



Nathan Buehring
Extension Rice Specialist
Rice Update
06/30/06



Weather has pretty much been normal this week. Rains have been hit or miss and we did have a couple of morning lows that were below average, which was quite welcome. USDA reported this week that the rice crop rates as 1% very poor, 4% poor, 15% fair, 69% good, and 11% excellent. USDA also reported that 5% of our crop is heading. I have not seen any heading rice so I am not sure where those acres are located. Most of the March planted rice is now in the boot stage.

USDA also released their final rice acreage report today. Mississippi rice acres this year are estimated at 190,000, which is a 28% reduction in acres from last year. This is a significant reduction in Mississippi rice acres and it has been over 20 years since the total rice acres have been reduced to this level. Other states also took a reduction in acres, except for Missouri which stayed the same at 215,000 acres. When looking at the long grain acres, Arkansas acreage declined by 12%, Louisiana acreage declined by 33%, and Texas acreage declined by 26%. With a lot of eyes on Arkansas long grain acres, the reduction was not as great as once initially estimated or hoped. Overall, the US long grain acres decreased by 17%. Hopefully with this reduction in acres there will become some pricing opportunities become available for the 2006 crop.

This year's crop has really come around the past couple of weeks. Most of the midseason nitrogen has gone out, but we still have some rice going to flood. Most of this rice was late planted due to excessive rains in early May or because of glyphosate drift.

Last week we began to spray for sheath blight. Most of the fields that are at the treatable level are planted to CL 131 or CI 161. On both of these varieties, sheath blight moves very rapidly; therefore, waiting to make a mid- to late-boot fungicide application might be too late. Most of the Cocodrie and Cheniere acres that I have looked at have very little sheath blight progression. I would encourage you to scout your fields and know where you have sheath blight and closely monitor its progression. The past few mornings have been humid with a heavy dew. These conditions are more ideal for sheath blight development.

Other things out there looming in the future is rice stinkbugs. Initial reports from Louisiana have been high. On rice that will be the first to head, I would begin scouting soon after the heads begin to emerge. On early heading rice, rice stinkbug numbers are generally high.

Mississippi Farm Bureau is hosting its Summer Rice Policy Meeting in Cleveland on Tuesday, July 18 at the Bolivar Ag Expo Building beginning at 9:00 AM and concluding around noon. Lunch is provided, and the meeting is open to all rice growers in the state.

If you want to be added to my direct emailing list, email me at nathanb@ext.msstate.edu. Also, feel free to contact me at 662-822-7359.