

Field Notes

August 21, 2014

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Like you we have had to dodge showers and in some cases get “down and dirty” to get this crop out of the field. Last Wednesday we started to harvest in Vermilion, but the sample was at 22% moisture. So it was scheduled for Saturday. A shower came through mid-morning without lasting long and we were able to get it harvested. We watched showers in the distance and via radar which proved the value of good luck. It seemed like it was raining all around us. The yield was very much a pleasant surprise.

Yesterday we were able to harvest the field in Concordia without incident. While the yield was better than the yield last year with the same variety in the same field it was not a surprise. It looked good enough to make 8100 lbs/A (50 bbls/A, 180 bu/A) and it did—just barely.

That is three down and two to go.

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	83.80	51.7	186.2	78.65	48.5	174.4
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	92.48	57.1	205.5
W. Carroll	32.2	CLXL756	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0
Vermilion	41.0	Jupiter	81.59	50.4	181.3	76.58	47.3	170.2

The yields I have been hearing about are better than expected, but not as good as last year. The other surprise so far has been reports of excellent grain quality with some saying it is the best they have ever had when it went straight to the mill or drier. I suspect the prolonged drying period which aggravated everyone who was ready to harvest probably allowed the grain to cure slowly thereby increasing milling. If it keeps raining it could cause a reverse because when grains dry down then gain moisture then dry again it causes cracking of the grain. Sooner or later it will quit.

While walking our verification field in West Carroll parish we noticed a single plant a portion of which is shown at right. I showed the photograph to Dr. Linscombe and Dr. Groth. Dr. Groth said he would need a specimen to determine if disease was involved, but I did not keep one. Dr. Linscombe said he suspected a mutation like the striped leaf mutation we see on a regular basis. If we see another one I will collect it. It was in the hybrid CLXL756, a variety that will not be available anymore. For now I am just treating it as one of those oddities that are interesting yet of little consequence.



I hope this sighting was not an omen. I still have a little more time and some unfinished tasks.