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Rice Update  
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Weather this week has been plagued with high temperatures and no rain. USDA reported this week that the rice crop rates as 1% very poor, 5% poor, 15% fair, 64% good, and 15% excellent. USDA also reported that 32% of our crop is heading. Most of the early planted rice is heading all across the delta.

High temperatures have been very unwelcome. The average high at Stoneville this week is 6 degrees above normal and the average low is 2 degrees above normal. Of course with higher temperatures brings the DD50 accumulation above normal. These higher temperatures during pollination period can lead to sterility, which will in turn lead to blanking of some kernels. Right now it is very hard to quantify what affect this will have on yield. This weather will certainly not favor for high yields, but the question is how much these high temperatures lowered the yield potential of rice that was pollinating during this week. On a better note, the next 10 days are forecasted for below normal to normal temperatures.

With the absence of rainfall, wells have been running non-stop trying to keep fields flooded and/or trying to water soybeans in between. With fuel prices continuing to rise and no considerable rain forecasted, this continues to be another economically challenging year.

Sheath blight movement has slowed down due to the hot and dry conditions. However, we continue to pick up sheath blight in certain fields. Therefore, I am still encouraging you to scout and monitor each field for sheath blight. Just because we are under unfavorable weather conditions for sheath blight does not mean you will not have problems with it.

With the light to moderate sheath blight year, producers are looking at cutting a fungicide program from their program this year. With that being said, I have been getting questions on should I use a propiconazole fungicide for kernel smut prevention. Typically kernel smut is a problem in fields that have had kernel smut in the past. So you need to consider using a propiconazole fungicide if kernel smut has been a problem. Also, over fertilization can intensify a kernel smut problem. Therefore, if you have applied over 180 lb N/A (400 lb urea/A) to your rice crop you may also consider using a fungicide.

Rice stinkbug numbers for the most part have been below or at threshold levels, with a few treatments being necessary. Some border treatments have also been recommended where the rice stinkbug numbers have been high on the edges of the

fields due to escaped grass or grass allowed to head on the turn row. I would encourage you to sample away from the edges of the field because these numbers can be often misleading to how many rice stinkbugs are actually in the field.

When scouting for rice stinkbugs, I would sample early in the morning (before 10:00 am) or late in the evening (after 5:00 pm). Rice stinkbugs move lower in the canopy during the hot part of the day, which would lower your sample numbers. Our threshold is 3 rice stinkbugs per 10 sweeps for the first two weeks of heading. Four pyrethroid insecticides are currently labeled and recommended for rice stinkbug control: Karate Z (1 gallon/50 to 80 Acres), Mustang Max (1 gallon/32 to 48 Acres), Prolex (1 gallon/62 to 100 Acres), and Proaxis (1 gallon/25 to 40 Acres).

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