



The Rice Advocate

US Rice Producers Association

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Texas Rice Crop Update from Dr. Mo Way

By: Dr. Mo Way

Professor of Entomology
Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center

The Texas rice crop is growing fast now that the hot weather is here. Much of our rice crop is approaching the panicle differentiation stage which is the time when rice switches from the vegetative to the reproductive stages. This timing is critical for application of nitrogen fertilizer. Basically, do not let your crop run out of nitrogen at this time.

We all know it has been very dry during April and May. This means our rice farmers are having a difficult time getting enough water to flush and flood fields. As you all know, precision leveling and multiple inlets can dramatically reduce your water usage volume.

I have recently received calls concerning grasshoppers. Our rice fields are inhabited by 2 groups of grasshoppers---short-horned and long-horned grasshoppers. Short-horned grasshoppers have short antennae while long-horned grasshoppers have antennae that extend at least the length of their bodies. Both types of grasshoppers have chewing mouthparts, so these critters defoliate rice. Also, immature grasshoppers are called nymphs and don't have wings while adults are winged. If you find nymphs in your rice, this probably means the grasshoppers are reproducing in your fields. Nymphs do not travel from field to field because they cannot fly. Generally, yield losses are not incurred until defoliation exceeds about 25%. Most times, insecticidal control of grasshoppers is not recommended unless defoliation is severe, widespread in the affected field and grasshoppers are present. The short-horned grasshoppers are more damaging than the long-horned grasshoppers; partly due to the fact some long-horned grasshoppers are predaceous on other insects. Refer to the 2010 Texas Rice Production Guidelines for more information on specific control tactics. Yes, this publication is now available! Contact your County Extension Agent or me (moway@aesrg.tamu.edu or 409-658-2186) if you want a hard copy. You can also go to the Beaumont Center website <http://beaumont.tamu.edu> to access this bulletin electronically. I thank the Texas Rice Research Foundation

for providing funding for this publication.

Rice will be heading soon which is the time for rice stink bugs to attack. As you probably know, a Section 18 Emergency Exemption for Tenchu 20SG was recently approved for use in Texas. This insecticide possesses long residual activity (approximately 7-11 days) against the rice stink bug. For more information, refer to the above bulletin or contact me. I thank US Rice Producers Association for supporting this Section 18. Finally, methyl parathion is on the chopping block at USEPA. The last time you can use this product is during the 2013 rice growing season. Cancellation of methyl parathion can provide justification for replacement chemicals, such as Tenchu 20SG.

As always, scout your fields carefully and frequently---if you have questions, don't hesitate to contact me. If I don't know the answers, I will try to point you in the right direction. Remember, the Beaumont Center Field Day is July 8 and the David R. Wintermann Rice Research Station at Eagle Lake Field Day is June 29---hope to see you there!

Crop Survey Reports and State Newsletters

Texas A&M AgriLIFE Research Center: The latest Texas Rice Crop Survey reports are available through the Beaumont Center web site at:
<http://beaumont.tamu.edu/CropSurvey/>

University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Center: Access the latest editions of the Arkansas Rice Newsletter at:
www.usriceproducers.com/stateassociations/50-arkansas

LSU Ag Center: The latest issues of Rice Research Station News are available at:
www.usriceproducers.com/stateassociations/119-louisiana

RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas; 06/04 - Rice Crop Progress Report: Blast Detected In S. La., Ark. Starts Mid-season. (CLICK HERE)

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Delta Council Celebrates 75th Anniversary Meeting

