

March 4, 2010

The Headrow



Recommendations, reminders and research updates from Extension

RICE GROWER MEETING
SOIL TESTING FOR SALT
NEW VARIETIES
FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING

RICE RESEARCH
STATION FIELD DAY
VERMILION RICE FIELD TOUR
BLACKBIRD PROGRAM

Rice Grower Meeting

Our next Vermilion Rice Grower Meeting will be at our office on **Wed. March 10, 2010 at 7 p.m.** Dr. Saichuk will be the guest speaker. Everyone is invited, but please **rsvp** if you plan to attend.

Soil Testing for Salt

With the tremendous rainfall we had lately salt won't be a big issue for growers. However, we still have a few isolated pockets where levels are still testing above the recommended 750ppm planting threshold.



New Varieties

Two new Clearfield rice varieties will be available in 2010. The lines are named **CL111** and **CL261**.

CL111 is a very early maturing, short-stature, long-grain variety. It will be the **earliest Clearfield long-grain variety available** for commercial production in Louisiana. It has averaged 79 days from emergence to 50 percent heading compared with 83 for both CL151 and CL131. CL111 was originally selected from the cross 9502008-A/'Drew'///CFX-29//AR 1142/LA 2031 made at the Rice Research Station in 2003. CL111 is susceptible to sheath blight and blast and moderately susceptible to straighthead disorder.

It has averaged slightly below CL151 in per acre yield in multi-location, multi-year testing. It has, however, shown consistently high whole-grain milling yields and a lower percentage of chalky grains in milled rice samples. CL111 has also displayed excellent second crop yield potential in limited testing over the previous few years.



Experimental plot of CL261 at the Rice Research Station

CL261 is an early maturing, semidwarf, medium-grain Clearfield rice variety. It will be the **first commercially available medium-grain variety in the Clearfield production system**.

CL261 was originally selected from the cross 'Bengal'/'CL161' made at the Rice Research Station in 2002. CL261 is susceptible to sheath blight and blast and moderately susceptible to straighthead disorder. CL261 has shown good resistance to lodging. CL261 is earlier in maturity than most other medium-grain varieties, averaging 79 days from emergence to 50 percent heading. The new medium-grain variety has shown good and consistent yield performance in limited testing. Cereal chemistry characteristics for the new variety are consistent with those for other southern U.S. medium-grain varieties. The milling quality (whole-grain milling yields) has been exceptional, and milled grain appearance is very

FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING

The Farm Bureau Commodity Meetings will be held June 25-27, 2010 in New Orleans.

RICE RESEARCH STATION FIELD DAY

The annual Rice Research Station Field Day will be held Wednesday, July 1, 2010.

VERMILION RICE FIELD TOUR

The 26th Annual Vermilion Parish Rice field Tour will be held on Tuesday July 6, 2010

BLACKBIRD PROGRAM



After starting on Feb 8th the blackbird baiting program continues to bait areas with high bird concentrations. It is important to take advantage of this treatment window before wide scale plowing and planting encourage birds to disperse and make baiting ineffective.

Once planting begins baiting birds simply does not work.

If you are aware of any flight lines, accessible roosts or baiting locations please contact Ross Hebert, Tim Robin with LDAF, Allen Wilson (ADC) or myself.

The Blackbird Management program will last until mid-March. The blackbirds are baited with a product called DRC 1339. Even though the birds excrete the toxicant before dying, blackbirds should not be eaten during this time.

VERMILION RICE VERIFICATION PROGRAM

Due to agent and personnel cutbacks in the LSU AgCenter we will not have a rice verification field in Vermilion Parish this year. However, Dr. Saichuk hopes fewer verification fields will allow him an opportunity to work more closely with young agents and to make more farm visits.

BURNDOWN WEED CONTROL

It is time to think about using a herbicide to burndown winter weeds. Enclosed is a list of these products. Note that some burndown herbicides can have a planting restriction. In cool weather some burn down herbicides take longer to work and may not be as effective.

