

# SoyFax: Midsouth

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**MAY 5, 2004**

Here is our first regular issue of **SoyFax: Midsouth** for 2004. We welcome Syngenta Crop Protection, maker of Quadris fungicide, as our early-season sponsor.

Thanks to the consultants, dealer reps and Extension personnel who provide the reports that we bring you each week.

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Owen Taylor, Editor

## OVERVIEW

As we closed this issue Wednesday parts of the upper Midsouth and Louisiana remained too wet for much field work or planting. But the forecast for the next 7 days calls for warmer temperatures and sunny conditions across much of our coverage area. Planting should start again later this week on a wider basis. Arkansans are still assessing damage from heavy rains last week that led to flooding. High water con-

tinues to inundate riverside acreage along the White and Cache.

A drier swath, though, still extends across parts of the south Delta. Those areas caught weekend showers, but planting has commenced again in those portions of Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

A few insect problems were reported, mainly beanleaf beetles and grasshoppers. Slugs continue to be an issue in some conservation tillage fields. Our Extension contacts in both soybeans and cotton are not finding good control measures for this pest.

These reports were made Monday afternoon, Tuesday and Wednesday.

## CROP REPORTS

**Chris Tingle, Arkansas Extension Soybean Specialist:** "Much needed rains fell in southeast Arkansas. But northeastern counties that were recovering from widespread flooding received more rain

over the weekend. We're estimating that 15-20,000 acres of soybeans were lost across seven or more counties. Corn probably took a bigger hit. Producers are closely watching the White and Cache Rivers in Woodruff, Prairie and Monroe Counties to determine if this number will increase

"Earlier in the week, sunny conditions and high winds led to quite a bit of crusting. Producers need to closely monitor those fields that haven't already emerged to determine if replanting will be necessary. Below normal temperatures over the weekend didn't help things. We're beginning to pick up rotting and seedling diseases in some saturated fields."

**David Lanclos, Louisiana Extension Soybean Specialist:** "I've seen some hail damage this week. Also, I walked a field in northeast Louisiana with beanleaf beetles destroying the crop. The biggest thing

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I see right now is that we need to get back on weed control, but with the cool nights we don't want to jump on it before conditions are more favorable to good control.

"Redvine and johnsongrass are the predominate ones. I don't think this is due to producer error. The weeds just happened to have caught a good opening. In most cases we can take them out pretty readily.

"Rains in the last week varied from an inch in north Louisiana up to nine inches in parts of south Louisiana. In parishes that got the largest amounts, water is still receding from fields. But at Lake Providence growers are actually planting.

"About 55-60% of our intended soybeans are planted, and with better weather now we could finish everything in the next week except doublecrop beans. The corn crop is very impressive. It's off to a strong start."

**Tucker Miller, Ind. Consultant, Drew, Miss.:** "Soybeans have picked up a little more cotton acreage toward the end of planting. We're getting our first shot of Roundup on everything now. A few beanleaf beetles are present, and there are scattered grasshoppers, but there are no big problems with insects."

**Grady Coburn, Consultant, Pest Management Enterprises, Cheneyville, La.:**

"We've wrapped up corn planting and have essentially finished grain sorghum, plus we've gone a long way on soybeans. We've planted beans much earlier than ever before and have really challenged the planting dates on our MG IVs. We've got soybeans now that are at third trifoliolate. Rain over the last couple of weekends did delay planting to an extent. We've got to still finish up on some of our heavy, dark clays.

"Our early soybeans have weathered adverse temperatures very well. We've mostly planted MG IVs, but we're also experimenting with a small amount of MG IIIs."

**Alan Blaine, Mississippi Extension Soybean Specialist:** "This has been a relatively quiet week. We got much-needed rain in places over the weekend, particularly south of Jackson. There's enough moisture now, we think, to finish planting the majority of the crop. There are isolated sprayings for beanleaf beetles and grasshoppers. Slugs remain a spotty problem in no-till fields. Baits are supposedly our only option, but that's not a good one.

"We're gearing up to do some Roundup applications. I'm reminding folks to look closely and don't pull the trigger too fast. With the cooler growing conditions lately, there might not be enough weeds up yet. Check, too, for insects. We don't

want them knocking off early fruit and delaying maturity.

"Overall, we're off to one heck of a great start. I hope that's indicative of how the rest of the season goes."

**Charles Denver, Denver Crop Consulting, Watson, Ark.:** "There's been a little shift in acreage due to soybean prices, maybe 5%. So much of this ground is controlled by people who have an interest in a gin that I don't see that much additional swing toward soybeans at this point. We did have people backing away from wheat last fall so they could plant early soybeans.

"In this part of the state we've planted close to 50% of our soybeans. There's obviously been a big transition to early season beans. They planted them everywhere they could. A lot of what's left will be fields with rice last year where they've still got to work the ground."

**Chuck Farr, Mid-South Ag Consultants, Crawfordsville, Ark.:** "Our super-early beans now have their first and second sets of trifoliates. Some replanting on these will occur, along with a lot of spot planting. The bulk of these seeds are still in the bag waiting for dry weather."