



Evangeline Ag News

News and information for our parish agricultural producers and dealers

April – May 2008

E-MAIL LIST UPDATING

If you have an e-mail address, please call our office at 363-5646, or send an e-mail to me at (kfontenot@agctr.lsu.edu), or my secretary, Susan Fontenot at (sfontenot@agctr.lsu.edu). We will put you on our electronic mail list to receive this newsletter as well as other informational rice bullets that we receive during the year. Also, this is a very convenient way to send in **DD-50** information and also to receive the printouts on the field.

You may also visit the LSU AgCenter home page at (www.lsuagcenter.com) where you may find information on many different and varied topics. For rice-specific information go to the following site, (www.lsuagcenter.com/en/crops_livestock/crops/rice) where you will find current information dealing with many facets of rice production and the industry itself.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

- | | |
|----------|---|
| May 1 | Rosepine Research Station Forage & Beef Cattle Field Day |
| May 1 | Deadline for 2,4-D private applications |
| May 20 | Evangeline Parish Rice Disease & Insect Clinics & Field Tour-Kody Bieber Farm |
| June 24 | Bi-Parish Cattleman's Association Sale-Dominique's Livestock Market-Opelousas |
| July 2 | Rice Field Day–Crowley – Rice Research Station |
| August 1 | Private applicators may use 2,4-D |

QUICK CROP UPDATE

This year it appears rice acreage may see slight increases in acreage in most areas of the state. High market prices have stimulated increases predicted to range from 10-15% in some areas. Based on what I've heard thus far, we may have an increase very close to 8-10%. Many producers have stated that if crawfish prices continue to go down, rice acreage may increase slightly more if they can locate seed. This is one of the first times I have heard producers comment they will drain early to plant more rice. Most of the early planted rice appears to be moving well. Planting completion ranges from completed on some farms in the southwestern parts of the parish to 50 % in other areas. The plants appear to be moving well with warmer weather. Problems have occurred with strong winds inhibiting planting and backing up schedules to plant. These strong winds and prolonged dry periods have lowered water in fields and crawfish ponds.

2008 RICE RESEARCH STATION'S RICE CAM & RICE WEB BLOG

The 2008 LSU AgCenter Rice Research Station's Rice Cam will show a number of images of the seed production field of the variety Catahoula. The Rice Cam can be accessed at <http://www.lsuagcenter.com/ricecam>. The 21.25 acre field was seeded with 42 lb per acre of headrow seed on March 25.

This field will also be featured in the Rice Web log which can be accessed at <http://lsuagcenterrice.blogspot.com>. The Rice Web Log will also feature a commercial field in Jeff

2008 BIEBER FARM RESEARCH PLOTS

Every year for the last several years, Dr. Steve Linscombe has planted an off-station test plot at the Kody and Larry Bieber Farm, located just off highway 13 on Bieber Road. This plot is a replication of the variety plots planted on the Rice Research Station and also at 6 different off-station locations. These off-station plots allow the researchers to observe how varieties will perform on different soil types and different climatic conditions away from the experiment station.

This year there are 173 different Clearfield lines replicated in the plots as well as 60 different commercial test varieties. These plots are all replicated plots with over 500 plots total at this one location.

Besides variety test plots, there will also be a study in this same area evaluating Agrotain, a fertilizer enhancement coating, designed to improve performance and minimize nitrogen fertilizer losses under different environmental conditions. This test will look at performance of Agrotain under several different time periods, between time of application until a flood is brought on the field.

Our plans are to have a Rice Field Day at this plot location on May 20 to discuss the plots, varieties, and different crop management practices that relate to the rice growth at that time such as disease and insect control.



ROSEPINE RESEARCH STATION FIELD DAY

The LSU AgCenter's Rosepine Research Station Field Day will be held Thursday, May 1 on the station grounds. Listed below is a schedule of activities and also an abbreviated map with general directions.

Topics to be discussed include: Texas Bluegrass, Forage Potential, Controlling Costs in Cow/Calf Operations, Increasing Efficiency in Cattle Operations, Using Poultry Litter & Commercial Fertilizer in Pastures.

Both tours will cover the same topics. Exhibits will remain open during the field day tours.

I encourage all of our beef cattle and hay producers to attend the tour and demonstrations. This station's field day always has very practical and useful information for the working cattleman and hay producer. See map on bottom of left column.

