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# *Jeff Davis Rice Talk*

News and information for our parish's agricultural producers and dealers

June 2008

Electronic Mail .....	1	Rice Update .....	1
Seed Rice Certification .....	1	Disease Management in 2008 .....	2
Rice Field Day .....	1	Rice Stink Bug Management Tips.....	2
Rice Tour/Farmer's Breakfast.....	1	Plan Now for Second Crop.....	3
Farm Bill Update .....	1		

## Electronic Mail

In an effort to reduce publication and distribution costs, we are encouraging recipients to receive this newsletter electronically. Just call in your e-mail address, or e-mail me at [eeskew@agctr.lsu.edu](mailto:eeskew@agctr.lsu.edu), and I will add your name to my rice e-mail list.

Also, if you have access to the internet, I recommend that you visit the LSU AgCenter Rice webpage at [www.lsuagcenter.com/en/crops\\_livestock/crops/rice/](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/crops_livestock/crops/rice/).

This is an excellent source for up-to-date rice information as well as a library of past presentations, projected costs, etc. If you are interested in other crops go to [www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com) and click on "Crops & Livestock" on the left side of the page under Topics.

And don't forget to go to the Jeff Davis Parish website at [www.lsuagcenter.com/parish/jeffdavis/](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/parish/jeffdavis/) for past copies of this newsletter and other agriculture, family and consumer sciences, and 4-H youth development news.

## Seed Rice Certification

The deadline for applying for certification of seed rice is July 1, 2008. Applications must be mailed to the Louisiana Department of Agriculture (LDAF) prior to the deadline or a \$100 late fee will be assessed. Normal fees are \$15 per application (up to six fields per application) and \$.60/acre.

Application forms are available in the LSU AgCenter, Jeff Davis Parish office. In order for field inspections to be completed on time, producers are asked to notify the LDAF at least two weeks prior to harvest.

## Rice Field Day

The LSU AgCenter Rice Field Day will be held on Wednesday, July 2, 2008, at the LSU AgCenter Rice Research Station in Crowley. Field tours will begin at 7:30 a.m. with the last tour departing at 9:45 a.m. The speaker program will begin at 10:45 a.m. and lunch will be served at noon.

## Rice Tour / Farmers' Breakfast

The annual Southwest Louisiana Rice Tour and Farmers' Appreciation Breakfast is scheduled for Tuesday, July 8, 2008, beginning at the Welsh Community Center in Welsh, Louisiana.

The Jeff Davis Business Alliance is hosting the Farmer Appreciation Breakfast beginning at 7:30 a.m. All area farmers are invited.

The rice tour will begin at 9:00 a.m. from Welsh Community Center.

## Farm Bill Update

The Louisiana Rice Growers Association will be hosting a meeting on Thursday, June 19 at the LSU AgCenter in Crowley, Louisiana at 7:00 p.m. to review the 2008 Farm Bill. There are some issues impacting producers and landlords that will be addressed. Anyone interested in agriculture is invited.

## Rice Update

A majority of our rice crop has reached the green ring stage, and has moved into a very important stage of development.

This year we had a considerable number of acres planted later than normal due to crawfish fields being drained, so they will not be in green ring for another couple of weeks. With an increased number of acres in soybeans this year, use of 2,4-D on these rice acres this late may be restricted. Growers in these situations need to be looking at other alternatives to 2,4-D on these last planted acres.

This problem goes the other way also. With the increased number of soybean acres, there will be a greater chance of Roundup drift on rice this year. This can cause significant yield loss, and will not show symptoms until the rice begins to head. Everyone needs to be aware of what crops are downwind and what the weather conditions are. If winds change, applications may need to be stopped and started

again when winds die down. This goes for both aerial and ground application.

This time of year we begin seeing some rice fields that are “yellowing” or showing signs of nitrogen deficiency, even with top-dress nitrogen applied. If you feel like you need, or want to add nitrogen, you can still make an application of 20-30# of actual N no later than ½ inch head development. With the cost of fertilizer this year, that may make the decision for most growers. If you feel like you applied enough, and confident that you didn't have any major factors that would have contributed to nitrogen loss, go with what you have.