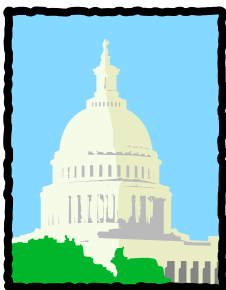
A large crowd gathered at Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi last week to participate in the 75th Annual Delta Council Meeting. With U.S. Senator Thad Cochran as the keynote speaker, the annual event honored students, council members and recognized special guests while highlighting the council as a way for Delta leaders to influence legislation and policy while shaping the agriculture future of the region. Senator Cochran congratulated the Delta Council for its years of service “to help develop consensus for government policy and programs that strengthen our state’s economy and produce job opportunities for our citizens.” While serving Mississippi in Washington DC since the 1970s, Senator Cochran went on to tell the audience, “several farm bills have had a very important impact on this region” and “I’ve always benefited from the advice of the Delta Council not only in relation to farm programs but also conservation, soil and water resources, rural development and trade incentives.” During the program many important people in the area were recognized. Delta Council President for 2009-2010 Travis Satterfield, a rice farmer from Benoit, told the crowd “it has been an honor to serve as president and I am grateful for the experience of this past year and proud to be associated with the efforts of this council.” Mr. Satterfield went on to announce Dr. Cass Pennington as the 2010-2011 as the new president. Several awards were given out at the meeting with Mr. Penn Owen, a rice farmer from Robinsonville receiving the Rice Achievement

Award for his many years of service to the Mississippi Rice Council, the Mississippi Rice Promotion Board and particularly for his energy and efforts to promote rice in Mexico and Central America as chairman of the US Rice Producers Association International Marketing Program. 🌿



Picture caption: Penn Owen (left) was given the Rice Achievement Award at the 75th annual meeting of the Delta Council last week in Cleveland. Also pictured are Mark Keenum (center), President of Mississippi State University and Mike Wagner, President of the Mississippi Rice Council and a member of the USRPA board of directors.

Senate Agriculture Committee to Hold Farm Bill Hearing This Month



This week Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) announced that the committee will hold a series of hearings starting this month on Farm Bill Reauthorization. The first hearing – with a focus on maintaining a strong U.S. farm policy – will take place on June 30 in Washington D.C.

“The farm bill is one of the most important pieces of legislation Congress considers on behalf of rural America and our nation’s farmers and ranchers,” said Lincoln. “As we look toward the upcoming farm bill, I will use these hearings to gather feedback on how the current bill is working and lay the ground work for the future of our nation’s farm, nutrition, conservation, rural development, research, forestry and energy priorities. This first hearing will focus on maintaining a sound U.S. farm policy to protect our most vital resource - our food supply. Our food security, millions of jobs and a good share of our national economy depends on the work our farmers and ranchers do every day. The farm bill is necessary and vitally important to ensure we continue to have a safe, reliable and affordable supply of food, while protecting our natural resources.”

Hearings to be held over the next several months will address different issues concerning U.S. farm policy. The Committee released a list of topics that will be covered:

Hearing 1: Maintaining Our Domestic Food Supply through a Strong U.S. Farm Policy

Date: Wednesday, June 30, 2010

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Location: Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Room 328A of the Russell Senate Office Building

Hearing 2: Revitalizing the Rural Economy through Robust Rural Development

Hearing 3: Promoting Conservation Practices that Preserve Our Natural Resources and Wildlife Habitat for Future Generations

Hearing 4: Ensuring Agriculture is Part of Our Nation’s Energy Future

USRPA will report on the dates and locations of upcoming hearings as they are announced. 🌿

General Market Update

WMP values fell again this week as USDA lowered long grain by 28 cents and medium/short by 29 cents. As noted before, WMP changes are merely indicators of what USDA is estimating price wise mainly on export Thai and Viet rice – the factors are still very, very far away from any level that would help US farmers. The weekly USDA export sales report posted a low 22,000 metric tons consisting of 8,000 tons of rough long grain to Mexico and Honduras and 8,000 tons of long grain milled to Haiti, the United Kingdom, Chile, El Salvador, and various smaller buyers. The weekly sales were completed by nearly 6,000 tons of medium milled sold to Jordan, Israel, Canada, and other smaller destinations. It goes without saying that a bigger sales tonnage figure would have been preferred, but given where we are on the 2009/10 crop marketing year calendar, these numbers are not bad. While milled rice tonnage has been fairly good this year, the paddy exports are the ones moving the ball forward. The US desperately needs more milled long grain export sales, and while there is talk of yet another Iraqi tender, help from Washington in some form would be most welcome. The politicians could start by removing the entirely outdated and universally punitive embargo on Cuba – no one is a winner with the current policy: not the US farmer, not the US taxpayer, and not the Cuban people. It is years and years past the time that the embargo should have been lifted. Moving on to better news, the USDA weekly export report showed just short of 60,000 tons being loaded out last week. The biggest portion was 25,100 tons of long grain paddy lifted for Mexico and Honduras followed by a total of 5,300 tons of long grain milled to Honduras, the United Kingdom, El Salvador, and other destinations. Japan took the majority (14,900 tons ex California) of the 23,700 tons of milled medium/short grain exported last week.

