



Evangeline Ag News

News and information for our parish's agricultural producers and dealers

June - July 2006

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 mailing 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.

Dominique's Stockyard Hosts Bi-Parish Cattle Sale

On Tuesday, June 27, Dominique's Stockyard in Opelousas, under the direction of Mr. Mike Dominique will host the Annual Evangeline/St. Landry Bi-Parish Cattle Sale. On this day a percentage of the proceeds brought in by cattle sold by Evangeline and St. Landry Parish cattlemen will be donated to the Evangeline and St. Landry Parish Cattlemen's Associations.

This donation will not come from the cattleman's profits but from the commission the auction barn charges for the animals. Dominique's Stockyard and the Parish Cattleman's Associations have made this an annual sale event for the benefit of local cattlemen and the Parish Cattleman's Associations.

We encourage all parish cattlemen to bring any cattle they may wish to sell on this day to support their local association.

Calendar of Activities

- June 27 Evangeline Parish Cattleman's Association Rebate Sale – Dominiques Livestock Auction
- June 29 Rice Field Day – Crowley, La. – Rice Research Station
- July 12 Evangeline Rice Field Tour – Kody Bieber Farm, Mamou

State Rice Field Day showcases Rice Research Highlights

The **Rice Research Station**, located just North and East of Crowley, will showcase Rice Research Innovations and the researchers developing these on **Thursday, June 29**. Visitors to the Annual Rice Research Station Field Day will be able to enjoy early morning tours of research plots. Researchers will be on hand to present research background and findings in their particular area at each tour stop. **Tours will begin at 7:30 a.m.** with the last tour truck leaving no later than **9:15a.m.**

After tours visitors may enjoy the **educational poster sessions and displays**, set up under the equipment shed. These will feature university research information, as well as commercial agribusiness displays and rice industry informational set-ups. One feature of the educational displays is the "**Problem Table or Help Desk**" if you wish to call it either of these. At this table farmers may bring plants in, usually in 5 gallon buckets, and get researchers as well as Extension rice specialists, to take a look at a particular problem they may be having in their fields.

The **main program** will begin at **10:45 a.m.** in the rice dryer and warehouse building, with a meal served following all speakers and presentations.

All activities will take place on the Rice Research Station fields and grounds, and anyone having an interest in learning more about rice and rice research is welcome to attend. There is no cover charge, and the general public is invited and encouraged to attend.

We look forward to seeing you and any friends you may wish to bring to the field day on **Thursday, June 29, on the Rice Research Station Grounds.**

Anyone needing more information on the field day please contact your nearest office of the LSU AgCenter. For the Evangeline Parish area, please contact

Keith A Fontenot at 230 Court St. in Ville Platte or call the office at (337)-363-5646 or E-mail our office at kfontenot@agctr.lsu.edu.

Variety Plots Tour – July 12 - Bieber Farm

In early April Dr. Steve Linscombe with the cooperation of Kody and Larry Bieber planted the Evangeline Parish off-station variety test plots at the Bieber Farm.

There are approximately 60 commercial varieties and several Clearfield & Hybrid and Liberty Link plots. These plots give you a chance to see how these varieties perform off the research station under real world conditions.

We will have a morning field day on Tuesday, July 12 to discuss these plots, allow you to look at them, and ask any questions you may have about the different varieties

Crop Summary

The rice crop seems to be recovering well from the very cool weather experienced across the parish during April and early May.

Over the last few weeks several producers discussed problems resulting from early season cool weather. Most of the fields are really changing for the better with the warm temperatures and plenty of sunshine. Some rain would help with pumping costs and also with soybean fields, but we don't need too much as a lot of fields are nearing swollen boot and split boot stages of growth.

Weevil pressure was very evident and many fields have been either treated or drained to assist with that. We also saw a lot of impregnated fertilizer going out on fields and this seemed to work fairly well if timing was early enough and did not miss the first group of adults laying eggs. In some fields, even draining left some larvae in the fields, upon reflooding. One of these was our verification field, where we are still finding larvae, although in reduced numbers, and in most cases the rice is advanced enough to compensate any loss of root vitality.

Rice Verification Update

This years rice verification field is on the Richard Fontenot Farm located about 1 mile South of Mamou off Hwy. 13. This year a 27 acre field was selected to be planted in Cheniere.

On March 8, 220 #'s of 0-18-36-20 fertilizer was applied, with water plant of the field occurring on April 8 with 110#'s of seed per acre.

For herbicide application 1 1/3 oz. of Londax was applied with oil on April 17.

On April 20 approximately 190#'s of Urea impregnated with Mustang Max for water weevil control was applied to the field. Weevil pressure was reduced but quickly built back up to the point that we had to drain the field on May 18 to suppress weevil pressure. Another 150#'s of urea was applied on May 26, and the field was flooded back up. As of the last two visits to the field, larvae are still present, although in reduced numbers.

The field is moving again, greening up well with Panicle initiation showing well on the last field visit of June 7. We shall keep you informed as the season progresses.

Timing of Fungicide Application

Due to current economics and other factors, most of our fungicides are put out on a one shot deal, which makes timing everything. In most cases, boot growth stage (2-4 inch panicle in the sheath) is the best timing for a fungicide application to control sheath blight.

If sheath blight pressure is very heavy earlier, and up in the canopy, you need to apply earlier to stop yield reduction that is being done.

