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RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas Edition

April 24, 2001

A general rain fell over much of our coverage area Monday and Tuesday. Windy conditions have delayed some spraying and water-seeded planting in numerous cases. In coastal Louisiana, tillering has started on a wide part of the crop. The Midsouth crop continues to run somewhat ahead of its typical timetable.

Texas/Coastal La.:

David Mitchell, M&M Air Service, Beaumont, Texas: "We're about 85% to 90% planted, and we're also up in acreage in this area by 10% to 15%. Most of that has come out of corn or grain sorghum due to the weather or for some other reason growers couldn't get the crops planted before program deadlines. The crop is going about 80% Cocodrie, with Cypress and Gulfmont taking up most of the rest. We are starting to do a little herbicide work and some base herbicide applications where rice has emerged."

Johnny Saichuk, Louisiana Extension Rice Specialist, Crowley, La.: "We're 80-90% planted in the southern parishes and 80% of the planted acreage has emerged. We got quite a few fields flooded early and a

lot of rice is just beginning to tiller. People are trying to finish up herbicide work. I'm starting to get a few reports of adult rice water weevils, and we're having a little trouble timing Karate treatments with the windy conditions. We haven't had the big waves yet that develop when it gets warmer. Temperatures have really been bouncing around with some unseasonable highs and lows, but it's probably averaged out to about normal."

Arlen Klosterboer, Texas Extension Agronomist: "Along the coast, we generally got at least 1" of rain, particularly east of Houston, and it's still raining there right now (Tuesday morning). It was needed, no two ways about it. We hadn't had a sign of rain in that part of the country, and those shallow soils were dry. As of last Thursday, we were 75% planted, so it's probably 85% to 90% now, and we may be close to 75% emerged. A few guys are close to flooding a relatively small amount of acreage."

Rusty Elston, Pest Management Enterprises, Cheneyville, La.: "We got 2" of rain Monday night, and it's sprinkling now (Tuesday morning). We needed it for the cotton but not the rice, since we're mostly water-planted rice. We'll take the rain to fill

the canals, but it's interfering with some herbicide work. Wind has interfered with herbicide applications and seeding, too. We're close to putting a permanent flood on a small amount of acreage. Between 25% and 30% of our expected crop is up. Planting is running about 60-40 Cocodrie and Cypress, and it may even be a little more than that for Cocodrie by the time we're finished."

Chris Goerig, Helena Chemical Co., Ganado, Texas: "Some areas got rain Monday night. East Bernard got about 1", but El Campo and Ganado got just enough to settle the dust. The rowcrops are a little thirsty now. In most areas down here we're 90% to 95% planted, and about all that's left is the acreage that tends to get planted late every year. We've got both preplant and topdressing going out right now."

Midsouth:

Joe Street, Mississippi Extension Rice Specialist, Stoneville, Miss.: "We got a little more planted last week. We're probably 40% to 50% planted. Any rain this week will help get some rice out of the ground that's already planted but it will delay folks who really do need to get

Continued on next page

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back in the field. The wind has continued to make it tough to get herbicides out after planting. We've been dealing with some 15-20 mph gusts."

Rudy Randleman, Rudy's Field Service, Paragould, Ark.: "We're 90% planted, which is running ahead of normal. Maybe 5% has emerged. It started raining about noon today (Monday) and we've gotten a half-inch this afternoon so far. It was needed. We missed a rain a couple of weeks ago that helped everyone north and south of here. We haven't flushed any yet but we were getting ready to start. Wells appears to be our predominate variety following by Cocodrie."