### Disease Management in 2008

One of the most difficult decisions to make in rice farming is whether or not to apply a fungicide for disease management. Even though we have made all of the right cultural management decisions up to this point, it is still tough to make that call to spray. However, with rice prices as high as they are today, and with the successful season we had last year, I expect a large percentage of acres will be treated in 2008.

One of the reasons that make fungicide decisions so difficult is that some diseases do not manifest themselves until after heading. In other words, you don't know if you are going to have the disease or not. Two of these diseases are rotten neck blast and Cercospora (narrow brown leaf spot). We haven't had a blast outbreak in about ten years, so we will continue to not worry too much about this one until we get hit. Cercospora, on the other hand, caused disastrous yields in 2006. This disease causes infection during the boot stage, but doesn't show symptoms until about 30 days later, which is just prior to draining.

Our most important disease year in and year out is sheath blight. This disease, however, can be monitored because you can watch its progression up through the canopy of the plant. It is a very easy decision to make to spray for sheath blight.

With this in mind, the next question is when is the best time to treat. Until 2007, most of our fungicide treatments were made from 50% - 85% rice plants heading. This gave best protection from blast and good protection from sheath blight. However, the best control of Cercospora is when the panicle is 2” – 4” in the boot. According to Dr. Don Groth, Plant Pathologist at the Rice Research Station in Crowley, this time will also give better control of sheath blight than the heading stage. This is what the majority of growers did in 2007. As a result, we had excellent yields and little disease pressure. This does not indicate that our fungicide program was entirely responsible for our good yields, but it was a part of it. From all indications from the field, most fungicide applications this year will follow the same pattern – spraying prior to heading.

If you are going to treat for Cercospora, propiconazole has the best activity of the labeled fungicides. The rate is 6 oz./acre. There are several products on the market, but to be effective on both Cercospora and sheath

blight, you need to apply the equivalent rate of 6 oz. of propiconazole (Tilt) plus 9 oz. of azoxystrobin **or** the equivalent of 6 oz. of propiconazole (Tilt) plus 9 oz. of trifloxystrobin (Gem). Either of these two combinations will give us the best control. As mentioned above, there are several products that provide the active ingredients discussed. To get the proper amount, you will need to make combinations of products. At the end of this newsletter. At present, there is no recommended scouting method for Cercospora except to look at the lower leaves for the narrow brown leaf spot lesions. If the disease is present, there is no treatment threshold for spraying so fungicides will have to be applied preventative.

### Rice Stink Bug Management Tips

Rice stink bugs (RSB) are increasing in numbers along levees and grassy weed patches in central and southern rice fields. As rice fields start heading out, RSB move to rice panicles and start feeding on developing heads.

*Recommended products for rice stink bugs (RSB) control in rice include (in alphabetical order):*

1. Karate Z – 0.025-0.04 lb. A.I./acre or 1.6-2.56 fl. oz./acre
2. Malathion 57% EC – 0.6-0.9 lb A.I./acre or 1-1 ½ pints/acre
3. Methyl parathion 4EC – 0.75 lb A.I./acre or 1 ½ pints/acre
4. Mustang Max – 0.0165-0.025 lb A.I./acre or 2.64-4.0 fluid ounce/acre
5. Prolex – 0.0125 – 0.02 lb A.I./acre or 1.28 – 2.05 fluid oz/acre
6. Proaxis – 0.0125 – 0.02 lb. A.I./ acre or 3.20 – 5.12 fluid oz./acre
7. Sevin 80S – 1 ¼ - 1 ⅜ lb. of prod./acre
8. Sevin 4F – 1 – 1 ½ qts. product/acre

*Current economic thresholds are:*

1. First two weeks of rice heading: 30 RSB per 100 sweeps (3 bugs per 10 sweeps)
2. Starting two weeks after heading until two weeks before harvest: 100 RSB per 100 sweeps (10 RSB in 10 sweeps).