If sheath blight is light, low, not spreading and blast is present, it is better to make a single application at **early heading (50-75% heads emerging)** to get the best economic benefit and return.

After early heading each five (5) day delay in application with disease present reduces yield by approximately **500 pounds**. This is why it is important to scout regularly and be able to schedule early with weather in mind.

With blast, disease development and yield loss is even more dramatic than with sheath blight. Early, heavy blast development may call for an increase in flood depth and also a fungicide application. If the blast develops light and slow, you may only need to increase flood depth and wait for early heading for fungicide application.

Delaying an application with severe blast pressure by 5 days will result in yield losses of **300 pounds**. However five additional days will result in this yield reduction increasing to **1000 pounds per acre**. These are pretty dramatic increases. This is why the timing of fungicide application is so important in controlling both of these important rice diseases.

Rice Fungicides

We now have more effective rice fungicides available to growers for disease control than ever before. They are also more expensive as well as more effective. This makes the decision to use a fungicide very critical, and not one that should be made on a blanket coverage of every acre grown. Factors that should be considered are: disease presence and severity, height in the canopy, rice plant stage of growth, variety susceptibility, and current weather and forecasts. All these are important in making the decision to apply.

Listed below are the available fungicide and their effectiveness on two of our major diseases.

| Fungicide | Sheath Blight | Blast |
|-----------|---------------|-------|
| Gem | +++ | ++++ |
| Moncut | +++ | - |
| Propimax | ++ | - |
| Quadris | ++++ | +++ |
| Quilt | +++ | - |
| Statego | +++ | ++ |
| Tilt | ++ | - |

2005-2006 Rice Acreage Estimates & Comparisons

| Parish | 2006 Approx. Acreage | 2005 Acreage | Acreage Difference |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Acadia | 70,000 | 82,563 | - 12,563 |
| Allen | 10,000 | 17,890 | - 7,890 |
| Beauregard | 1,000 | 2,177 | - 1,177 |
| Calcasieu | 8,500 | 15,840 | - 7,340 |
| Catahoula | 3,340 | 7,250 | - 3,910 |
| Concordia | 8,300 | 14,726 | - 6,426 |
| East Carroll | 13,000 | 15,831 | - 2,831 |
| Evangeline | 34,000 | 48,223 | -14,223 |
| Franklin | 0 | 1,402 | - 1,402 |
| Iberville | 1,700 | 0 | + 1,700 |
| Jeff Davis | 65,000 | 82,440 | - 17,440 |
| Lafayette | 4,000 | 6,477 | - 2,477 |
| Morehouse | 25,000 | 50,213 | - 25,213 |
| Natchitoches | 4,200 | 3,060 | + 1,140 |
| Ouchita | 5,000 | 9,303 | - 4,303 |
| Point Coupee | 2,120 | 2,123 | - 3 |
| Rapides | 7,500 | 7,788 | - 288 |
| Richland | 6,000 | 5,921 | + 79 |
| St. Landry | 17,000 | 25,098 | - 8,098 |
| St. Martin | 3,000 | 5,206 | - 2,206 |
| Texas | 3,100 | 1,779 | + 1,321 |
| Vermilion | 30,500 | 76,361 | - 45,861 |
| West Carroll | 6,500 | 7,003 | - 503 |
| Totals | 328,760 | 488,674 | - 159,914 |

This table depicts the differences between last year's planted rice crop and this year's crop. **Please note: These are only estimates. Official crop acreage is still being reported.**

Rice Stinkbug Season: Manage Weeds Now to Help Control

Rice Stink bugs are in their second generation now in grasses, mainly barnyard grass, sprangletop, and vasey grass around the edges and adjoining fields. If you control these weeds now, prior to rice booting and heading, you can possibly lower or eliminate stinkbug infestation levels. If you tank mix a herbicide and insecticide and spray these areas, you can reduce stinkbug populations before they get into the rice.

We have about 2-3 weeks before rice enters late boot stage and begins heading in most fields. Managing these weeds now could result in savings by cutting insecticide applications to the crop, lower yield losses, higher milling quality and less pecky rice. If they are not controlled now, once the rice starts to head out stinkbugs will move in large numbers into the much more attractive and tender milky panicles.

Research results indicate that up to **10% yield loss** can be attributed to stinkbugs and quality losses such as high peck, low milling and others are much harder to measure and may have a greater economic impact.

After managing weeds around the fields and once the rice starts to head, field scouting should be done regularly. From Boot Split to two weeks after heading, the economic threshold for stinkbugs is **30 rice stink bugs per 100 sweeps**. From the Hard Dough stage up until two weeks to harvest the threshold increases to **100 rice stink bugs per 100 sweeps**. To do a more effective job in scouting and also any insect applications to the field, try to schedule these in the morning **before 11:00 a.m. or later in the afternoon, 4:00 p.m. or later**, as this is when the insects will be more active and exposed to either be counted or to an insecticide application.

Insecticides recommended for control of RSB include:

Sevin-4L - 1.5 qts/acre

Methyl Parathion 4EC - 1 to 1.5 pts/acre

Fury - 2.8 to 4.3 oz/acre

Mustang Max - 2.64 to 4 oz/acre

Karate Z - 1.6 to 2.5 oz /acre

Sevin 80S - 1.25 to 1.87 lb/acre

Malathion-57% - 1 to 1.5 pts/acre

If you have any questions, contact us at 363-5646, 230 Court Street in Ville Platte.

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Evangeline Parish

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