

# ***LOUISIANA RICE NOTES***

**Drs. Dustin Harrell, Michael Deliberto, Mike Stout, Blake Wilson and Mr. Allen Wilson**

**March 22, 2017**

**No. 2017-02**

## **Rice planting rolling along in southwest Louisiana**

Dry weather in many parts of southwest Louisiana have played a big part in speeding rice planting along so far this spring. The most recent USDA-NASS Louisiana Crop Progress Report ([click here to see report](#)) has us at 21 percent planted as of Sunday, March 19. This is approximately 9 percent ahead of our 5-year average at this time of year. If we look at just the southwest part of the state, I would estimate that we were a solid 45 percent planted as of Sunday. The forecast for the remainder of this week looks like we will possibly remain dry until Saturday when chances of rain here in Crowley are currently sitting at 80 percent. If this holds true, many consultants and agents seem to believe that we may top 85 percent planted, in the southwest part of the state, by this weekend. Planting is rolling along fast this year!

Warmer than normal soil temperatures will help get that rice out of the ground a little faster this year too. Soil temperatures at the H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station had a daily high at 71°F on Saturday, 73° on Sunday and 74° on Monday. Last year they were 68°, 66° and 67° on the same dates, respectively. Daily air temperatures are expected to top 80° almost every day this week too! Expect the emerged rice to move along quickly. Expect



*Figure 1. Red rice germinating from approximately 2-inches below the soil surface in early March of 2017.*

weeds to begin to germinate faster also. The following picture, taken by Dr. Saichuk last week, shows red rice already emerging from a soil depth of about 2-inches. The red rice seed is at the level where the roots are visible.

# ***LOUISIANA RICE NOTES***

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**March 22, 2017**

**No. 2017-02**

Emerged rice seedlings from earlier planted rice looks good so far despite the cold weather observed last week and the seed germination issues mentioned in the last newsletter. It seems that everyone understands that the adverse weather played a large part in the wide spread seed germination issue and is making the seeding rate adjustment as needed. This is good news because ignoring the issue could have led to a lot of less-than-adequate stand issues and replant decisions in the next few weeks.

## **Blackbird pressure lower than normal south of I-10, higher than normal north of I-10?**

I received a lot of conflicting reports about blackbirds over the last couple of weeks. Many consultants reported to me that in the area south of I-10, the number of blackbirds seems to be lower than normal. Other reports from consultants around the Oberlin, Elton, Mamou and Ville Platte areas have suggested higher than normal blackbird activity. This is curious, since bird pressure is historically higher south of I-10 and generally a little lower north of I-10. Because of this fact, producers south of I-10 tend to use the AV-1011 seed treatment more frequently than those north of I-10. Is this shift in bird pressure due to the warmer-than-normal conditions this year, or AV-1011 use patterns,

or the DRC-1339 program? Or is this just a coincidence? To find out more about this subject I contacted Allen Wilson a biologist with USDA-APHIS to find out his thoughts. Here is what he had to say:

*Short answer: North of I-10 was where most of the birds were already spending the day feeding before rice planting started.*

*Long answer: When migrant birds arrive here in the fall, they form roosts in the coastal marsh and initially feed near the marsh. As winter progresses, the birds have to fly farther and farther from the marsh in order to find food. Keep in mind that a large winter roost needs many tons of waste grain each day in order to survive.*

*Years ago, when rice stubble was much more abundant in winter than it is now, most of the rice damage occurred near the marsh. With changing cultural practices, the trend is that these roosting birds are now relying mainly on rice in crawfish ponds to sustain themselves, and they are flying wherever they need to go to find food. So if you plant rice near an existing feeding area (a crawfish pond with grain), you're likely to have problems.*

*The biggest roost this year was south of Klondike and Talon's Landing. Following the flight lines in mid-February, it took us several days to determine that almost none of the*

# LOUISIANA RICE NOTES

Drs. Dustin Harrell, Michael Deliberto, Mike Stout, Blake Wilson and Mr. Allen Wilson

