rain) and delaying draining of fields still ripening, may help limit the impact but not likely.

Wind Damage from Hurricane Laura

While lodging wasn't as great as feared, later rice may have been impacted to a larger extent than originally thought. There is a significant amount of wind damage appearing now in later rice. Some are confusing it with bacterial panicle blight. It's not impossible, but most everything we've checked out so far is from physical damage due to high winds.

Rice growth stage is the most important factor in this happening. Rice kernels that are around the

flowering stage are most susceptible. Wind speeds don't actually have to be all that high to cause this type of injury. Certainly, the higher the wind speed the greater the chance it happens. Heavy rainfall alone can cause similar injury to the delicate flowering parts of the plant. When rainfall comes in with increasing windspeeds then you have a recipe for major impact.

However, examples of needing to catch rice at just the right time were very evident this week. Research trials in different counties that experienced different weather from Hurricane Laura told that story. In Phillips County, lodging was minimal due to lower winds and rainfall, but blanking was much more severe than in a similar trial in Arkansas County where greater winds and rainfall were experienced and rice lodging in the area was worse. The difference in maturity of the rice between these two trials was very slight.

As rice passes the flowering stage and enters milk stage and beyond, it takes much more wind and rain to cause enough physical damage to impact kernel development.

Fig. 3. Blanked rice kernels from wind and rain at flowering.



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Fig. 4. Close-up of a panicle with blanked rice kernels from wind and rain at flowering.



Fig. 5. Wind damaged leaves that are split and broken over – discoloration is from injury.



Fig. 6. Typical symptoms of bacterial panicle blight if detected early enough.



Fig. 7. Various types of distribution of BPB infected florets in rice panicles; a few, some, or entire florets can be infected.



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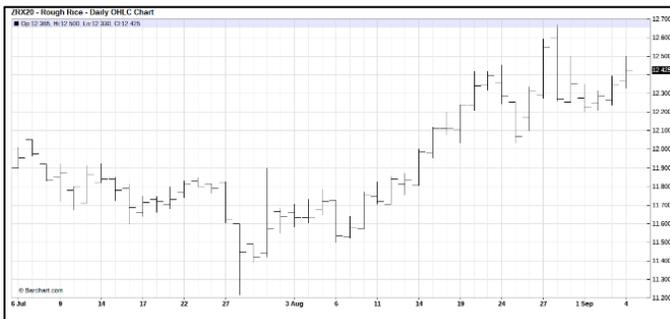
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Rice Market Update

After posting what appeared to be a key reversal-down at the end of last week, the November contract looks to finish higher for the week in early trading Friday. The market has been supported this week on reports of crop and infrastructure damage.

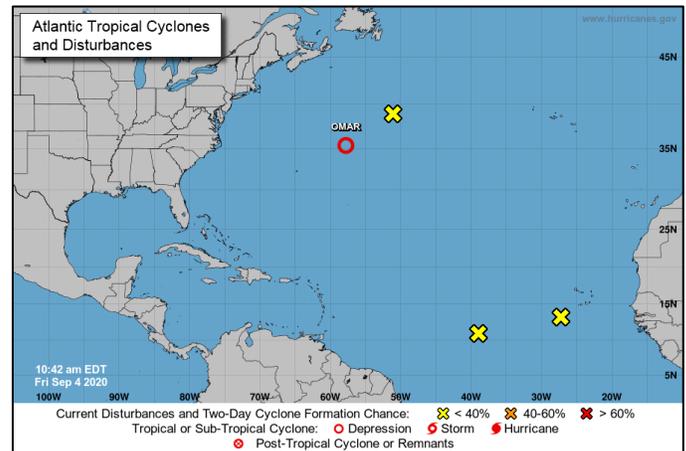
November Rough Rice Futures, Daily.



News Monday of Brazil’s plans to temporarily remove import tariffs on rice and other grains offered support to the market as well. Thursday’s *Export Sales* report was lackluster and a reflection of Hurricane Laura shutting down the Midsouth and Gulf. Long-grain rough rice sales were 7,300 metric tons. Shipments were just 1,104 MT with Mexico the only destination.

Crop Progress: In Monday’s *Crop Progress*, USDA estimated the Texas crop was 77% harvested v. 78% average. Louisiana’s crop was estimated at 80% harvested v. 79% average. In the drenched Midsouth, Mississippi was 4% harvested and Arkansas was 5% harvested. No harvest was reported in Missouri.