Start scouting when rice is at least 50% headed.

*Please remember the following for an effective RSB management:*

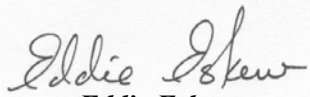
1. Tank mixtures (insecticide and fungicide) are effective for controlling the RSB as long as the mixture is applied when rice is at least 50% headed. **Prior studies showed tank mixtures applied one week before head emergence are not effective against RSB.**

2. The RSB is a highly mobile insect. Once RSB adults accumulate in grassy areas near rice fields, they move to rice as soon as rice starts heading.
3. Controlling grassy weeds is effective in reducing RSB accumulation and infestations only if done throughout the rice growing season. However, if you wait to control weed grasses until your rice is heading or within two weeks from heading and RSB are already present in those areas, you are just encouraging RSB to move to rice.
4. If blooming grasses are abundant in the vicinity, you may get continuous RSB re-infestations to headed rice. In such cases, starting your spray program with Methyl will give you only two days of protection (or only one day) and you may have a re-infestation by the second or third day. If re-infestation is likely, you may want to start your spray program using one of the pyrethroids or carbamates recommended and then rotate with Methyl for your second treatment.
5. For a more effective insecticide treatment, schedule your scouting and your application before 11 a.m. and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. RSB move to the lower portions of the plant during hot hours and are less exposed to a chemical spray.
6. Field observations also indicate RSB numbers decrease after a heavy rainstorm. We do not know the exact reason for this, although it may be caused by a combination of factors such as increased natural enemy activity, abundance or succulent grasses to feed on, physical knockdown of immature RSB by rain drops, etc. However, this decrease in numbers is only temporary and scouting should be resumed by the second day of a heavy storm.

acre when the first crop is harvested after August 15. A nitrogen rate in the upper end of these two ranges of application should be applied if there is minimal field rutting, little or no red rice in the first crop, and healthy first crop stubble remaining after harvest. The nitrogen fertilizer should be applied immediately following first crop harvest, and a shallow flood should be established as quickly as possible.

Timing is absolutely critical for the second crop, because the number of available hours of sunlight for growth and development of the rice plants decreases each day as fall approaches.

*Sincerely,*



**Eddie Eskew**  
**County Agent**  
**Jeff Davis/Allen Parishes**

Visit our website at:  
[http://www.agctr.lsu.edu/parish/jeff\\_davis/](http://www.agctr.lsu.edu/parish/jeff_davis/)

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### **Plan Now for Second Crop**

It is never too early in the year to start thinking about second cropping options. The production and harvest of a second crop can potentially increase the productivity per acre in areas such as south Louisiana where environmental conditions in late summer and fall are often favorable for harvesting a second crop, which develops from the stubble remaining after the main crop has been harvested.

If a farmer plans to produce a second crop, then that should be considered for every management decision made throughout the entire season. Management decisions for the first crop will in some way affect the second crop. Variety, planting date, fertilization, weed, disease and insect management in the first crop will influence the development and, ultimately, the yield of the second crop.

With narrow profit margins in rice production during the past few years, the interest in maximizing second crop production has increased. The LSU AgCenter recommendation for second crop production is application of 75 to 90 pounds of nitrogen per acre when the first crop is harvested before August 15, or application of 30 to 45 pounds of nitrogen per

**July 2, 2008**

**LSU AgCenter Rice Research Station**

**Rice Field Day**

**Crowley, LA**

**Tours 7:30 a.m.**

**Program 10:45 a.m.**

**Lunch 12:00 p.m.**

**July 8, 2008**

**7:30 a.m.**

**Jeff Davis Business Alliance**

**Farmer Appreciation Breakfast**

**Welsh Community Center**

**Welsh, LA**

**July 8, 2008**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Southwest Louisiana Rice Tour**

**Welsh Community Center**

**Welsh, LA**