March 22, 2017

No. 2017-02

*birds were stopping south of I-10. There just wasn't enough food to sustain them that far south; it had already been consumed. The birds were flying from Klondike to Mowata, Iota, Hathaway, Basile, and Elton to find food, primarily in crawfish ponds. Additionally birds from Miller's Lake were flying to the same areas to feed.*

So, there you have it, bird pressure is higher north of I-10 this year at the beginning of rice planting season. Unfortunately, many producers in this area do not use AV-1011 as much and many have found out the hard way about the increase bird pressure north of I-10 this year. There are many instances where fields will have to be replanted due to black



Figure 2. Selective feeding of untreated rice from AV-1011 rice by blackbirds in 2017.

# LOUISIANA RICE NOTES

Drs. Dustin Harrell, Michael Deliberto, Mike Stout, Blake Wilson and Mr. Allen Wilson

March 22, 2017

No. 2017-02

bird predation.

The increased seeding rates needed this year when using the low germination seed has caused the cost of using the AV-1011 seed treatment to increase proportionally too. This is because the AV-1011 seed treatment is applied based on the pounds of seed planted. Many producers have opted not to use AV-1011 and risk the possibility replanting if blackbird predation becomes a problem. Many believe that the cost of adding the AV-1011 seed treatment costs more than replanting. Is this true? Does the cost of using AV-1011 exceed replanting costs? To answer this question, I asked Dr. Michael Deliberto to look at the economics of this and answer this question. His analysis is included in this week's newsletter.

In another strategy to save money on AV-1011 seed costs some producers have tried to treat only half the planted seed per acre. **This does not work!** The birds are quite good at picking out the untreated seed from the treated seed. You will notice in Figure 2 that the birds fed on the untreated rice and left small holes from their beaks. Adjacent to the feeding you can see that the treated rice was left alone. The result from this field was an unevenly distributed stand with pockets of adequate plant populations and other areas

devoid of anything at all. In the end, this field will have to be replanted.

## Dr. Blake Wilson hired as the new extension rice and sugarcane entomologist

Dr. Blake Wilson has been hired as an assistant professor of field crops entomology with the LSU AgCenter. Dr. Wilson's chief responsibilities with the AgCenter will be research and extension relating to rice and sugarcane insects. He plans to focus his program in rice on improving the economics and sustainability of integrated pest management.



Figure 3. Dr. Blake Wilson, LSU AgCenter Extension Rice and Sugarcane Entomologist.

# *LOUISIANA RICE NOTES*

**Drs. Dustin Harrell, Michael Deliberto, Mike Stout, Blake Wilson and Mr. Allen Wilson**

**March 22, 2017**

**No. 2017-02**

Dr. Wilson grew up in Mandeville, Louisiana before attending LSU where he received his B.S. in Biology (2009), M.S. in Entomology/Experimental Statistics (2011), and Ph.D. in Entomology (2016). He began his career in entomology working as an undergraduate laboratory assistant in Dr. Gene Reagan's sugarcane entomology lab. Blake's research focus has been primarily on examination of stem borer ecology and pest management in sugarcane and rice in Louisiana and Texas. He has published numerous entomology research journal articles and his work has earned him the multiple awards from the Entomological Society of America. Blake currently resides in Baton Rouge with his wife and two daughters. Blake is an avid LSU Tiger fan and looks forward to continuing his work with the LSU AgCenter.

Welcome Dr. Wilson! Drs. Wilson and Mike Stout have penned an excellent article on choosing the best rice insecticidal seed treatment for your individual situation. This article can be found below.

## **Choosing the right insecticidal seed treatment**

**Blake E. Wilson and Mike J. Stout**

Early season insect pests represent a consistent threat in Louisiana which can hurt

the rice crop right from the onset of the growing season. Fortunately, farmers have several insecticidal seed treatments available which can help to mitigate pest damage. In fact, economic analysis of seed treatment trials in Louisiana and Mississippi indicate seed treatments provide economic benefits in over 70 percent of fields where they are applied. However, each of the available products have different attributes, and choosing which one fits best with your situation isn't always easy.

