

**RICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 16, 2007**  
**CECIL MCCRORY EXHIBIT BUILDING, 8:30 A.M.**  
**ABBEVILLE, LA.**

Chairman Durel Romaine called the meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He also expressed appreciation for the work that the LSU AgCenter does to support rice production. On a motion by Dwight Hardee and seconded by Christian Richard the minutes were approved as mailed. Present for the meeting were Christian Richard, Stuart Gauthier, Howard Cormier, Durel Romaine, Linda Zaunbrecher, Glen Duhon, Scott Trahan, Tracy LeBlanc, Dr. Brooks Blanche, Dr. Dustin Harrell, Dr. Don Groth, Dr. Johnny Saichuk, Dr. Natalie Hummel, Ross Hebert, Wayne Lemaire, Dwight Hardee and Charles Payne.

Dr. Saichuk began the meeting with a rice varieties update on behalf of Dr. Linscombe, who was not present. In 2006 we had roughly ½ of the rice varieties in Cheniere and 131. In 2007, we had a greater acreage planted to hybrids and Clearfield. We had 27% in Clearfield last year and he expects this to go up. We had 83% of our varieties in RiceTec hybrids. Clearfield 131 is expected to be available in large quantities in 2008. RiceTec varieties will be in high demand for 2008. They have already sold all of their seed supply. Cocodrie had proven to give the best dollar return this year in the verification fields. Hybrids must be managed perfectly due to low seeding rates, and this can lead to problems.

Concerning the harvest season, Saichuk said that rains were heavy, then it dried out quickly and that led to lots of rice cut at low moisture. We had a total of 307,000 acres in Louisiana. Northeast Louisiana is going more into corn and soybeans, partly because there is no need for nitrogen fertilizer on beans.

New varieties included LA 2082, which is a long grain, and LA2028, which is a medium grain. LA 2028 has better cooking qualities than older varieties.

The Rice Varieties and Management Tips brochure has gone to the printers and it should reach County Agents in early December. Clearfield will be in the recommended list this year. It has been clear on the LL601 trait. Clearfield 171 does not have three years of data, so it will not be recommended this year.

The 65 pound seeding rate is low enough commercially, and farmers should not go lower. Lower rates equal more tillering and more difference in maturity on the same plant at harvest. Dr. Saichuk stated that more information on varieties would be in Rice Varieties and Management Tips booklet.

LA2082 is long grain variety similar to Cocodrie and Cheniere. It is very early, close to Cocodrie in heading, but matures a little earlier. It is resistant to lodging and has better seedling vigor than Cocodrie. Its yield is as good as or better than Cocodrie. Its milling is good. The grain type is like Cheniere, more than Cocodrie. It has a disease package a little better than Cocodrie and Cheniere. It is a little less susceptible to sheath blight than Cocodrie and Cheniere, it is resistant to blast, it is better on narrow brown leaf spot and panicle blight than the others. It falls between them on straighthead. It has less chalk and more uniformity of grain than Cocodrie. It has typical long grain cooking quality.

LA2028 is a medium grain line. It is similar to or slightly higher yielding than Jupiter, with better grain quality. Its ratooning ability is also better than Jupiter. Its disease package is better than Bengal.

LA2125 is a Jasmine type line and it is not available this year. Its milling is better than Jasmine 85.

Dr. Natalie Hummel discussed the Panicle Rice Mite situation. Drill-seeded or dry broadcast rice will have a new product this year as a seed treatment. It is called Dermacor by Dupont, and it is a new class of products friendly to mammals. Crawfish had tested okay in initial testing. There is a section 18 for 200,000 acres. The cost is similar to Icon. The makers know that price is important.

In discussions on the Panicle Rice Mite, Dr. Hummel stated that Arkansas and New York had Panicle Rice Mite in green houses. It was also found in Ohio in 2005 and Texas in 1993, so it is not the first time in the U.S., but it did warrant new regulatory action. Brazil has them and the rice states in the U.S. have all reported them also. It has caused substantial yield losses in other countries, up to 90%. It could be from other causes, such as sheath blight, bacterial panicle blight, etc. It has 20 different host plants, including barnyardgrass and bermudagrass. It's moved by wind, other insects, and water. It is 1/100 of an inch in length. It can survive in water for up to 23 days. It is impractical to clean equipment as it leaves the field or after it is used. It has been found in all fields around the original Vermilion Parish Rice Verification Field. There are no miticides currently labeled in rice. We need to know the extent of the spread before we proceed. Twenty-eight parishes in Louisiana have rice. Dr. Boris Castro found no Panicle Rice Mites in the 2005 survey he conducted. We don't know if it will survive our winters. There is a 3 to 21 day generation time. It feeds inside the leaf sheaths and on the panicles. Typically, the seedling bed has no mites. Tillering shows low density of mites. There are no live mites at 14% and below moisture. Density of the Panicle Rice Mite increases through second crop. Symptoms include a chocolate brown discoloration and parrot-beaking. Other countries manage the problem by rotating miticides to reduce resistance, destroying crop residue, and rotating crops.

Next was discussion of parish yield. It was stated that rice yields in the state this year are 6,250 pounds, which is a new state record of 38.5 barrels.

After a lengthy discussion with farmers and dealers, it was decided that the parish average for rice in Vermilion parish for 2007 would be 40 dry barrels. It was also agreed that second crop percentage would be 55%. Several reasons for the higher yield included a larger second crop, ideal rainfall conditions after first crop harvest and the widespread use of fungicides by farmers on a timely basis.

Researchers were given an opportunity to discuss their work. Dr. Dustin Harrel discussed fertility and nitrogen validation studies done for the last three years. He is also working with rotation

crops. He discussed basic fertility practices and economic considerations at the Rice Field Tour. He also commented about the zinc study with Christian Richard this year, which yielded no specific results.

Dr. Don Groth discussed his Cercospora work and increased yields. He felt that farmers did an excellent job controlling disease this year, but we had about ½ of the disease pressure we normally have. Boot and heading applications appeared to be equal in efficacy. It can delay fungicide treatment somewhat. He felt that 50-70% of our acreage was treated, even some hybrids were treated.

Dr. Brooks Blanche is working on blends and he does not have enough results to make any recommendations yet. There is no foreign genetic material available in working with mutation breeding. He is looking for grass and broad spectrum herbicide (Liberty) tolerance. He is also doing work on more crawfish varieties. It was suggested that we ask Dr. Salassi to discuss the cost of crawfish and rice production and losses due to maintaining crawfish ponds at the 2008 Rice School.

It was also suggested that we look at bringing ducks back as an environmental initiative. Howard explained that with \$3.00 per gallon diesel, it may be difficult for farmers to pump up their fields for ducks, unless they have lucrative hunting leases. Also, it was explained that we had the most active duck habitat program in the state, through Operation Quackback, which has declined in acres as more farmers work fields in the fall and leave them unflooded over the winter to reduce problems with aquatic weeds that come from flooding. Stuart Gauthier commented that Don Reed had held a meeting on ducks and doves on rice fields. It was also mentioned that there is some legal entanglements as to time of flooding and stubble management, as presented by wildlife agent Flip Siragusa, at a meeting a couple of years ago.

On a motion by Ross Hebert, seconded by Christian, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.