Regional Crop Reports:
Rice Crop Progressing Nicely After Rough Start

South Louisiana and Texas

We are dealing with a big rain in south Louisiana once again. Substantial chances of rain have been in the forecast since last Friday (5/19) but for the most part, we did not get big amounts of rain. That changed Monday evening when most of the southern part of the state received a big rain in just a couple of hours. Lately, it seems as almost every time it rains we get inches of rain. On another note, the rice crop in south Louisiana looks pretty good. Overall, there are more good looking rice acres than there are poor. One thing I am seeing more of this year is “weedy rice.” This has been a growing problem in south Louisiana for several years now, and with the warm winter we had I think we are seeing even more of it this year. We have also seen a few cases of early season disease, like cercospora, sheath blight, and blast. None of these diseases have been found on a wide basis, but some farmers have had to treat for the cercospora very early and will have to come back with a second application of propiconazole. We do have a little bit of fungicide going out on some of the earliest planted rice, which is further evidence of an early start to harvest in south Louisiana.
Unlike south Louisiana, Texas farmers were hoping for rain, and they got it. Things were getting really dry west of Houston and some of the crops, particularly row crops, were starting to show some drought stress. The people I have talked to received anywhere from 1.5 to 4 inches of rain, which will really help. Overall the crop in Texas is looking really good. There have been a few weed control issues this year, but I think that had a lot to do with the weather more than anything. The crop in Texas is not as advanced as the crop in south Louisiana as many of the farmers in Texas are just starting midseason fertilizer applications.

Dr. Steve Linscombe put in an off-station yield trial on LG and Linda Raun’s farm this year. In addition to currently available Clearfield® cultivars, there are several Clearfield experimental lines. We are excited about evaluating these lines in Texas rice country, and it shows our commitment to finding genetic material that is competitive in this important production area. I visited the trial last week and things are looking very good. If anyone would like to visit these plots, please give me a call.

We have four Provisia™ demo fields in south Louisiana this year. They have all been sprayed with at least one application of Provisia herbicide. So far we are seeing excellent weed control with this herbicide. These demo fields are some of the worst fields with weedy rice, and Provisia is really taking out these weedy rice plants. I am really looking forward to having this technology available next year.

**Michael Fruge**

*District Field Representative*

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Northeast Arkansas and Missouri

The flood waters have receded for the most part, and things are looking better than I expected in some areas. I observed several submerged fields that look amazingly good considering the number of days they were under. In a few cases where the rice was severely stretched and stuck to the ground, I saw a lot of the plants exhibiting new growth. There is no doubt that yield potential has been impacted, but what a blessing to still have a viable crop in some of these areas. On the flip side, there have been a lot of acres that were totally lost or just didn’t have enough surviving plants to justify salvaging. According to University of Arkansas extension, the latest estimate of lost rice acres has reached around 180,000.

A lot of work has been done between storm systems that seem to move through the area every 4 to 5 days. I have seen levee after levee re-pulled and re-seeded and in some cases minimally patched to salvage already growing rice. In Missouri, first time planted acres are all but winding down with some replanting taking place. The USDA crop report puts them at 92 percent planted while Arkansas is 98 percent planted with some replants still underway. It seems like it has taken forever, but we are finally at or nearing permanent flood in a lot of areas. I know it will be a relief for many to get the nitrogen out and flood up, as weed pressure is beginning to pick up. Please contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Jason Satterfield
District Field Representative
Arkansas Grand Prairie

Things are moving along well on the Grand Prairie. What a difference sunshine and warm temperatures have made! The cool, wet weather a few weeks ago had a lot of rice not looking good at all. It’s recovering well now. A large portion of the acres here are in the process of being sprayed, fertilized and flooded right now. We are dealing with some flood water now, but nothing to the extent of north Arkansas. We’ve had very few replants in this area, and overall things have progressed smoothly. The rice crop looks good, and a little fertilizer and water should make it look even better. Just a reminder when applying preflood nitrogen to use a urease inhibitor containing NBPT. That will help minimize nitrogen loss caused by ammonia volatilization and give you more bang for your nitrogen buck. As always, please give us a call if you have any questions.

Garrett Williams
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Mississippi and North Louisiana

The crop in my area that has gone to flood is responding well and seems like it has jumped over night. Outside of a little bit of drift I haven't been hearing of many issues. I have received a few calls regarding fertilizer applications. Just a reminder, for a preflood nitrogen application, it is most efficient to go out on dry ground and immediately follow it with the flood. Fields that require more than 5 days to establish a flood can benefit from the use of NBPT on urea to minimize ammonia volatilization loss. Where nitrogen uptake from applications into the flood can be very efficient at midseason, applications into the flood when the rice has just begun to tiller is very inefficient because the root systems do not have the capacity to absorb nitrogen as readily as more mature root systems. Please feel free to call with any questions.

Tim Jett
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