The primary early season insect pest of rice throughout Louisiana is the rice water weevil (*Lissorhoptrus oryzophilus*) which begins attacking rice roots shortly after permanent flood. Additional early- and mid-season pests include the grape colaspis, chinch bugs, thrips, South American rice miner, fall armyworm, and a complex of stem borers. Insecticidal seed treatments available for rice have different spectra of pests which they control. All insecticidal seed treatments provide satisfactory control of the rice water weevil, but data indicate that the highest level of control can be achieved with Dermacor X100. Dermacor also provides exceptional control of fall armyworms and stem borers, and may be a good option for rice producers in more western regions where the Mexican rice borer (*Eoreuma loftini*) is becoming an

# LOUISIANA RICE NOTES

Drs. Dustin Harrell, Michael Deliberto, Mike Stout, Blake Wilson and Mr. Allen Wilson

March 22, 2017

No. 2017-02

increasingly damaging pest. The neonicotinoid seed treatments, Cruiser and NipsIt Inside, control a broader spectrum of pests including aphids, chinch bugs, grape colaspis, and thrips. These treatments may be a good fit for fields which typically have low to moderate weevil pressure and have not previously had high numbers of whiteheads caused by stem borers. None of the available seed treatments provide control of late season pests such as the rice stink bug. Selection of the best treatment to control the most

damaging pest complex in your fields will maximize the benefits of these important tools. Additionally, seed treatments should be rotated whenever possible to reduce the risk of insecticide resistance development.

Other considerations when selecting a seed treatment include input costs and seeding rates. The label rate of Dermacor X100 varies according to the seeding rate to achieve a constant amount of insecticide per acre, while the neonicotinoids are applied to seed on a per-pound basis. In fields which are planted

| Seed Treatment | Manufacturer | Active ingredient           | Rate          | Estimated cost (\$/acre)* | Pests controlled  |             |               |          |             |        |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------|----------|-------------|--------|
|                |              |                             |               |                           | Rice water weevil | Stem borers | Fall armyworm | Colaspis | Chinch bugs | Thrips |
| Dermacor X100  | DuPont       | Chlorantraniliprole         | 1.5–2.0 fl oz | \$18–24                   | ✓                 | ✓           | ✓             | ✗        | ✗           | ✗      |
| Cruiser 5FS    | Syngenta     | Thiamethoxam                | 30 lbs seed   | \$5.40                    | ✓                 | ✗           | ✗             | ✓        | ✓           | ✓      |
|                |              |                             | 100 lbs seed  | \$18                      |                   |             |               |          |             |        |
| CruiserMaxx    | Syngenta     | Thiamethoxam + 3 fungicides | 30 lbs seed   | \$9                       | ✓                 | ✗           | ✗             | ✓        | ✓           | ✓      |
|                |              |                             | 100 lbs seed  | \$30                      |                   |             |               |          |             |        |
| NipsIt Inside  | Valent       | Clothianidin                | 30 lbs seed   | \$6                       | ✓                 | ✗           | ✗             | ✓        | ✓           | ✓      |
|                |              |                             | 100 lbs seed  | \$19                      |                   |             |               |          |             |        |
| NipsIt Suite   | Valent       | Clothianidin + 2 fungicides |               | Variable                  | ✓                 | ✗           | ✗             | ✓        | ✓           | ✓      |

# ***LOUISIANA RICE NOTES***

**Drs. Dustin Harrell, Michael Deliberto, Mike Stout, Blake Wilson and Mr. Allen Wilson**

**March 22, 2017**

**No. 2017-02**

with low seeding rates such as in hybrid rice cultivars, neonicotinoids may be substantially less expensive. The availability of fungicidal seed treatments is another factor which should be considered. CruiserMaxx and NipsitSuite include fungicides, but no Dermacor/fungicide mixes are available. Refer to the table below for information on pests controlled, economic considerations, and availability of fungicidal-insecticide combinations.

