

Field Notes

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Parish	Acres	Variety	cwt/A green	bbl/A green	bu/A green	cwt/A @ 12%	bbl/A @ 12%	bu/A @ 12%
Concordia	23.0	CL111	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0
Evangeline	20.7	CL111	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0
Jeff Davis	42.6	XP 753	100.23	61.9	222.7	93.62	57.8	208.0
W. Carroll	32.2	CLXL756	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0
Vermilion	41.0	Jupiter	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0

We have finally started harvesting our verification fields. We were scheduled to start last Friday and got about an inch and a half of rain delaying the start until late Saturday afternoon. As can be seen above it was wet forcing the growers to unload on the ends rather than on-the-go because a second crop is intended. On Sunday we got rained out again and finally finished on Monday. I was extremely pleased with the yield having predicted a dry yield of 52 bbls/A. The farmer said he had hoped to break the verification record, but it will be tough to beat the yields of last year anywhere in Louisiana this year.

Arkansas is reporting the same thing we are seeing everywhere—uneven maturity. The scattered heads shown below are in our verification field in West Carroll parish. After walking the field last week I expected to see a field at 50% heading this week; it might have been 10% headed. I also expected to see high numbers of stink bugs, but found very few.



The series of photographs below illustrate a method we have been using for several years to estimate grain moisture in the field at harvest. First we find an area of the field we feel is representative of the field. Then we cut several small samples and beat them into a bucket thereby threshing the grain from the panicles. We remove any large pieces of vegetative material and then use a moisture meter just as you would any other grain sample.

In the verification program we then obtain a sample from the combine we feel represents the same area of the field from which we took our hand sample. Our experience has shown us that if our hand sample reads 19% or higher we should add about 3% to that reading to produce a reading comparable to the combine obtained sample. When our reading approaches 15% the difference is smaller and sometimes the same.

The relative moisture is more important than the absolute moisture. By that I mean that even if the hand sample produces a reading that is lower than you would get with a combine sample when you compare different fields the numbers will tell you which field is the most mature. Some farmers have started doing this to schedule their combines especially when it will eliminate a 10 mile combine ride just to find out the rice is still too green to harvest.

I do recommend taking this sample after 12:00 o'clock to get the best reading. Late afternoon samples should also be avoided because moisture begins to increase late in the day. Surprisingly, rain does not influence the sample unless the sample is taken immediately after a shower. Obviously, a wet sample is not a reliable sample so wait an hour or so before sampling after a shower.





Hard to thresh varieties will be hard to thresh by hand especially if they are still fairly green. The hybrids are the easiest to separate grain from by hand and some of the medium grain varieties appear to hold the grain a little tighter. It is not necessary to remove every grain, just be consistent in sampling.