

**Southwest Louisiana
Rice Advisory Committee**

December 9, 2005

Attending:	Donald Berken	Gregory Monceaux	Mark Zaunbrecher
	John Hensgens, Jr.	John Berken	David Hebert
	Robert Moore	Joe Guidry	Hine Unkel
	Phil Rauser	Brian Wild	Chris Krielow
	Kent Brown	Kevin Berken	Jimmy Hoppe
	Jude Doise	Scott Romero	Ronnie Sonnier
	David Habetz	Adam Habetz	Dr. John Saichuk
	Dr. Don Groth	Dr. Richard Dunand	Dr. Xueyan Sha
	Jeremy Hebert	Eddie Eskew	Charles Schlisser
	Clint Latiolais		

Kent Brown, Chairman, opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

After introductions, Eddie thanked those present for serving on the committee and asked that they use this as an opportunity to improve the Extension and research programs in Southwest Louisiana.

Dr. Johnny Saichuk reviewed his Rice Research Verification sites for 2005 and mentioned that he would cut back to two days in 2006. He also discussed the soil salt test survey of south Louisiana conducted by LSU and industry personnel.

Dr. Groth stated that all first crop research had survived Hurricane Rita. He mentioned the "CAPS" project, where Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, and Texas are developing a program to take tissue samples to identify sheath blight, blast, etc.

Dr. Dunand is continuing to look at stand problems and is looking at second crop growth regulators. He mentioned Dr. Jason Bond's stubble management study was lost to Hurricane Rita. A discussion then followed on no-till rice production practices.

Dr. Sha spoke of the changes in the rice breeding project. While he will be more involved with long grain varieties, he mentioned two medium grains that are in the winter nursery in Puerto Rico. 2125 has excellent yield potential and 2177 has a large grain size that the milling industry likes. There is also a Basmati type that looks good. In the long grain varieties, they are continuing to evaluate yield, milling and grain quality. They are also looking at some Clearfield medium grains in the PY test. Also, there are some Liberty-Link lines that are ready to go when the technology is approved that looks better than anything else at this time.

Eddie presented the parish situation. We began the 2005 year with excellent conditions. Dry weather with abundant sunshine allowed rice plants to reach maximum potential. The weather was cool, however, and the crop was approximately two weeks later than normal. No major problems developed that encompassed the whole area, but we did see some of the mystery malady problem. Late season was not as good as early season, as very hot weather moved in and which caused some problems with the later harvested rice. Hurricane Rita reduced second crop yields by 80%.

Eddie then listed the research plots that he was involved with during the 2005 growing season:

- 1) Variety Plot at Jimmy Hoppe's – Drs. Linscombe, Sha, and Chu. Also, fungicide rate and timing studies by Dr. Groth.
- 2) CL 131 field – worked with Horizon Ag to use this as one of the few commercial fields in 2005.
- 3) Weed Plot – worked with Dr. Eric Webster to look at Newpath/Permit study and a Valent numbered compound on John Berken's farm. He also looked at pickerel weed control at Jim Johnson's farm.
- 4) Water Weevil – Dr. Boris Castro was looking at management practices such as early planting with no treatment needed.
- 5) Out-crossing of Red Rice – identifying red rice plants that survive from previous Newpath treatments with Dr. Jim Oard.
- 6) Rice Research Verification Program – worked with Dr. Saichuk with fields in Jeff Davis -Donald Berken, and Allen – Hine Unkel.
- 7) Hurricane Recovery – soil test for salt in Hurricane Rita affected areas.

After some discussion, the group set the following yields for 2005:

Jeff Davis – 38 dry bbls/acre

Allen – 32 dry bbls/acre

Beauregard – 35 dry bbls/acre

Calcasieu/Cameron – 35 dry bbls/acre

During the discussion on yields, the group commented that we need to learn “what is the value of our rice on a milled rice basis”.

Eddie reviewed the educational methods used during the year. When discussing the 2006 Rice Forum, the committee requested that Dr. Mike Salassi present the spread sheet that he designed to assist a producer in determining how many acres to plant to cover variable costs.

Eddie went on-line and reviewed the DD50 program and Dr. Salassi's program.

The following problems were identified:

- 1) Water management – cultural practices needed to conserve water
- 2) Fuel use vs water output – maximizing engine output
- 3) Ethanol production – if the plant in Lacassine becomes reality, what crops can we grow in Southwest Louisiana.

M/S Donald Berken, Joe Guidry that Brian Wild serve as chairman in 2006. Motion passed.

Eddie introduced Charles Schlisher and Clint Latiolais from First South Farm Credit, sponsors of the noon meal.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.