## **Change to FirstShot Label**

The updated label states that when FirstShot SG is applied at the half ounce per acre rate, the application may be made prior to or immediately after planting but prior to rice emergence. This replaces the 0 days on the previous label which left a lot of grey area for interpretation.

## **Help needed developing comments on the risk assessment portion of EPA's pesticide registration review of the pyrethroid class of chemicals**

Lydia Holmes, regulatory affairs manager with USA Rice, is looking to gather data on how our industry uses pyrethroids. Common pyrethroids used for rice include Etofenprox (Trebon), Lambda-Cyhalothrin

(Karate Z), Gamma-Cyhalothrin (Prolex), and Zeta-Cypermethrin (Mustang Max).

The survey is 15 questions and should only take about 10-15 minutes to complete. The results generated will only be visible to USA Rice staff. Your name will not be associated with your response, only the state where you farm. **The information you provide will help us explain why these chemicals are a priority for our industry and are safer than the alternatives. With so few chemicals available for use on rice, we cannot afford to lose the registration of these important products.**

Click this link to take the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2XGJ8SS>  
All producers and consultants are encouraged to take the survey. Contact Lydia for further questions or concerns:

Lydia Holmes  
Manager, Regulatory Affairs  
USA Rice  
(d) (703) 236-1445  
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# LOUISIANA RICE NOTES

Drs. Dustin Harrell, Michael Deliberto, Mike Stout, Blake Wilson and Mr. Allen Wilson

March 22, 2017

No. 2017-02

## Economic evaluation of using AV-1011 versus replanting

**Dr. Michael Deliberto**

Damage from blackbirds to rice fields in southern to central Louisiana has become problematic and can cause substantial economic losses to a newly planted rice field. Planting costs for conventional, Clearfield, and hybrid rice seed were obtained from the 2017 Projected Costs and Returns for Rice in Louisiana, a series of enterprise budgets released by the LSU AgCenter in January, 2017. Planting cost will vary depending on the seed method employed and the seeding rate used. Two planting methods included in the representative farm work are water-seeded and drill-seeded rice. For water-seeded rice, planting costs include a custom aerial application, seed material, and a GPS technology charge. The total water-planted rice costs are \$7.07 per acre. Likewise, for drill-planted rice, planting costs are a function of the grain drill, tractor, and seed material. The total drill-planted rice costs are \$10.16 per acre. Tables 1 and 2 presents the direct planting costs (per acre) for water and drill-planted conventional, Clearfield, and hybrid rice seed across varying seeding rates. Rice seed prices, obtained in December 2016, were

estimated at 38 cents per pound for conventional, \$1.05 per pound for Clearfield, and \$160.00 per acre for hybrid seed. Rice seed is often treated with an insecticide, Dermacor X-100 is a common application in Southwest Louisiana. Assuming a recommended rate of 2 fluid ounces per acre, the total treatment costs is approximately \$24 per acre for water-planted and \$19 per acre

Table 1. Water-planted rice seeding costs per acre, 2017.

| Seed Technology | Seeding Rate | Seed Cost | Total Cost |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Conventional    | 60           | \$48.00   | \$57.17    |
|                 | 75           | \$54.00   | \$63.70    |
|                 | 90           | \$60.00   | \$70.22    |
|                 | 100          | \$64.00   | \$74.57    |
|                 | 120          | \$72.00   | \$83.27    |
| Clearfield      | 60           | \$88.20   | \$97.37    |
|                 | 75           | \$104.25  | \$113.95   |
|                 | 90           | \$120.30  | \$130.52   |
|                 | 100          | \$131.00  | \$141.57   |
|                 | 120          | \$152.40  | \$163.67   |
| Hybrid          | 20           | \$185.20  | \$192.97   |

Table 2. Drill-planted rice seeding costs per acre, 2017.