For more information **contact** :
Danny Coombs (318)-473-6528

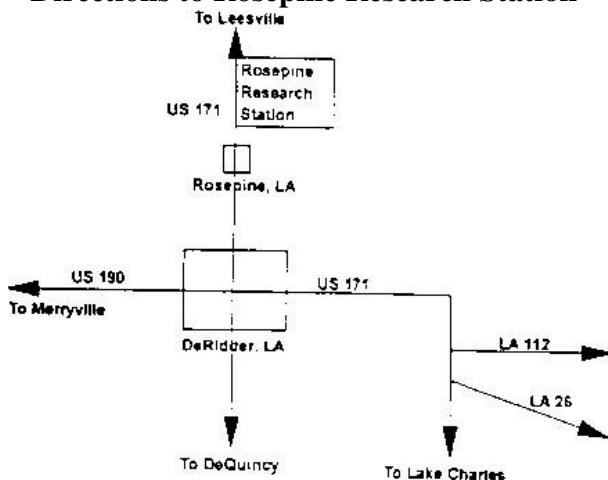
Rosepine Research Station Field Day

Thursday, May 1 2008

2 miles north of Rosepine, LA on US Highway 171
(337) 463-7708

Exhibit Set Up
2:00 Exhibits open-registration & refreshments
2:30 Opening Remarks
3:00 Tours Begin
4:00-5:00 Second field tour – same topics
5:30-7:00 Meal & Door Prizes

Directions to Rosepine Research Station



BRONZING

Zinc Deficiency is a very common micro nutrient problem which occurs in rice. Early symptoms include: Chlorosis - light green off-color; weakened, stretched plants (which in severe cases leaves will be floating on the surface of the water); dark brown to rusty-(bronze) colored spots on the leaves - hence the name bronzing. In severe cases partial stand loss can occur.

Deficiencies most often occur in early planted and water seeded rice, due in part to cool to cold temperatures, slowing down seedling growth and root growth along with it. High pH soils, inadequate Zinc in soil, removal of topsoil as in some leveling operations, and deep water during seedling growth also are situations in which Zinc deficiency will show in the plant. Plant uptake of Zinc is affected by the temperature and adequate root growth. Even if Zinc is put down pre-plant in fertilizer, the deficiency symptoms can still occur, due in large part to weather conditions, or pH problems.

Plenty of sunlight and warm temperatures will correct mild deficiency problems. If deficiency is severe, Zinc needs to be applied in the foliar absorbed-chelate form at the rate of .5 - 1.0 lb. of active Zinc per acre. Use the higher rate when deficiency is severe.

Remember to check the weight of the Zinc product you will be using as this will determine the amount of product to use to get .5 - 1.0 lbs. of active ingredient per acre.

Example: If a gallon of the Zinc Chelate weighs 10 lbs. and is a 10% material - $.10 \times 10 = 1.0$ active ingredient. Whereas a 15 lb. material that is 10% would equal $.10 \times 15 = 1.5$ active ingredient. At .5 lb./acre, the first gallon would treat 2 acres and the second gallon 3 acres.

Another example for amount needed per acre:
using 7% Zinc at 11 pounds per gallon
$$\frac{\#AI \text{ needed } (.5)}{\% \text{ Zn } \times \# \text{ gal.}} = \frac{.5}{.77} = .549 \times 8 \text{ pts./gal.}$$
= 5.19 pints/acre

This example used 7% Zn at 11 lbs. per gallon. We would apply 5.2 pints per acre of this material.

2 4-D APPLICATION RESTRICTIONS

The following restrictions have been and will remain in effect for 2, 4-D product applications for the following dates in 2008:

April 1 - May 1 - LDAF permit for aerial and waiver for ground commercial applications

May 1 - August 1 - No applications by private or commercial applicators of 2, 4-D products.

August 1 – September 15 – Waiver for commercial air or ground application.

This includes 2, 4-D and all products containing 2, 4-D such as Grazon P & D, Weedar, Weedmaster and Crossbow as well as other products. This ban includes all of Evangeline Parish except: area south of La. 104; North of Highway 190; and west of Highway 13, where permitted applications may be allowed.

This ban also includes parts of Allen, Avoyelles, Pointe Coupee, Rapides and St. Landry Parishes and other parishes in the state, a total of 29 parishes affected.

Hand injections of 2, 4-D products such as on trees are exempt from these restrictions.

