

Field Notes
August 31, 2010
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I thought some of you might be interested in how yields turned out in the Verification Program this year. It was a much smaller program with only three fields involved; however it was as challenging a year as any. The weather had the greatest impact in both direct and indirect effects. Excessively high night time temperatures during flowering and rain (or the lack of) at the wrong times were the key ingredients that led to poor pollination, bacterial panicle blight and lodging and delayed harvest.

In spite of these problems I was surprised at how little difference in yields we experienced between this year and last year. I suspect if we had 9 fields this year the differences would have been greater.

I have had several calls about pecky rice. In the affected fields there are very high stink bug numbers at harvest. I checked insecticide labels and Karate has a 21 day pre-harvest interval (phi) and Mustang has a 14 day phi. If there are lots of adults they could have come in late. If there are lots of nymphs then they were there a couple of weeks ago or perhaps the eggs were.

My philosophy on stink bugs is to make a final sample at the time of drain recommendation. If I encounter a hatch out or have been sitting on a 2/3 threshold for a couple of weeks, I will recommend a spray because it will be two to three weeks (if everything goes right) before harvest and during that time the numbers are only going to go up. Not everyone agrees with this practice. I hate stink bugs. We did exactly that in one verification field that had already been sprayed once and I'm glad we did because rain delayed harvest so that there were 4 weeks between drain and harvest. There were still stink bugs at harvest. I hate to think of what the numbers would have been if we had not sprayed. It was also a seed rice field which helped to justify the additional spray.

Yields from the 2010 Rice Research Verification Program Compared to the 2009 Yields

Parish	Acres	Variety	Cwt/A green	Bbl/A green	Bu/A green	Cwt/A dry	Bbl/A dry	Bu/A dry
Avoyelles	41.8	Cocodrie	85.63	52.9	190.3	80.57	49.7	179.0
Jeff Davis	35.8	CLXL745	91.04	56.2	202.3	87.38	53.9	194.2
St. Landry	31.3	CL111	73.46	45.3	163.2	71.71	44.3	159.4
Average			83.91	51.8	186.5	80.26	49.5	178.4
2009			86.06	53.1	191.3	81.31	50.2	180.7
2010-2009			2.15	1.3	4.8	1.05	0.7	2.3