| Seed Technology | Seeding Rate | Seed Cost | Total Cost |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Conventional    | 60           | \$43.00   | \$55.26    |
|                 | 75           | \$49.00   | \$61.79    |
|                 | 90           | \$55.00   | \$68.31    |
|                 | 100          | \$59.00   | \$72.66    |
|                 | 120          | \$67.00   | \$81.36    |
| Clearfield      | 60           | \$83.20   | \$96.33    |
|                 | 75           | \$99.25   | \$112.91   |
|                 | 90           | \$115.30  | \$129.48   |
|                 | 100          | \$126.00  | \$141.53   |
|                 | 120          | \$147.40  | \$162.63   |
| Hybrid          | 20           | \$180.20  | \$191.06   |

# *LOUISIANA RICE NOTES*

**Drs. Dustin Harrell, Michael Deliberto, Mike Stout, Blake Wilson and Mr. Allen Wilson**

**March 22, 2017**

**No. 2017-02**

for drill-planted rice. Zinc was also applied to the seed at a cost of \$2 per hundredweight of seed. A fungicide seed treatment is also included in the seed cost estimate at a cost of \$3.50 per hundredweight of seed. Cost are presented on a per-acre basis. AV-1011 is a bird repellent made by Arkion Life Sciences that can be applied to a bag of rice seed. The retail cost of AV-1011 is \$204.50 per gallon. AV-1011 is recommended at 18.29 fluid ounces per 100 hundredweight of rice seed. Table 3 lists the application rates and treatment costs by seeding rate. Therefore, the cost of treating rice seed with AV-1011 coupled with an insecticide, zinc, and a fungicide treatment will increase the total planting system costs. Tables 4 and 5 presents the adjusted planting cost, reflective of additional seed protection for water and drill-seeded rice. Total planting costs include custom aerial application expenses or grain drill delivery.

The economic question becomes: Should a grower treat their rice seed with the AV-1011 initially, or risk having to replant their field in the wake of blackbird damage? Therefore, if the grower chooses to treat their rice seed with AV-1011, an insecticide, zinc, and a fungicide at planting; will this cost

outlay be less expensive as compared to having to replant the field at a later date? Replanting costs in Tables 6 and 7 are estimated to be double that of the initial seed cost and planting expenses per acre. These expenditures will vary based on the seeding rate and seed technology. It is noted that the replanting expenses (as those listed in Tables 1 and 2) reflect the initial cost for the failed rice stand and the subsequent seed material and delivery cost in-field.

Finally, an economic comparison can be made by examining the rice seed treatment costs in Tables 4 and 5 with the replant cost estimates provided in Table 6 and 7. Across conventional, Clearfield, and hybrid rice seed technologies, it is more expensive to replant a rice stand as compared to treating the seed initially with AV-1011. Planting method did not vary the results, meaning that the seed cost and seeding rate are the chief determinants in the treat-versus-replant decision. Treating the seed with AV-1011 will warrant an additional cost outlay at planting. Relative to blackbird predator pressure in an area, the additional expenditure may be viewed as a risk management strategy. For a listed seeding rate, the cost of AV-1011 will average \$17.53 to \$35.07 per acre. Given the

# LOUISIANA RICE NOTES

Drs. Dustin Harrell, Michael Deliberto, Mike Stout, Blake Wilson and Mr. Allen Wilson

March 22, 2017

No. 2017-02

current market outlook for rice, margins will remain tight. Therefore the risk, or likelihood, of replanting a rice stand will erode a profit margin. The total planting investment will carry an average premium of \$43.78 for conventional, and \$103.41 for Clearfield water-planted rice seed. For drill-planted seed, replanting will represent a total investment of and additional \$41.87 for conventional and \$102.57 for Clearfield seed per acre.

These additional costs are greater than the cost of AV-1011 seed treatment.