With the help of Dr. Eric Webster and a couple of his student workers, we put out a plot

at David LaCour's on January 22, 2010 to compare what burn down might work best on *fimbristylis*. In addition the plots had a good population of *juncus*, spike rush, dock, *mazus*, and *buttercup*. The 4 treatments applied were from left to right:

Tx. 1: roundup weathermax 1.5pt./acre

Tx. 2: roundup weathermax 1.5pt./acre + .5 oz permit

Tx. 3: roundup weathermax 1.5pt./acre + 2 oz valor

Tx. 4: roundup weathermax 1.5pt./acre + .8 oz firstshot

Along with Dr. Saichuk, and a few consultants we have gone back and evaluated the plots a few times. The cool weather has made it diffi-



cult to get a good handle product efficacy. The consensus seemed to be that the roundup/valor followed by the roundup/firstshot had the best overall activity.

We have also been monitoring a plot with a considerably more mature and denser population of weeds at Johnny Boudreaux's that was sprayed by plane around Jan. 26, 2010 with the same roundup/first shot combination. Because First Shot does not have a plant back restriction we expect some farmers to couple it with Roundup instead of 2,4-D for broadspectrum weed control close to planting time. The first shot roundup combination appears to have had good initial activity at Johnny's, but we will continue to monitor the decline of the spike rush, *juncus* and sedges in field before drawing any conclusions.



PLANTING DATES

The optimum planting dates for our area is March 15th to April 20th. Average daily temperatures need to be above 65 degrees for rice to develop properly. Plant by April 15th for a good second crop potential.

Dermacor vs. Cruiser With planting time quickly approaching here is one more thing to ponder. Do I spend the money or a seed treatment up front for rice water weevil control when I drill plant my rice or do I depend on scouting, draining or pyrethroids later in the season? Below, LSU AgCenter Entomologist Dr. Mike Stout tries to simplify your decision.

Options for control of rice water weevils and other early-season pests

- Dermacor X-100 seed treatment
- Cruiser Maxx seed treatment
- Adulcicidal pyrethroids: Karate, Mustang Max, Prolex, etc.

The seed treatments cannot be used in water-seeded rice!!!!

Spectrum of activity: what pests do they control?

Dermacor X-100	Cruiser Maxx
X Rice water weevil	X Rice water weevil
Colaspis	X Colaspis
X Stem borers	Stem borers
Sucking pests –chinch bugs, aphids	X Sucking pests –chinch bugs, aphids
X Other Legs – fall armyworm	Other Legs – fall armyworm
X South American Rice Miner	South American Rice Miner

You might consider using Dermacor if...

- Field has a history of heavy weevil infestations or borer infestations
- You are nervous about lack of data on Cruiser at low seeding rates or lack of commercial data for weevil efficacy

You might consider using Cruiser Maxx if...

- You think you may have problems with colaspis
- You are worried about early-season diseases or early season sucking pests (chinch bugs & aphids)

Is the use of seed treatments in Louisiana justified?

- More expensive – up to \$20 per acre
- “Economic threshold” = density of weevil larvae at which benefits > costs
- Yield loss from weevils: 0.5% - 1% per larva
- For drill-seeded rice, ~3-5 larvae per core sample
- In Dr. Hummel’s demo trials, 2009: 11/12 fields exceeded this threshold, 11 larvae per core average
- The presence of other sporadic pests further justification

What if you don’t use a seed treatment?

- Foliar (aerial) applications of pyrethroids the other choice
- Pyrethroids cheaper, can be used in water-seeded rice
- All of the pyrethroids are essentially equivalent
- If any of the secondary/sporadic pests are present in the field, pyrethroids will kill
- Scouting is necessary

Hybrid vs. Conventional/Clearfield Rice Economic Comparison

Recently I was at a meeting where LSU AgCenter Rice Economist, Dr. Mike Salassi presented some data that he has collected that takes into consideration the differences in seed costs, nitrogen and fungicide rates between conventional, hybrid and Clearfield rice and draws some economic conclusions on net returns. Basically the bottom line of the data in the two charts below are presented in terms of the how much extra rice would have to be produced to cover the added costs of planting hybrids.