In the local markets, something in the neighborhood of only 200,000 cwts are estimated to still be in first hands in Texas, and bids remain at \$4.00 and \$3.50 over loan for traditional and hybrid varieties respectively. The supply situation is similar in south Louisiana, but no bids are reported at this time. The barge loading from that area has been substantial, but stain has been a problem in south Louisiana as well as up the Mississippi River. Offers have been heard in the Delta/Arkansas area at \$12.25 to \$12.60 loaded barge, but bids are said to be lower due to the falling futures prices. Thus far, cash is not caving in to the futures pressure. New crop rice progress continues to be reported very good by USDA, and

some analysts are predicting big new crops, not only in rice, but across the full spectrum of US farm production.

After a bit of a boost last week, Asian rice prices slipped a little this week, with Thai 100% Grade B quotes between \$460 and \$470 per ton fob vessel and par-boiled in the \$445 to \$455 fob range. Viet 5% quotes were down in the \$365 per ton area, while Pakistani 5% held steady at the \$395 level. As US and global stock markets have seen another up and down week, the Euro hit what looks to be the lowest level (below the 1.20 mark) against the Dollar in five years. Experience has indicated that currency trends are similar to interest rate trends – they tend to be long and continuous once they get some traction. If that is the case, the Euro will go lower still which will most likely keep some pressure on prices in Asia. Another side effect of the strengthening Dollar may be soft crude and therefore retreating fuel prices. On the weather front, it seems the monsoon expected in India got started on time but then stalled. It's still too early to make any sort of call on that. Way south of the border, it looks like Brazil has nearly completed its rice harvest – now we wait and see what that may mean for additional US long grain sales.

Following the Memorial Day holiday was a tough four-day week for the rice futures. Tuesday saw a July contract high of 11.725 only to have support broken to make a new low that day and every other day in the week until the Friday low of 10.745 was hit. Each subsequent overnight and morning session saw some buying which put prices back in positive territory, but erosion set in every time for a negative close from day to day. July settled on Friday down 12 at 10.835, and September was down 22 at 10.785. The short side continues to make traders wary, but where some traction will be found in this market is anyone's guess right now. As oversold as things are, the mathematics of the market continue to suggest potential for a price bounce, but where that might kick in and how high it might be are yet to be discovered. Volume for the four days was decent at a daily average just over 1,620 contracts. Open interest as of Thursday was up 379 from the previous Thursday to 15,749 contracts, which we see as virtually unchanged particularly in the face of new lows being seen every day of the week. With stocks and the European currency under pressure, crude on the defensive, and several ag markets slipping, this rocky ride may well continue for a while to come. 🌱



Rice is widely believed to have arrived in the Americas in 1694 during the slave trade through South Carolina, probably originating from Madagascar.

Announcement of Upcoming RiceTec Field Days



developing products that consistently outperform varietal rice for producers in the U.S. market as well as management practices that will increase the sustainability of rice production for the rice grower.

RiceTec would like to extend an invitation to the U.S. rice industry to any of their field days planned for the summer of 2010, which will be focused on **Options for Diversity**. At these field days, potential commercial hybrids can be viewed in side-by-side trials with current hybrids and varietal checks.

Also on exhibit will be water management experiments, where growers will be able to learn more about the

RiceTec is committed to be the industrial leader for rice innovation in the United States. With that commitment, years of research have been put into

water use efficiency of hybrid rice, visualized through rice grown on beds, conventional flood, intermittent flood, and OVERHEAD SPRINKLER IRRIGATION.

