

Dr. Chuck Wilson, Dr. Rick Cartwright, Dr. Bob Scott, and Scott Stiles

**May 25, 2010**

**No. 2010 – 6R**

**INTRODUCTION** – This is the fourth issue of the Arkansas Rice Newsletter for the 2010 production season. If you know of someone who would like to be added to the e-mail list, please send an e-mail to [cwilson@uaex.edu](mailto:cwilson@uaex.edu).

I have set up a blog to distribute information in addition to the newsletter. If you are interested, you can visit the blog at <http://arkansasrice.blogspot.com>

**CROP CONDITION AND PROGRESS** –

The weather this spring has allowed rice to be planted across most of the state at record pace. As of May 23, farmers had planted an estimated 98 percent of the rice acreage. This compares to 97 percent last week and only 79 percent this time last year. It is also ahead of the five-year average of 92 percent for this week. The USDA estimates that 95 percent of the rice acreage has emerged. This compares to 65 percent last year at this time and 81 percent for the five-year average. Our planting progress is 2-3 weeks ahead of the five-year average and a month ahead of last year. As of May 23, 16 percent of the crop is reported to be in excellent condition, 52 percent good, 27 percent fair, and 5 percent poor.

Average temperatures were near normal ranging from 1 degree below normal at Conway to 3 degrees above normal at Monticello and Little Rock for the week ending May 23. Low temperatures ranged from 48 degrees at Calico Rock to a high of 94 degrees at Brinkley and Little Rock. Rainfall for the week ending May 23 ranged from a low of a trace at West Memphis to a high of 3.4 inches at Morrilton.

Overall, soil moisture supplies were 6 percent short, 67 percent adequate, and 27 percent surplus. Much of the rice is reaching the stage for flood establishment and several thousand acres have already been flooded. Remember to wait until the soil dries to apply pre-flood nitrogen fertilizer and then apply a shallow flood as quickly as possible.

Very early estimates suggest that CL 151 is the most widely planted variety so far (about 23 percent of the acreage). The next most widely planted varieties are Wells (16 percent), Rice Tec CL XL 745 (16 percent) and Jupiter (12 percent). These numbers are preliminary and may change as we get more information available.

**DON'T FORGET TO ENROLL IN THE RICE DD50 PROGRAM** -

The 2010 version of the Arkansas Rice DD50 Program is up and running. Five new varieties have been added to the program for 2010. The program can be accessed through the county extension office or online at: <http://dd50.uaex.edu/dd50Logon.asp>. In order to enroll, you need the variety name, the emergence date, and the number of acres. The program will predict the timing of approximately 27 different production practices. This allows growers and consultants to be more efficient in scouting the crop and more timely with treatments. On-time decisions can often be the difference between success and failure.

**PREFLOOD UREA CRITICAL TO HIGH YIELDS**

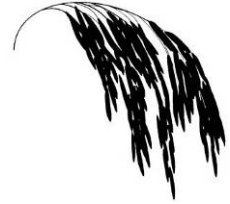
Most growers know the importance of nitrogen fertilizer on their rice crop. However, it is important to remember that the pre-flood

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nitrogen sets the yield potential for the crop. Midseason nitrogen may help the crop when the nitrogen has “run out.” However, midseason nitrogen usually cannot make up for mismanaged pre-flood nitrogen. Because of this, it is always a good idea to refresh our memory of how management decisions can impact the rice crop’s ability to get the most of the fertilizer.

Urea needs to be applied to dry soil to prevent loss. Even when it seems that it is not possible to get the soils dry, patience is king. The loss from fields where urea has been applied to early tillering rice in muddy or flooded soils can approach 50 percent to 60 percent. Even with Agrotain, the loss on muddy soil can approach 25 percent. Application of Agrotain-treated urea to dry soil results in less than 5 percent to 10 percent loss. Since less nitrogen is lost, rice uptake is more efficient.

Agrotain is worth the investment for most producers. If you can flood in two days or less, you probably don’t need Agrotain. Otherwise, Agrotain is recommended. There are other products being promoted as “Agrotain alternatives,” “generic Agrotain” or “Agrotain replacements.” We have tested N-Zone, X-tend, Nutrisphere and Upgrade and found that Agrotain is the only product that reduces ammonia volatilization losses.

How dry is dry? That is often the question when I recommend that urea should be applied to dry soils. In general terms, if the soil is wet enough to leave tracks when you walk, it is too wet to apply fertilizer. Also remember to think about your levee ditches. If you have several levees and can’t afford to lose that rice, the levee ditches need to be dry also.