Required Hybrid Rice Breakeven Yield Increase
Tenant-operators (70/30 crop share)

Change in Production Cost for Hybrid Rice	XL723		CLXL729/745	
	Main Crop Only	Main Crop + Ratoon	Main Crop Only	Main Crop + Ratoon
Seed	69.00	69.00	90.00	90.00
Nitrogen – Main	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20
Nitrogen – Ratoon	–	8.40	–	8.40
Fungicide	(9.50)	(9.50)	(9.50)	(9.50)
Total Change ¹	\$63.70	\$72.10	\$84.70	\$93.10
Required Breakeven Yield Increase (lbs/A): ²				
@ \$12.00/cwt	896	1,014	1,191	1,309
@ \$13.00/cwt	815	923	1,084	1,192
@ \$14.00/cwt	748	847	995	1,094
@ \$15.00/cwt	691	782	919	1,010

¹ Total change in production costs excluding drying and hauling cost.
² RBEYield = (increase in costs per acre) / (rough rice price per cwt – drying & hauling costs per cwt) x gross crop share %
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Required Hybrid Rice Breakeven Yield Increase
Owner-Operators or Cash Rent

Change in Production Cost for Hybrid Rice	XL723		CLXL729/745	
	Main Crop Only	Main Crop + Ratoon	Main Crop Only	Main Crop + Ratoon
Seed	69.00	69.00	90.00	90.00
Nitrogen – Main	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20
Nitrogen – Ratoon	–	8.40	–	8.40
Fungicide	(9.50)	(9.50)	(9.50)	(9.50)
Total Change ¹	\$63.70	\$72.10	\$84.70	\$93.10
Required Breakeven Yield Increase (lbs/A): ²				
@ \$12.00/cwt	627	710	834	917
@ \$13.00/cwt	571	646	759	834
@ \$14.00/cwt	524	593	697	766
@ \$15.00/cwt	484	548	644	708

¹ Total change in production costs excluding drying and hauling cost.
² RBEYield = (increase in costs per acre) / (rough rice price per cwt – drying & hauling costs per cwt)

Hybrid vs. Conventional/Clearfield Rice Summary Points

- Gross returns from hybrid rice production are influenced by change in yield (+) and possibly change in price (+/-).
- Primary increase in hybrid rice production cost is in seed cost, although fertilization, drying and hauling are also higher, with fungicide cost potentially lower.
- For XL723 @ \$15.00/cwt., breakeven main crop yield increase of 484 lbs/acre for owner-operators or cash-rented land and 691 lbs/acre for crop share tenant-operators (70/30).
- For CLXL729/745 @ \$15.00/cwt., breakeven main crop yield increase of 644 lbs/acre owner-operators or cash-rented land and 919 lbs/acre for crop-share tenant-operators (70/30).
- Reductions in rough rice market price would increase required breakeven yield increases.

Sincerely,

Stuart J. Gauthier
County Agent
Vermilion Parish

SJG/dl
enclosures

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PLANT BACK INTERVAL FOR POPULAR RICE BURNDOWN HERBICIDES

2,4 D AMINE: Sold under various trade names
30 days prior to planting (consult individual labels)

CLARITY: Refer to label

FIRST SHOT: No plant back interval
Adjuvant required
Apply before planting with other burndown products

GLYPHOSATE: No plant back restrictions
Apply anytime before, during, or after planting but before rice emergence
In water seeded rice, apply herbicide to drained field only and do not re-flood field for 8 days

GRAMOXONE EXTRA: No plant back interval
Apply anytime before, during, or after planting but before rice emergence
Tips: use a crop oil or surfactant
Gramoxone is a contact herbicide that is excellent on small annual broadleaves
And grasses
Use this herbicide with caution due to extreme toxicity
Do not flood/flush within 48 hours of application to ensure complete kill of
Vegetation

GRANDSTAND R: 21 days prior to planting in drill-seeded rice
14 days prior to planting in water seeded rice
Use a nonionic surfactant or crop oil concentrate

IGNITE 280: No plant back restrictions

VALOR: 30 days prior to planting
Best when applied with a glyphosate formulation

Below is a table that shows the fluctuations in acres, production levels , and prices over the last 61 years. It is interesting to reflect on some of the high and low values we have experienced over this time period. For example in 1999 we produced 3.3 million barrels of rice compared with only nine hundred thousand barrels following Rita in 2006.

