

**Southwest Louisiana
Rice Advisory Committee
November 8, 2007**

Attending:	Brian Wild	Rene Daboval	Donald Berken
	Luke Doise	Clarence Berken	Ronnie Sonnier
	Eric Unkel	Hine Unkel	John Hensgens, Jr.
	Lem Watson	Dr. John Saichuk	Dr. Steve Linscombe
	Dr. Natalie Hummel	Dr. Gary Breitenbeck	Dr. Ida Wenefrida
	Dr. Herry Utomo	Dr. Brooks Blanche	Dr. Dustin Harrell
	Dr. Don Groth	Dr. Xuegan Sha	Kim Landry
	Keith Hawkins	Jerry Whatley	Eddie Eskew
	Charles Schlicher	Clint Latolais	

Brian Wild, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and thanked the group for attending. He emphasized the importance of rice research and the impact that reduced acreage and check-off dollars were having on the Rice Research Station.

Eddie Eskew also thanked the group for attending and encouraged them to participate in all of the discussions because the purpose of the meeting was to evaluate the extension rice program in Southwest Louisiana.

Dr. Saichuk reviewed the state situation. In 2007, Louisiana planted approximately 369,200 acres, which was up from 2006, with 94% of all rice acres planted in long grain varieties. NASS has changed their estimate of average yield for the U.S. in 2007 to 6,300#/acre. He distributed information on the Louisiana Rice Research Verification program and discussed the 2007 growing season. This led to a discussion of varieties and yields, so Eddie took this time to establish parish rice yields for 2007. The official yields that will be reported in the Louisiana Summary: Agriculture & Natural Resources 2007 are as follows:

Jeff Davis	40.0 dry bbls/acre	(64.8 cwt/acre)
Allen	38.0 dry bbls/acre	(61.6 cwt/acre)
Calcasieu	33.0 dry bbls/acre	(53.5 cwt/acre)
Cameron	33.0 dry bbls/acre	(53.5 cwt/acre)
Beauregard	45.5 dry bbls/acre	(73.7 cwt/acre)

Dr. Linscombe stated that there would be Cheniere seed for commercial production in 2008. With the foundation and registered seed that was planted this year, he estimated 70,000 – 80,000 acres of registered and certified seed would be available. However, there would not be any CL131 until the 2009 growing season. There would be some registered CL151 in 2008, but no certified seed. He also discussed the possibility of a new long grain variety being released in 2008. Known as 2082, it has a yield advantage over Cheniere and Cocodrie, and a better grain quality than Cocodrie. It also has a blast disease advantage. A decision to release this variety will be made in December, and if it is approved, foundation seed will be sold in 2008.

Dr. Sha discussed 2028, a new medium grain that, like 2082, may be released in December. This new variety is shorter and has a higher yield potential than Jupiter, with better milling and better blast resistance. Work is progressing on a new Clearfield medium grain, with planting for seed increase occurring in Puerto Rico this month. This variety will be earlier than Jupiter.

Dr. Groth addressed a question concerning seed testing for panicle blight. The Rice Research Board has funded Dr. Chuck Rush to test seed for panicle blight bacteria. While it is possible to detect this particular bacteria, the consistency of the test is not good. Because low levels of the bacteria could reach epidemic proportions if the right environmental conditions exist, there remains the question of the reliability of this test. The ability is there to treat seed for panicle blight, but the disposal of the water used to treat the seed will keep it from being practical. Varietal resistance is the way to go.

Dr. Linscombe addressed the question of why the Rice Research Station is not doing hybrid rice research. The problem is that the station does not have the resources to produce seed. One of the biggest parts of Rice Tec, Inc. is seed production, and this is contracted out to farmers and involves several thousand acres. The rice breeding programs in the Mid-South, especially LSU, contribute to the crossing to get some of the hybrid lines. Some of the milling improvements have come from Louisiana lines. Bayer Crop Science is rumored to be considering hybrid rice production.

Dr. Linscombe stated that the current system of seed testing for 2007 will be in effect for the 2008 season. The next step, if progress continues to be made in eliminating the LL601 trait, would be to test only foundation and registered seed after the 2008 season. This decision will not be made until next year.

Dr. Hummel reported that the panicle rice mite has been detected in Louisiana, along with Texas, Arkansas, and a greenhouse at Cornell University in New York. At this time regulatory issues have not changed, and an effort will be made to try and eradicate it in the greenhouses. A monitoring program will be in effect in 2008. She discussed cultural practices that should help control this pest. Dr. Hummel will give a presentation on this pest at the Southwest Louisiana Rice Forum in January.

Dr. Breitenbeck reported on research with the "localized decline" problem. It appears to be a metabolic disorder with effected plants showing toxic levels of FE (iron) and Al (aluminum). One of the problems with this is that it is occurring in soils where Fe and Al should not be a problem. Silica is applied as a fertilizer in other countries but not in the U.S. Silica levels in the affected plants have tested low. The purpose of silica is to protect the plant (a thick layer is found under the cuticle layer). If Asian mid-tiller levels of plant silica are used, 98% of the U.S. rice crop is deficient. If Florida levels are used, 60% of the U.S. crop is deficient. By harvest, only 30% is low according to Asian levels. Research is continuing.

Next the committee reviewed the draft of the 2008 Southwest Louisiana Rice Forum. Donald Berken asked if the basics of rice fertilization could be covered, due to the high price of

fertilizers. Dr. Harrell agreed to put a program together. Also, since Dr. Salassi was unable to attend, the committee requested a program on rice economics and the latest on the new farm bill, especially as it relates to payment limitations and the three payment (3-entity) rule.

The major problems facing the rice industry in Southwest Louisiana this year are:

- Production costs
- Blackbirds/Ducks
 - less emphasis being placed on the 1339 program by USDA
- Seed availability as it relates to GE issues

M/S Johnny Hensgens, Donald Berken to elect Brian Wild as chairman for 2008 by acclamation. Motion passed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned and the committee was treated to lunch by First South Ag Credit.