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Rice Update
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This week I am a little earlier than normal because of some new and emerging issues that have come up over the last few days. Therefore, I feel like it is important to get this information out in a timely manor.

Since the end of last week I have been getting calls on CL-131 having kernels very loose on the head. We did not see this to be an issue last year, even through two hurricanes. We have looked at several fields and plots over the last couple of days. Leflore County seems to be where we are seeing the problem the most. In these CL-131 fields we are finding that the kernels can easily be shaken or removed from the head, mainly on top of the panicle where the kernels are the driest. We have looked at other varieties (Cocodrie and Cheniere) and found that the kernels are a little looser than we have normally seen, but CL-131 seems to be worse. The hybrid lines have also exhibited the potential to shatter; however, we have seen this in prior experiences.

I have randomly looked at other CL-131 fields in Bolivar and Washington counties and found that kernels are somewhat loose, but not to the extent they are in the Leflore County area.

The biggest difference between last year and this year is the heat. We have had many days in excessive of 95° F and nighttime temperatures in the mid-70's. With these high temperatures CL-131 is maturing quickly, which could be making the kernels looser.

In light of these recent findings, we have established our approach on how we need to manage these field problem fields until they are in the bin.

- 1) **Draining:** We are not recommending to drain any earlier than our recommendations (half of the panicle straw color on clay soils and two-thirds to three-fourths straw color on silt loam soils). Fields that have been drained already are drying a rapid pace. Do not try to save \$5-10/A with draining early because it may cost you more than that in yield.
- 2) **Identify if you may have a problem with shattering:** Look at all of your fields (regardless of what variety or hybrid it is) as they get close to fully maturing and determine if there could be a potential of shattering. This will help you identify any particular fields that you may need to harvest first to avoid a shattering problem.

- 3) **Harvest your rice at a little higher moisture:** If you have identified a field(s) that has a potential to shatter, I would suggest starting at a moisture of 18-20%. I know with high drying cost you would like to let it dry a little more in the field. However, if high winds or a thunderstorm come through you have the potential to lose more in the field.

- 4) **Adjust your combines on a regular basis:** Just because that is the setting you had on last year does not mean it will be the proper setting for this year. Adjust reel speeds on rigid and draper headers to prevent any shattering before it gets in the combine. Be sure that your cutter bar has good blades on it to prevent any excessive vibration that may cause the rice to shatter before it gets in the combine. Adjust rpm's and platforms on stripper headers to prevent shattering as well. Also, you may need consider harvesting at a slower speed instead of just ripping through the rice. Check behind your header to be sure you are not losing any rice.

Currently, we are just in beginning stages of identifying this problem. We do not know why one area of the state is having more of a problem than others, or if this problem will become more widespread as more rice matures through the state.

Please keep your eyes and ears open for more information as it becomes available from us. We will keep you informed on the situation as more information becomes available. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns do not hesitate to call me any time at 662-822-7359.