## RICE MARKET UPDATE (Scott Stiles)

For the week ending May 21, September rice futures gained 37 cents to finish at \$11.69 per hundredweight. The contract started the week by making a new low on Monday, and trading down to \$11.13 ½. After Monday’s poor performance, September futures traded higher for the balance of the week. Technical buying, a pause in the U.S. dollar’s uptrend and unexpected export sales to Brazil contributed to the price gains.

In Thursday’s weekly USDA export sales report, a sale of 14,000 metric tons of long grain milled rice to Brazil was included. Though the sale was not large, simply the fact that Brazil purchased some rice provided a psychological impact for traders. Brazil’s last significant purchase was 342,000 tons in the 2002/03 marketing year (USDA). Brazil had a short rice crop this year and the possibility of additional purchases exists.

Along the lines of rice exports, it is worth mentioning that most rice traded globally is sold and bought in dollars. Thus, an increase in the value of the dollar diminishes the purchasing power of foreign currencies. The graph below provides a trend comparison of the U.S. dollar and September ’10 rough rice futures over the past six months.

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As mentioned earlier, a number of factors could have contributed to the price strength seen in rice last week. However, it is interesting to note that the dollar and rice futures moved in opposite directions for most of last week. Following the trend of the dollar, in conjunction with other factors, may be useful in timing additional rice sales.

Going forward, new crop fundamentals remain bearish with record U.S. and world crops currently projected for 2010/11 by the USDA. The table below provides the most recent USDA rice balance sheet for the U.S.

The 2010 U.S. crop is generally off to a good start with planting ahead of the five-year average. Monday (May 24), USDA-NASS reported that 95 percent of the rice crop has now been planted and 68 percent is in good or excellent condition.

**2010/11 Rice Outlook:**

Total U.S. rice supplies for the 2010/11 marketing year are projected to be record-high at 296.4 million cwt, up 9 percent over last year.

U.S. rice production for 2010 is projected at a record 244 million cwt.

U.S. ending stocks for the 2010/11 marketing year are expected to jump 69 percent to 51.4

million cwt, which is the largest ending stocks level seen since the 1985/86 marketing year.

The 2010/11 long-grain season-average farm price is currently projected by USDA to be in the range of \$10.00 to \$11.00 per cwt compared to \$12.90 to \$13.10 for the 2009 crop.

USDA Supply / Demand Estimates for U.S. Rice		
	Rice (million cwt.)	
	2009/10	2010/11
Planted Acreage (million)	3.14	3.41
Yield (lbs)	7,085	7,202
• Beginning Stocks	30.6	30.4
• Production	219.9	244
<b>Total Supply</b>	<b>271.4</b>	<b>296.4</b>
• Domestic Use	136	138
• Exports	105	107
<b>Total Use</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>245</b>
<b>Ending Stocks</b>	<b>30.4</b>	<b>51.4</b>
Avg. Farm Price	\$14.05- \$14.25	\$11.15- \$12.15
Source: USDA-WASDE, May 2010.		

**RICE RESEARCH VERIFICATION PROGRAM**

**Stewart Runsick – Northern Fields**

**Clay County** – The rice is at the 3-leaf stage. Newpath was applied last week.

**Cross County** – The field was sprayed with Clearpath and Permit and will be fertilized and flooded as soon as it dries out.

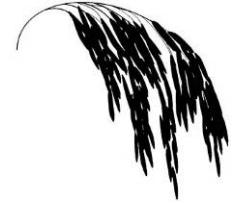
**Greene County** – The field is still clean. The rice needs to grow another week before being sprayed with the second Newpath application, fertilized and flooded.

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**Jackson County** – The Newpath and Facet is doing a good job. The field will be ready to spray, fertilize and flood when the soil dries.

**Lawrence County** – Recommendation: 4 oz/acre of Newpath, 230 lbs/acre of urea and flood. Some red rice was present, but the first Newpath is working on it.

**Lonoke County** – Waiting on the field to dry so the urea can be applied.

**Mississippi County** – Recommendation: 4 oz/acre of Newpath, 300 lbs/acre of Urea and flood.

**Poinsett County (Truman)** – Sprangletop, 3-4 leaf barnyardgrass and yellow nutsedge were present in the field. The field was sprayed with 20 oz/acre of Ricestar plus 0.5 oz/acre of Permit. Urea (230 lbs/acre) was applied after spraying the field and the flood was established.