Table 3. Seed treatment costs of AV-1011 blackbird repellent, 2017.

| Pounds of Seed (Rate) | AV-1011 Amount (fl. oz.) | AV-1011 Treatment Cost |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 20                    | 3.658                    | \$5.84                 |
| 60                    | 10.974                   | \$17.53                |
| 75                    | 13.718                   | \$21.92                |
| 90                    | 16.461                   | \$26.30                |
| 100                   | 18.290                   | \$29.22                |

Table 4. Water-planted rice seed planting cost estimates.

| Seed Technology | Seeding Rate | Seed Cost | AV-1011 Treatment | Total Planting Costs |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Conventional    | 60           | \$48.00   | \$17.53           | \$74.70              |
|                 | 75           | \$54.00   | \$21.92           | \$85.61              |
|                 | 90           | \$60.00   | \$26.30           | \$96.52              |
|                 | 100          | \$64.00   | \$29.22           | \$103.79             |
|                 | 120          | \$72.00   | \$35.07           | \$118.34             |
| Clearfield      | 60           | \$88.20   | \$17.53           | \$114.90             |
|                 | 75           | \$104.25  | \$21.92           | \$135.86             |
|                 | 90           | \$120.30  | \$26.30           | \$156.82             |
|                 | 100          | \$131.00  | \$29.22           | \$170.79             |
|                 | 120          | \$152.40  | \$35.07           | \$198.74             |
| Hybrid          | 20           | \$185.20  | \$5.84            | \$198.81             |

Table 5. Drill-planted rice seed planting cost estimates.

| Seed Technology | Seeding Rate | Seed Cost | AV-1011 Treatment | Total Planting Costs |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Conventional    | 60           | \$43.00   | \$17.53           | \$72.79              |
|                 | 75           | \$49.00   | \$21.92           | \$83.70              |
|                 | 90           | \$55.00   | \$26.30           | \$94.61              |
|                 | 100          | \$59.00   | \$29.22           | \$101.88             |
|                 | 120          | \$67.00   | \$35.07           | \$116.43             |
| Clearfield      | 60           | \$83.20   | \$17.53           | \$113.86             |
|                 | 75           | \$99.25   | \$21.92           | \$134.82             |
|                 | 90           | \$115.30  | \$26.30           | \$155.78             |
|                 | 100          | \$126.00  | \$29.22           | \$170.75             |
|                 | 120          | \$147.40  | \$35.07           | \$197.70             |
| Hybrid          | 20           | \$180.20  | \$5.84            | \$196.90             |

Table 6. Water-planted rice seed, replanted.

| Seed Technology | Seeding Rate | Total Planting Expenditure |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Conventional    | 60           | \$114.34                   |
|                 | 75           | \$127.39                   |
|                 | 90           | \$140.44                   |
|                 | 100          | \$149.14                   |
|                 | 120          | \$166.54                   |
| Clearfield      | 60           | \$194.74                   |
|                 | 75           | \$227.89                   |
|                 | 90           | \$261.04                   |
|                 | 100          | \$283.14                   |
|                 | 120          | \$327.34                   |
| Hybrid          | 20           | \$385.94                   |

Table 7. Drill-planted rice seed, replanted.

| Seed Technology | Seeding Rate | Total Planting Expenditure |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Conventional    | 60           | \$110.52                   |
|                 | 75           | \$123.57                   |
|                 | 90           | \$136.62                   |
|                 | 100          | \$145.32                   |
|                 | 120          | \$162.72                   |
| Clearfield      | 60           | \$192.66                   |
|                 | 75           | \$225.81                   |
|                 | 90           | \$258.96                   |
|                 | 100          | \$283.06                   |
|                 | 120          | \$325.26                   |
| Hybrid          | 20           | \$382.12                   |



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March 22, 2017

No. 2017-02

## Additional Information

Louisiana Rice Notes is published periodically to provide timely information and recommendations for rice production in Louisiana. If you would like to be added to this email list, please send your request to [dharrell@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:dharrell@agcenter.lsu.edu).

This information will also be posted to the LSU AgCenter website where additional rice information can be found. Please visit [www.LSUAgCenter.com](http://www.LSUAgCenter.com).

## Upcoming

- June 28 LSU AgCenter H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station Field Day, Crowley, LA
- July 12 Northeast Louisiana Rice Field Day, Oak Ridge and Rayville, LA

## Contact Information

|                   |                                                              |                |                                                                              |
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