

Field Notes
August 17, 2009
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Now that most rice farmers in the southern part of the state are harvesting I am not getting as many phone calls. A few of the calls have been interesting and brought up topics I realized I should pass along to you.

The first question regards harvest aids. The only harvest aids labeled for use on rice of which I am aware are sodium chlorate and Aim. The question specifically addressed the use of sodium chlorate in rice intended to be second cropped. Research conducted quite a few years ago by Dr. Pat Bollich indicated we should **NOT** use sodium chlorate as a harvest aid where a second or ratoon crop is intended. It will probably desiccate the tillers too much. Because Aim is a herbicide labeled for use in rice during the growing season and it is not a desiccant, it does not present the problems of sodium chlorate and can be used. It is only effective on the broadleaf weeds listed on its label and has a 3 day pre-harvest interval. As usual always consult the product label **before** using any product.

So far we have not had a late season stink bug flare up except in one location where the company rep said he was capturing two to three times the economic threshold. The rice affected was about 2 weeks from harvest.

We have harvested 4 verification fields and should harvest the 5th either this afternoon or tomorrow. The yields have been the best ever overall as have been the reports I have heard from growers. The USDA just released its August 1 report. It estimates our yield at 6300 lbs per acre and acreage at 415,000. I hope both numbers are wrong. I hope we will finally crack the 6500 pound barrier. In 2007 the AgCenter estimate was 6423 pounds per acre, a little higher than the USDA estimate that year. Even though Vermilion, Jeff Davis, Cameron and Calcasieu parishes lost some acreage due to salt water intrusion I expect our acreage to be the same or slightly up from last year. The county agents are in the process of conducting their annual acreage by variety surveys so we should have a better idea soon. The table below shows our verification results to date.

Parish	Acres	Variety	Cwt/A green	bbls/A green	Bu/A green	Cwt/A dry	bbls/A dry	Bu/A dry
Acadia	56.6	CL151	99.47	61.4	221.0	91.10	56.2	202.4
Calcasieu	41.7	CLXL729	81.15	50.1	180.3	76.44	47.2	169.9
Evangeline	22.5	Jupiter	85.21	52.6	189.4	80.95	50.0	179.9
Vermilion	41.5	CL151	91.55	56.5	203.4	87.08	53.8	193.5
Average	162.3		90.76	56.0	201.7	84.89	52.4	188.7

On the next page are two photographs taken in the field in Evangeline parish of approximately the same area of the field. In spite of the excellent yield the first photograph indicates the uneven and thin stand in some areas of the field. Had these areas not been present the yield would have been even higher. While riding the combine the yield monitor ranged from 7100 to 11,500 pounds per acre.

