



Last week we recommended Clincher be applied to a portion of our verification field in Vermilion parish. Normally we do not recommend “spot treating” a field, but in this case the areas needing treatment were conspicuous because they corresponded to ridges where the stand was weak and grass pressure heavy. Clincher was applied on May 14 and the photographs were taken on May 21. The majority of the grass shown here is fall panicum. The control was very good on it and barnyardgrass and somewhat weaker on sprangletop.

Below are Dr. Dustin Harrell’s plots in Evangeline parish. They are the best fertility plots I have seen in a long time because he is able to demonstrate phosphorus, potassium, zinc, and sulfur benefits to rice at one location.







Last week I showed photographs of an area of a field showing a mottled area of vivid yellow plants. The photographs were taken on Wednesday the 15th. On Saturday Keith Fontenot put out fertilizer plots in the flagged areas and on this Wednesday the 22nd I took this photo. As you can see the symptoms are much less evident. We also applied Manganese to one of the plots and will evaluate it next week. Farmers who have been dealing with this problem the past several years tell me the symptoms do go away on their own. This is like the intermittent problem on an automobile that refuses to show up when you take it to a mechanic. We'll keep plugging away until we identify the culprit. The recovery was not associated with any particular treatment.



I also showed photographs of the above field last week with the explanation that it was probably nitrogen deficiency. Keith also put plots out here and the green square confirms nitrogen deficiency. (For all the "authorities" out there I know the yellow lines are not square—the plot in the field is square.) I felt much better seeing the response to nitrogen because after seeing the other field I began to question my conclusion. This one is nitrogen; I don't know what the other is yet.





The agricultural community in Louisiana has not embraced the “Flag the Technology” developed in Arkansas, but I am beginning to think we should have endorsed and promoted it long ago. I saw enough drift problems in the last two weeks alone to justify the program. The grid of darker green lines are the spin ditches which apparently offered some protection when the unwanted herbicide drifted across the field. The field was flooded when the event occurred and has since been drained.

The field shown at right is in E. Carroll parish. CL111 was drilled into heavy clay soil with the intention of pulling levees after planting. They then got just enough rain to keep them from doing the levee work, and to get the plants to emerge, but not enough moisture to keep them going. By the time we got there yesterday it had rained just enough to keep things sticky and get some plants to green up.

Wheel tracks were clearly evident. My explanation is that the problem was moisture stress.

The problem occurs on clay soils where the surface shrinks, cracks and granulates as moisture evaporates from the surface. Air circulates through these cracks causing moisture loss from both the soil and plant roots.

The compacted areas retain more moisture than the non-compacted because the surface is continually supplied with moisture by capillary action from below. The looser soil particles dry, shrink and lose the capillary connection to subsurface moisture. The compacted areas are also slightly depressed resulting in moisture flowing to them both on the surface and below the surface.

We recommended flushing the field. It often takes as much as 6 acre inches of water to flush clay soils the first time. Thus the inch or two of rain which might appear to be enough really is not. Gummy moist soil just below the roots just as soon be a mile away from the plant because it cannot get to it.

