



Planting Progress Report

May 22, 2020



RT - Region One

Northeast Arkansas & Southeast Missouri

We estimated to be around 65 – 70% planted on the original intended rice acres in Region 1 but actual rice acres are starting to dwindle due to the terrible planting conditions that we have experienced all Spring. It's too early to know how many acres will be reduced but it's a fairly safe bet that most growers will probably end up with less rice than they intended to plant. We were hopeful that some progress would be made this week but weather conditions (overcast and spotty showers) have not been very conducive for drying and we are still just too wet to get much done. There have been a few guys get going again over the last couple of days, but they have mostly been jumping around trying to find ground dry enough to get a tractor across. There have also been several growers resort to alternative planting methods this week, some are water seeding and some are broadcasting and then trying to cover the seed with light tillage. Most of the rice that has been planted up to this point is emerged and a lot of it was pretty sickly-looking last week but the warmer weather this week has turned it around and it is looking much better.

A large portion of the Region is dealing with flooding from Black River again. Two weeks ago, we thought the River was in pretty good shape, but the continuous rain has just been too much for the river to handle. There is a substantial number of acres in the Black River bottoms that probably won't get planted again this year. As I write this report, rain is moving

into the area with forecasted rain for the next several days. Hopefully, we can miss some of this and get a few more acres planted. Stay safe out there and many thanks for all that you do to provide a safe and reliable food source!

RT – Region Two

Central & East Arkansas

Region 2 was about to make some significant progress on closing out this planting season when rains moved in overnight. We received 2/10" up to 1.5" across our area with the heavier rains more centralized and south. As I type this, a front is moving through that will center our northern areas, so it appears everyone will be out of the fields for Memorial Day.

We currently estimate our planted acres at 88% with roughly 79% emerged. We continue to experience very few stand issues and the warm weather has given this crop the boost that was greatly needed.

Some of our earliest hybrid rice is to the stage it can receive pre-flood nitrogen applications (120 units recommended) and go to flood; however, the bulk of the crop is still a couple of weeks away from receiving pre-flood nitrogen.

The primary focus on many of our fields is maintaining weed control until we can get to flood. The residuals have held for the most part and applications are being made to clean up escapes. Our FullPage hybrids and their complimentary herbicide product Preface are

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performing very well in the fields. We look forward to expanding our herbicide tolerant offerings next year.

We continue to have supply of our highest performing hybrids, as well as hybrid levee seed, for those who are looking for seed to complete planting. Contact your local seed retailer or us directly, as we are glad to help.

“THANK YOU!” for your business and all you do. It’s sad it takes a pandemic for the world to recognize this, but thankfully they are realizing what we have known all along!

Please continue to be safe.

RT – Region Three

South Arkansas and Mississippi

A very welcomed rain covered much of the eastern and southern part of the Grand Prairie last night (5-21). Rainfall amounts ranged from 0.5 - 1.7 inches. That will put a halt on planting for the next several days and may end planting all together in Arkansas and Phillips counties. Estimates have those areas, if the remaining acres do not get planted, at 95% finished. Growers in the AR River Valley have had a tough couple of weeks and have struggled to get much

rice planted. Heavy rains last weekend will keep folks there from planting for a while as creeks rise, flooding crop land. Growers in that area were close to 50% planted, but now, taking all things in to consideration, may be just about finished planting. Southwest Arkansas has made a good push getting to about 90% planted but have been halted by rain as well. There are still a few growers planting down there, and they intend to plant the remaining acres they have left. Overall, we have had a good run over the past 3 weeks, with most acres left to plant being low lying fields that just haven’t been able to dry up. On a positive note, a few early planted fields are now going to flood in Arkansas Co.

In southeast Arkansas, approximately 85% of the rice crop has been planted with 50% of that emerged. Rainfall in Jefferson Co. Thursday night (5/21) has brought planting to a halt in that area, with some places receiving as much as 2 inches, and rain is in the forecast again for the next seven days. Planting continues in Desha and Chicot counties, and hopefully growers will get through planting before the forecasted rain on Sunday (5/24). Pre-emerge herbicides have done an excellent job this year due to frequent rain events keeping herbicides active. Warmer temperatures have rice growing well and applications of imazethapyr herbicides have gone out providing good weed control. Things are off to a much better start than expected after the challenging weather growers have had to endure this spring.

Another good run was made on planting the crop in the southern and central portions of the of the Mississippi Delta, but the northern half has been wet all week with very little progress. Estimates have around 90% of the crop planted and 60% emerged at this point.



Gemini 214 CL in Arkansas County

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The earliest planted rice has finally turned a corner this week with warmer temperatures and is looking much better. May planted rice looks really good where we have a full stand. There is a lot of flushing on rice now where we have a half stand due to some seed not getting in the moisture at planting. A small amount of rice is going to flood now, but we are about 7 – 10 days away from taking a larger portion of the crop to flood.

RT – Region Four

Texas

With warmer temperatures and lots of sunshine over the past week, the Texas Gulf Coast rice crop is on the move. I have looked at quite a few fields this week that are already at PD and beyond. The farthest along that I have seen is at a 3-inch panicle, and the rest of the crop is catching up fast. We are noticing several fields are checking up and starting to turn yellow earlier than expected. As long as these fields are at least at a 1-inch panicle we are pulling the trigger on the boot fertilizer application a little earlier than planned. The closer to late boot that this application can be delayed the better. But if the crop is in the boot stage, the fertilizer will be utilized for grain fill and plant health rather than stem elongation. We have seen in our fertility experiments that if you fertilize the hybrids during PD, the nutrients go into stem elongation and increase lodging potential. We recommend 60 units of nitrogen for the boot application if you have intentions of ratoon cropping the field. If you are only planning on a single crop, 30 units of nitrogen is sufficient for grain fill and quality. All three of our District 14 large scale yield trials are under permanent flood with the Bay City location quickly approaching PD. All three locations are looking good and we are anticipating some good results this summer. If you have an interest in looking at any of the trials, give me a call and we can take a look, while practicing social distancing of course. We are off to a good start in the Texas Gulf Coast.

South Louisiana

We are probably 98% planted and roughly 98% emerged. In South Louisiana, a small percentage of growers will be getting back in the fields to plant over the weekend. But with more rain in the forecast throughout the next several weeks, this window of opportunity will not last long, leaving water-seeding as our only option to finish up this crop. The rice crop has continued to move along nicely with at least half at the green ring stage or later. With rain in forecast, just about all our rice acres will be in permanent flood by next week, our crop has looked great and continues along that path. Recently, I have been receiving calls concerning top dress fertilizer applications. We recommend 30 to 60 units of nitrogen depending on the amount applied pre-flood. If anyone is interested in visiting one of our local strip trials, please give me a call.

Central and NE Louisiana

This week drill seeded hybrid in Evangeline Parish is a week away from green ring, with water seeded rice not far behind. Overall, I would say the rice looks good. It still does not have the dark green look like we normally see this time of the year, but once past midseason it should get its color back. Our recommendation is to put 30 -60 units of nitrogen on at mid to late boot, depending on second crop intentions. Central Louisiana's drill seeded rice is at permanent flood, while furrow irrigated rice is getting its final herbicide applications and starting fertilizer and water routines. Overall the rice has responded well to the recent warm weather. In North Louisiana some rice is just going to flood, while other fields are just getting planted. The rice that is up is looking good and receiving fertilizer and either going to flood or getting a flush. Thank you all for the business this year and always remember we are here to help you succeed.