2008 LA RICE RESEARCH VERIFICATION PROGRAM

Jeffrey Sylvester of the Whiteville community will have the LRRVP field for the 2008 growing season. Jeffrey's field is located East of La. 29 and was water planted on April 1 with 130 #'s of Cheniere. The first field visit was made on April 3 by Dr. Saichuk, Resident Associate Kim Landry, Jeffrey and myself. The water was slowly coming off the field after planting.

As part of the LRRVP for this year a water flow meter is in place on the irrigation system to give accurate feedback in figuring water usage and cost on the field. We intend to keep you up to date on activities at the field as seen in the weekly visits.

FIELD NOTES FROM DR. JOHNNY SAICHUK



I hate to use red rice, but it is the most advanced rice we have in any of our verification fields. Both photographs were taken in Concordia Parish where the rice was drill seeded into a stale seed bed. The farmer knew there was a history of red rice so selected CL 161 as the variety. It should be emerged by the time we return next week.

The seedling on the left (above) is a good example of rice that is almost one leaf rice. The first true leaf is not quite fully expanded. The primary leaf looks a lot like a true leaf but is not. The coleoptile is the first part to break the soil surface and actually protects the primary leaf.

The plant in the photograph on the right (above) shows typical characteristics of drill seeded rice. The radicle is a small root emerging from the seed. Not labeled because they are not clear enough are the tiny roots near the seed called seminal or seed roots. Above them are secondary roots. The name I was taught was coronal (crown) roots. At some point the term secondary roots was adopted. They will become the root system of the plant as the radicle and seminal roots degenerate.

A water seeded seedling would have the same characteristics of the seedling on the left (left column), but would lack the mesocotyl of the seedling on the right (left column). That is a consequence of germinating on or near the soil surface. It also explains why some herbicides can only be used on drill seeded rice.



The two seedlings shown above can be compared to the labeled seedlings in the left column. The one on the left is similar to the one with the labeled root system. It germinated from about an inch below the soil surface. It has a radicle, mesocotyl and secondary roots. The seed roots were damaged trying to remove soil.

In contrast, the seedling on the right germinated very near the soil surface. (Isn't red rice versatile? This field was in soybeans last year and rice two years ago.) Because this seedling began near the surface it appears much more like water seeded rice would. There is no well developed mesocotyl.

HAY PRODUCER SCAM

Agriculture and Forestry Commissioner Mike Strain, D.V.M., issued a warning to Louisiana citizens today concerning an email scam targeting farmers throughout the United States.

“It appears the scam is widely aimed at hay producers and often involves fraudulent cashier’s checks or money orders,” Strain explained. “The buyer sends the money, usually for more than the asking price of the hay, the farmer deposits the check and sends the additional funds back to the buyer but later finds out the check wasn’t good.”

Strain said other states’ agriculture agencies have received reports from farmers that the scammers are using Market Bulletin ads and classified ad publications to contact the sellers. They most often correspond with the farmers by email and usually refuse phone communication.

Along with additional information about the scams, www.Haybarn.com offers the following as possible warning signs of a scam:

- Offering payment by cashier’s check or money order only.
- Insisting on paying more than asking price.
- Asking for cash to be sent to a third party, such as the shipper
- Poor spelling and odd word choices.
- Lack of knowledge or interest in the hay itself.
- Unusual name or email address.

A list of known scammers is also available on the site.

“I would just warn everyone to be cautious and follow your intuition. If something seems too good to be true, as they always say, it probably is,” Strain said. “If you believe you’ve been a victim of a scam, please contact the Department of Agriculture and Forestry for assistance.”

To contact the department, call 225-922-1234 or 1-866-927-2476.

DD-50 RICE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Below is a DD-50 card used to call in the different fields and information. To enter fields in the program call our office (363-5646), or send in the completed card. Susan, my secretary, will take the information and run the program. She will then mail a copy of the computer predictions with growth stages listed by dates as they will occur.

Also attached will be a printout matching growth stages and expected management practices to be carried out. You may also access the DD-50 program online at the LSU AgCenter Website or the Rice Home Page mentioned in the first article of this newsletter.

Louisiana DD50 Rice Field Enrollment Card				
Producer (Name) _____		Parish _____		
Address _____		Phone # _____		
City _____		Zip Code _____		
Field Name	Field Acres	Water Seeded	Variety Planted (Y/N)	Date of Emergence (mo/day)
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at (363-5646), 230 Court Street in Ville Platte.

Sincerely,



Keith Fontenot
County Agent
Evangeline Parish

**LSU AgCenter
Cooperative Extension Service
Evangeline Parish
230 Court Street
Ville Platte, La. 70586**



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