



Field Update

August 14, 2020



RT - Region One

Northeast Arkansas & Southeast Missouri

Most areas of Region 1 have finally received rainfall this week as several scattered rain events have moved through the area. There were some areas of the Region that hadn't received any rain in close to 60 days, so it was a very welcomed rainfall event. The milder weather the last couple of weeks has slowed down progression of the rice some but has been ideal for pollination and grain fill.

A few of the earliest planted fields have been drained this week but we are still a week or so away before widespread draining starts on the early portion of the crop. As a reminder, general draining guidelines recommend to drain heavy soils when 1/3 to 1/2 of the panicle has turned straw colored and 2/3 of the panicle on lighter soils. These are general guidelines and every field will need to be managed according to field history. When in question it is always best to wait a few more days before draining. Draining too early can increase lodging and have negative effects on milling. As tough as this crop has been to get to this point, we don't need to damage it by draining too early so be careful at this critical time.

There has been some bill bug damage starting to show up in row rice in a few places. It is still too early to tell how much damage has been done but these fields are being monitored closely as we all are trying to figure out how to best control this fairly new pest that has emerged in the last few years.

As always, stay safe out there and let us know if we can help.

RT – Region Two

Central Arkansas

In Region 2, we are within 7 – 10 days of our first rice fields going to harvest... weather permitting; however, the bulk of early rice is still 2 - 3 weeks away. Fields are changing color and draining is on the increase; all signs that harvest season is quickly approaching.

Growers are busy getting harvest equipment ready and continue to water soybeans where rains were light to non-existent. The extended forecast calls for slightly below average temperatures and rainfall, which is beneficial for harvesting the early crop but could slow down the progress of the later planted rice crop.

Speaking of the later crop, we have fields that are at midseason through early boot stage, which will require close monitoring to ensure timely applications of nitrogen and fungicides if warranted. Disease and insect pressure remain light; however, smut could become an issue in this year's late rice.

As always, please continue to be safe and contact us if you have questions or comments. You can find our contact information at the bottom of this report and on our website ricetec.com. Thank you for your business and allowing us to partner with you!

Field Update

RT – Region Three

Southern Arkansas & Mississippi

The rice crop in South Arkansas continues to move rapidly toward the finish line. Some of the earliest rice we have on the Grand Prairie has been drained, and we expect to see some combines running on a very limited basis late next week. The weather over the last couple of weeks has been favorable for pollination and grain fill, and the extended forecast looks to continue that trend. Disease pressure remains low, but we are picking up some insect pressure. Billbug damage has been seen on some row rice acres, and some rice stinkbugs are showing up in isolated places.



In Mississippi, the crop looks really good, and appears to have some strong potential. Lots of draining is happening on the heavier soils that usually take longer to dry out. We anticipate that the first harvesting should begin the week of August 24th, but it will probably be the second week of September before harvest really hits its stride.

It has definitely been a long, drawn out season, and we urge you to “stay the course” and finish out this crop strong. With the hot temperatures that August brings, pay close attention to your draining timing as pulling the water too soon could affect yields if the fields dry up too fast and auxiliary tillers aren’t able to finish filling the grains. As always, we thank you for your business, and give us a call if we can help!

RT – Region Four

Texas

With only a few hit-and-miss showers over the past couple of weeks, we are starting to make some good harvest progress across the Texas Gulf Coast. I would guess that we are past 60% harvested with most of the remaining first crop ready and waiting for the combine. Yields appear to be holding in the mid 60-barrel range with a few fields dropping into the mid 50’s. Since the passing of Hurricane Hanna, it has been very hot and humid causing the crop to mature off quicker than ideal. Before the storm, moistures were hanging in the low 20’s to high teens, and now they are dropping to the low teens before the combines can get in the field. The low grain moistures and pop-up afternoon showers have us concerned about milling quality in the fields that are being cut now, but ground conditions are firming up and we are cutting as fast as the grain elevators will allow. We harvested our Matagorda County conventional RFYT last week with excellent yield results and should be able to harvest both of our Full-page trials over the weekend.



RT7401 harvest in Rosharon, TX

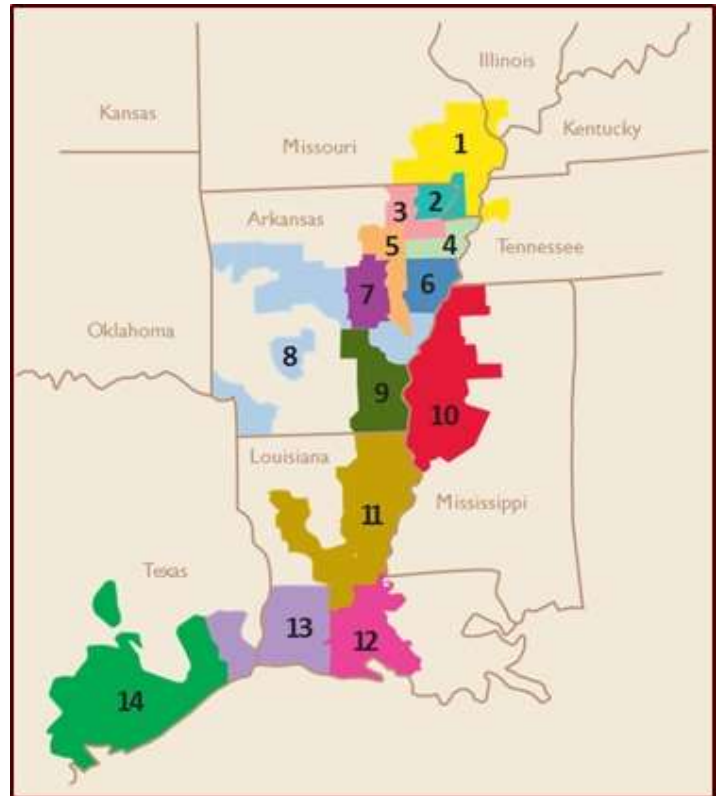
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South Louisiana

Harvest has been progressing at a steady pace this week with dryer weather and ground firming up. Southern Louisiana is approaching 50-60% harvested across most of the area. Hybrid yield reports remain strong with averages in the low 50 to low 60-barrel range. Second crop is coming back well and the potential for good ratoon yields looks promising. Four FullPage Replicated Field Yield Trials (RFYT's) have been harvested and the hybrids have averaged in the high 50-barrel range. In addition, two large conventional RFYT's have been cut with hybrid yields ranging from 55 to 65-barrels. These trials contain some new lines that look promising and we should have our first milling yields in the next couple of weeks.

Northeast Louisiana

Harvest is 75% finished in Evangeline parish. Yields continue to be very good. Growers that are ratooning their hybrid are busy manipulating stubble, fertilizing and reflooding. In central Louisiana, Concordia parish harvest just kicked off earlier this week. Lodging concerns have been reported from fields with large panicles full of grain that have experienced heavy rains and wind. Unfortunately, much of the District recently received 1 or more inches of rain. This will result in additional harvest delays but hopefully the recent weather will not exacerbate incidents of lodging. In northeast Louisiana, 80% of the crop is on its last water cycle, soon to be drained. Overall, the area rice crop looks really good and farmers are anxious to get it out of the field.



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