**Poinsett County (Harrisburg)** – The first Newpath application was applied last week.

**Prairie County** – We are still waiting on the field to dry so that the levees can be repaired. We recommended an application of Regiment (0.5 oz/acre), followed by fertilizer and the flood.

**Randolph County** – The field is flooded and looks good.

**White County** – The rice is showing some stunting and yellowing from the 8 oz rate of Newpath, which was done by mistake. It should recover and be fine this week.

## **Ralph Mazzanti – Southern Fields**

**Arkansas County** – The rice is at the early tillering stage. The field has not been sprayed for over two weeks due to wind and airplane backlog. The field has 1-2 leaf signalgrass and some dayflower. The recommendation has been updated to 0.5 lb/acre Clearpath, 1 oz/acre Aim

plus 1 qt/acre oil. The field received 2.2 inches of rainfall last week.

**Ashley County** – The rice is at the 4-leaf stage. The field has been sprayed except for a 20-acre load next to housing edition. The field will be sprayed, fertilized and flooded. Fertilizer recommendation: 260 lb/acre with Agrotain. The field received 0.1 inch rainfall.

**Chicot County** – The field has been sprayed and is clean. Rice is at the early tillering stage. The field had received 100/lbs/acre ammonium sulfate and is now growing well. Preflood nitrogen is scheduled to go out as soon as ground dries. The field received 0.8 inches of rainfall last week.

**Clark County** – The field was sprayed with 4 oz/acre Newpath plus 1 qt/acre Propanil. The preflood fertilizer was applied at 225 lbs/acre urea and field is now being flooded. The field received 1.5 inches of rainfall last week.

**Desha County** – The rice is at 4-leaf stage. The field is clean and has recovered from Aim herbicide burn. The field received 0.4 inches of rainfall last week.

**Drew County** – Morning glories are in the 1-5 leaf stage. The rice is at tillering stage. Herbicide has not been sprayed. When the wind allows, we plan to apply Aim plus surfactant. DAP (100 lb/acre) was applied last week. The field received 1.3 inches of rainfall.

**Jefferson County** – Ammonium sulfate was applied at 100 lb/acre. Rice is at 3-4 leaf stage. 2-4 leaf morning glory are scattered as well as 1-leaf dayflower and signalgrass.

Recommendation: 0.5 lb/acre Clearpath, 1 oz/acre Aim plus 1 pt/acre surfactant. The field received 1.3 inches of rainfall last week.

**Lafayette County** – Ammonium sulfate was applied at 100 lb/acre. The herbicides applied were 4 oz /acre Newpath, Aim 0.5 oz/acre plus 1 pt/acre surfactant. The field is at the 4-leaf

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stage and is clean. The field received 0.7 inches of rainfall last week.

**Phillips County** – Rice is at the early tillering stage. Ammonium sulfate was applied at 150 lb/acre. Second herbicide application included 4 oz/acre Newpath, 0.33 lb/acre Facet plus 1 qt /acre oil. The field is now clean. The field received 3 inches of rainfall last week.

**St. Francis County** – Rice is now at optimum tillering stage. Morninglory, nutsedge and small signalgrass are scattered. Herbicide recommendation: Super Wham 1 gal/acre, Aim 0.5 oz/acre plus 1 pt/acre surfactant. Fertilize with 230 lbs/acre urea with Agrotain and flood. The field received 1.7 inches of rainfall last week.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Rice IPM/Consultants Meeting – Scott Matthews Shop – Weiner, Ark. Friday, May 21, 2010 at 12:00 p.m. Contact: Rick Thompson 870-578-4490.

Delta Classic Scholarship Golf Tournament – Helena Country Club – July 30, 2010. Contact: Dr. Robert Bacon 479-575-2354.

Rice Field Day – Rice Research and Extension Center – Stuttgart, Ark. – Aug. 11, 2010. Contact: Dr. Chris Deren 870-673-2661.

Pine Tree Biofuels Field Day – Pine Tree Branch Experiment Station – Pine Tree, Ark. – Aug. 5, 2009. Contact: Roger Eason 870-633-5767.

## Other Field Days

Progeny Rice and Soybean Field Day – Wynne, Ark. – July 22, 2010

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The authors greatly appreciate the feedback and contributions of all growers, county agents, consultants, and other rice industry people.

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