

Field Notes

August 28, 2014

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It took part of two days to get our verification field in Evangeline parish harvested this week even though it was only about 21 acres. Grain moisture was a little high, rain was predicted and part of the field includes an old oil well location. The farmer wanted to harvest and so did we. At top left the rear wheel of the combine is spinning— in reverse— as the operator struggled to work his way around the cut where the old location had been. Top right, he found the old pit and hit bottom. Bottom right pulling him out. The time lost here probably was just enough for us to get stopped by a sudden heavy shower. The next day we finished and an older more experienced operator attempted to get as much rice out as he could. He did not get stuck, but he did have to leave some rice in the field. The small area harvested may have been enough to get us over the 8000 lbs/A (50 bbl/A, 180 bu/A) mark an amazing yield for this field that had so many problems early on that we almost re-planted. I did not expect a yield over 7000 lbs/A.

The farmer had intended to drill seed. Wet weather ruined that. Trying to prepare the seedbed in water was a real challenge resulting in less than desirable conditions and uneven population. The variety was CL111 and the field adjacent to it was not Clearfield and not for the same farmer. Somehow two applications of New-path were made without any drift issues. We did not think we really had enough disease to warrant a fungicide, but wanted to evaluate Sercadis. I'm glad we did because sheath blight started showing up late and was controlled. I have seen this before in CL111 and do not know if it is common to this variety or just coincidence. The same thing happened a few years ago where we had not used fungicide and regretted it.

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	81.10	50.1	180.2	74.83	46.2	166.3
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

I have long hoped we could have one year in the verification program where every field would yield more than 8100 lbs/A. I said several times during the season that I thought there was little hope of reaching that goal this year given the yield history in Vermilion and the difficulties in Evangeline. Both have come through and there is now a real possibility it could happen. We should drain our field in W. Carroll parish next week and barring any inclement weather the potential is there. I do not think we will make the yield we made there last year (10,582 lbs/A dry) however, I have been surprised by the yields in our verification fields and those reported to me.

While I still think the state yield will be lower than the record year we had last year the yields reported to me are better than I anticipated. Last year I heard a lot of 8000 lbs/A and quite a few around 9800 lbs/A. This year its more like a few around 7000 lbs/A and a lot around 8000 lbs/A. We'll just have to see how things hold up.

The photograph at right shows typical Blazer herbicide effects on rice. It was not applied to this field deliberately instead it was a drift event from a nearby soybean field where Blazer had been applied. The injury is cosmetic and no yield effect should be observed. Since it is labeled on rice and the same farmer has both crops it will not be an issue. The symptoms could be confused with many contact herbicides including Gramoxone. Knowing what had been applied nearby made the diagnosis certain.





Even after having been run over by the combine and buried in mud this critter was still formidable. One of the men there pulled it out of the mud and released it. If it had been a little bigger it might not have so lucky.