Gulf / Atlantic Snapshot (9/4/20).



Harvest Price for Revenue Protection (RP). As of August 31, USDA’s Risk Management Agency (RMA) reporting indicated Arkansas had almost 816,000 rice acres covered under Revenue Protection (RP) crop insurance policies. Recall that RP protects against lost production, but it has the additional advantage of protection against lost revenue due to price changes. RP establishes a revenue guarantee in part by using two prices – the spring “projected price” or a “harvest price”. RP uses the higher of these two prices to establish a final guaranteed revenue.

The “projected price” was set using an average of daily closing prices for November rice futures from January 15th thru February 14th. For 2020, the long-grain “projected price” is \$12.10/cwt. or \$5.45 per bushel. Medium-grain is \$14.80/cwt.

The fall “harvest price” is currently being determined by averaging the daily closing price of the November futures contract for the entire month of September. The final “harvest price” will be announced in early October. **As of September 3rd, the average “harvest price” is \$12.29/cwt. (\$5.53/bu.).**

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Revenue Protection (RP) Harvest Prices, Long-Grain Rice.

Date	Closing Futures Price (\$/cwt.)	Rolling Average Price
9-1-20	\$12.23	\$12.23
9-2-20	\$12.285	\$12.26
9-3-20	\$12.345	\$12.29

Base Contract: CBOT November Rice 2020.

Outlook for 2019 PLC Payments... USDA's season-average price estimates are a key part of the 2018 Farm Bill programs such as Price Loss Coverage (PLC). Once a marketing year is complete, actual marketing weights for that year are used to calculate the final season-average price. For long-grain, the 2019/20 marketing year ended on July 31, 2020. **Recall from the August WASDE that USDA estimated the 2019 long-grain season average farm price to be \$12/cwt. or \$5.40 per bushel.**

When estimating the 2019 season average price on a monthly weighted basis, the result is very similar: **\$12.03/cwt. (\$5.41/bu.)**. Monthly prices received and sales volumes for long-grain are shown in the table below. The weighted average price of \$5.41 implies a 2019 PLC payment rate of 89 cents per bushel (\$6.30 Reference Price - \$5.41 Season Avg. Farm Price = .89/bushel). No sequestration has been deducted from the projected payment rate.

2019/20 Long-Grain Weighted Average Farm Price.

Month/Year	Average Producer Price Rec'd. (\$/cwt.)	Total Volume Marketed (000 cwt.)	Total Value of Rice Marketed
August-19	\$10.70	7,890	\$84,423
September-19	\$11.20	8,027	\$89,902
October-19	\$11.50	11,566	\$133,009
November-19	\$11.60	8,603	\$99,795
December-19	\$11.70	14,335	\$167,720
January-20	\$12.00	14,792	\$177,504
February-20	\$12.50	9,688	\$121,100
March-20	\$12.50	10,545	\$131,813
April-20	\$12.80	7,296	\$93,389
May-20	\$12.90	5,545	\$71,531
June-20	\$13.40	5,315	\$71,221
July-20	\$13.30	4,119	\$54,783
Total		107,721	\$1,296,188
Weighted Avg. Price (\$/cwt.)	\$12.03	(total value / total volume)	
Weighted Avg. Price (\$/bu.)	\$5.41		
Projected 2019/20 PLC Payment Rate (\$/bu.)	\$0.89	(\$6.30/bu. PLC Reference Price - Weighted Avg. Price)	

Other News:

USDA to release rules for CFAP 2 next week... USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue announced on Thursday that details of a second round of Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP 2) would be released ahead of the September 11 deadline for applying for the first round. The CFAP2 payments would be designed to compensate farmers for losses incurred after April 15 through the end of the year.

Brazil: Reuters reported Monday (8/31) that Brazil planned to temporarily remove its import tariffs on rice, soybeans and corn. This is an effort to slow food price inflation. Brazil has exported

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almost all its soybeans. This latest plan to remove import tariffs would potentially open the door for U.S. grain exports. This proposed plan by Brazil has caused concern among Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay. Other members of the Mercosur trade bloc are already exempt from Brazil's import taxes. They contend that Brazil cannot unilaterally change its tariffs. It has to be done with the other Mercosur countries. No final decision has been made by Brazil.

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)

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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