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Rice Update  
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Weather this week has been hot and dry. USDA reported this week that the rice crop rates as 9% fair, 62% good, and 29% excellent. USDA also reported that 74% of our crop is heading.

High temperatures have been the case for the last couple of weeks. The average high at Stoneville for the past two weeks was 93° F and the average low was 70.5° F. During this time period in 2006, the average high was the same and the average low was 1.5° F warmer at night. The cooler night time temperatures and nice sunny days have really been a bonus for the rice crop. The forecast for the next 10 days calls for hotter day time and night time temperatures, which may cause some concern.

Draining has begun on some rice fields in lower delta this week. The rice harvesting season should begin around August 20th.

With the high energy costs this year, I have been getting several calls about how early to drain rice without hurting yields. It very important that we adhere to our current draining recommendations and possibly a couple of days longer because the current heat and drought situation is expected to persist for several more weeks. It is imperative that rice has moisture til all of the grains are filled. If the soil is dry before total grain fill, the yields could be affected. Therefore, I would drain no earlier than our recommendation: top half of the panicles are straw color on heavy clay soils or top two-thirds to three-fourths of the panicles are straw color on lighter soils (silt loam and sandy soils).

Rice stinkbug applications have gone out on some of the earliest planted rice. Most of the rice stinkbug numbers have now since been diluted with more rice heading. Right now, most of the rice stinkbug numbers have been relatively low with very few applications being made. I would still continue to scout and monitor for rice stinkbugs in case you do have a field at or above threshold levels. Our threshold is 5 rice stinkbugs per 10 sweeps for the first 2 weeks of heading and 10 rice stinkbugs per 10 sweeps the second 2 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).

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