Vermilion Parish Historical Rice Acreage, Yields and Values

<u>Years</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>(Brls./Acre)</u>	<u>Total Brls.</u>	<u>Price/Brl.</u>	<u>Value</u>
1949	127,363	11.7	1,490,147	7.08	\$10,550,241.47
1954	151,955	15.4	2,340,107	6.9	\$16,146,738.30
1959	94,949	19.6	1,861,000	7.5	\$13,957,503.00
1964	109,841	21.7	2,383,550	7.84	\$18,687,029.65
1969	134,183	21.2	2,844,680	7.08	\$20,140,331.57
1972	114,507	25	2,862,675	9	\$25,764,075.00
1973	138,000	21	2,898,000	17.5	\$50,715,000.00
1974	140,137	23	3,223,151	15.5	\$49,958,840.50
1975	140,000	22	3,080,000	14.25	\$43,890,000.00
1976	115,810	23.5	2,721,535	10.58	\$28,793,840.30
1977	106,000	21	2,226,000	12.8	\$28,492,800.00
1978	119,438	22	2,627,636	12	\$31,531,632.00
1979	110,701	23	2,546,123	15.4	\$39,210,294.20
1980	122,480	20	2,449,600	17.17	\$42,059,632.00
1981	111,750	22.5	2,514,375	15.8	\$39,727,125.00
1982	102,000	25.8	2,631,600	12.8	\$33,684,480.00
1983	64,635	21.5	1,389,653	15	\$20,844,787.50
1984	81,118	24.5	1,987,391	12.5	\$24,842,387.50
1985	69,540	25	1,738,500	12.96	\$22,530,960.00
1986	68,100	30.7	2,090,670	11.66	\$24,377,212.20
1987	69,064	27.6	1,906,166	9.07	\$17,288,929.25
1988	86,254	26.1	2,251,229	12.31	\$27,712,633.91
1989	82,906	22.8	1,890,257	12.07	\$22,815,399.58
1990	90,105	27.8	2,504,919	10.53	\$26,376,797.07
1991	91,460	25.4	2,323,084	12.15	\$28,225,470.60
1992	101,154	21.5	2,174,811	11.34	\$24,662,356.74
1993	89,263	25	2,231,575	9.72	\$21,690,909.00
1994	98,634	29.1	2,870,249	11.34	\$32,548,628.20
1995	91,860	30	2,755,800	11.74	\$32,353,092.00
1996	93,729	33.5	3,139,922	16.77	\$52,656,483.56
1997	97,648	30.4	2,968,499	16.2	\$48,089,687.04
1998	101,213	27.1	2,742,872	15.39	\$42,212,804.70
1999	99,791	33.1	3,303,082	11.75	\$38,811,214.68
2000	62,712	33	2,069,496	9.1	\$18,832,413.60
2001	87,276	35.5	3,098,298	8.42	\$26,087,669.16
2002	86,027	32.5	2,795,878	6.48	\$18,117,286.20
2003	67,073	34	2,280,482	10.95	\$24,971,277.90
2004	83,232	32	2,663,424	12.96	\$34,517,975.04
2005	76,361	34.5	2,634,455	11.42	\$30,085,470.39
2006	33,543	29.5	989,519	14.42	\$14,268,856.77
2007	48,699	40	1,947,960	16.52	\$32,180,299.20
2008	61,788	36.1	2,230,547	27.78	\$61,964,590.10
2009	41,127	41.5	1,706,771	21.43	\$36,576,091.82
Average	94,498	27	2,404,318	13	\$30,208,169