Brad Koen, Area Extension Rice Agronomist, Stuttgart: "We're close to 80% planted now on the Grand Prairie and 60%, on average, statewide. Rain so far today (Monday) has helped a good deal in some places that were on the verge of flushing. Areas in the north part of the state have had one of the driest Aprils in a long time. I suspect some fields still didn't get enough this week. Command and a lot of Facet and Prowl have gone out, and it needed moisture to reactivate it. Rice, overall, looks good. The cool snap last week yellowed it up some, but the crop appears to be bouncing back. About 40% of the crop has emerged, and we're still a little ahead of normal. At this point, we generally expect 20% to 30% of the crop to be up. A lot of rice is trying to poke through now, so this rain should help push emergence. A lot of Arrosolo and propronil have been applied. There's been some concern about applications made during the cool snap not working very well, but activity appears to be okay. Command seems to be doing a pretty good job, and as long as we get the rains we'll be okay. Even our earliest rice is still 2-3 weeks from any flood."

Bill Killen, Bill Killen Consulting Services, Cleveland, Miss.: "We got rained out this afternoon (Monday) where I was checking west of

Hollandale. It rained pretty hard. That area needed the rain, and we were close to turning on some wells where rice had sprouted but had a heavy crust from earlier rain. We're 50% planted south of U.S. 82 and 30% to 40% north of the highway. As much as we needed the rain in places, some folks near Moorhead and east of Cleveland haven't planted the first seed. They've caught every shower that's come through. They were scratching the ground for the third time when this rain started. We're going real heavy with Cocodrie and Priscilla. Cocodrie may be running short. Wind and rain last week kept us from getting Command out on quite a few fields. We're ahead of normal in terms of acres planted. Some was damaged by frost last week but should be alright. This year, about 50% of my acres are planted no-till, which is at least double the amount in 2000."

Darrell Hess, Jimmy Sanders, Inc., Wynne, Ark.: "We got a quarter-inch of rain Monday but we needed a bigger one than that. We've got a lot of Command on the ground that needs to be activated but haven't had a substantial rain in 3 to 4 weeks. In fact, from April 1 to today (Tuesday), the only day we've taken off was Easter Sunday -- it's been that dry. We've got a lot of fields that need to be flushed but growers are reluctant to do it. By Thursday or Friday, we probably will be starting. We're 70% to 80% planted and 10 days ahead of last year. Wells is 50% of our acreage and Lagrue and Cocodrie are probably 20% each, then just an odd mix of other varieties. Overall, the rice that's up looks good. Plants are uniform and healthy looking. About half mine is up, maybe a little more."

Curt Johnson, Agronomy Production Specialist, Agrilience Tech Services, Dermott, Ark.: "We got a .5" to .75" of rain Monday night from Pine Bluff south, and some places probably got up to 1". It was needed. A lot of fields were planted, but we

got packing rains and a lot of wind, so the rice was struggling to get out. We're hoping the rain helps it break loose on heavier ground. We've had a lot of wind, about like last year. It's kind of like we're having March in April. It's kept us from putting out Command, and it might throw us into another mode for weed control. We also will have to take into account when to pull levees. When we were going strong two weeks ago, we got 40% to 50% planted, but most people have pulled back now to spread out harvest, so we're maybe 60% planted now. Rice increased in my area by 20% as people backed off soybeans after some significant losses last year to green bean syndrome. Predominate variety is Cocodrie, which will account for 50% or more of my acreage, followed by Cypress and some Wells."

David Guethle, County Extension Agent/Rice, Dexter, Mo.: "We got from .2" to .6" of rain across the county Monday night. Prior to that, everyone had been planting fast and furiously. Our rice is 30% to 50% planted. I'm even hearing about cotton farmers who've gotten 300 to 800 acres of cotton planted during the period. We're about a week ahead of our normal pace. Cocodrie is probably our biggest variety, with maybe 50% of the acreage, followed by Drew and then Cypress."

Kermit Kuethe, Agro Distributors, Jones, La.: "We're 55% to 60% planted, and probably 35% of that is up. In another three days, all that has been planted will probably be up. We got .6" to 1.2" of rain Monday night. It was timely -- we needed it. Wind has slowed up a lot of work. We're 90% Cocodrie, 5% Kaybonnet and a mixture of other varieties. Rice acreage is about the same as last year but we're seeing more rotation with milo and a little cotton. Soybean acreage is down due to price and the hit we took last year with green bean syndrome."