Additional information on RiceTec's commitment to seed quality, CLEARFIELD system management, weed and disease competitiveness will be discussed.

Make plans to join us at a field day near you - see the USRPA Upcoming Events calendar below.

For more information, call or email Chad Duckworth at 877.580.7423 or cduckworth@ricetec.com.

Upcoming Events

June 16, 2010	Export to Cuba Workshop, San Antonio, TX
June 20 - 21, 2010	2nd Middle East-Africa-Asia Rice Summit 2010, Dubai
June 20 - 24, 2010	RMA 111th Convention, La Costa Resort & Spa, Carlsbad, CA
June 24, 2010	RiceTec Field Day, RiceTec Headquarters, Alvin, TX
June 28 - 29, 2010	Global Grains Trade Summit, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
June 29, 2010	Eagle Lake Field Day; Eagle Lake, TX
June 29 - July 1, 2010	6th Nat'l 25x'25renewable Energy Summit, Washington, DC
June 30, 2010	RiceTec Field Day, Hundley Farm, Mowata, LA
July 1, 2010	Rice Research Station Field Day; Crowley, LA
July 8, 2010	Beaumont Field Day; Beaumont, TX
July 12 - 14, 2010	USRPA Board Meeting, Branson, MO
July 15, 2010	Agronomic Crops Field Day; Stoneville, MS
July 22, 2010	Progeny Rice & Soybean Field Day, Wynne, AR
July 27 - 29, 2010	The 3rd Africa Rice Outlook, Cape Town, South Africa
August 11, 2010	Arkansas Rice Research & Extension Field Day, Stuttgart, AR
August 12, 2010	RiceTec Field Day, RiceTec Station, Harrisburg, AR
August 18, 2010	Cache River Valley Seed Company Field Day, Cash, AR
August 26, 2010	Missouri Rice Council Field Day, Glenoville, MO
September 21 - 24, 2010	Rice Challenges in the 21st Century, Cali, Colombia
October 12 - 14, 2010	TRT World Rice Conference, Phuket, Thailand
February 1 - 2, 2011	14th Annual NCSCRC "Tillage Conf."; Baton Rouge, LA

For more information visit USRPA's online calendar at: www.usriceproducers.com/calendar



2825 Wilcrest Drive, Suite 505
Houston, Texas 77042
Phone: 713-974-RICE
Fax: 713-974-7696
rice_advocate@usriceproducers.com
www.usriceproducers.com
www.riceromp.com



Additional Resources

For economic analysis on agricultural efficiency, efficacy, and equity issues: www.ers.usda.gov

Texas Rice from A&M AgriLife Research Ctr. at Beaumont: http://beaumont.tamu.edu/eLibrary/eLibrary_default.htm

AgFax - Editor: Owen Taylor:
www.agfax.com

USRPA News & TRA Archives:
www.usriceproducers.com/news

USDA Reports Next Week

Crop Progress (NASS)	Monday, June 7, 4:00 pm
Weather Crop-Summary (NASS)	Tuesday, June 8, 12:00 pm
U.S. Export Sales (FAS)	Thursday, June 10, 8:30 am
World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (ERS)	Thursday, June 10, 8:30 am
Grains: World Markets and Trade (FAS)	Thursday, June 10, 10:00 am
World Agricultural Production (FAS)	Thursday, June 10, 10:00 am
Crop Production (NASS)	Thursday, June 10, 3:00 pm
Season-Average Price Forecasts (ERS)	Thursday, June 10, 4:00 pm
Latest U.S. Agricultural Trade Data (ERS)	Thursday, June 10, 4:00 pm
Rice Outlook (ERS)	Friday, June 11, 4:00 pm
U.S. Agricultural Trade Data Update (ERS)	Friday, June 11, 4:00 pm

All USDA reports are available by visiting http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/?navid=AGENCY_REPORTS=RT.

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