

Missouri Ag News

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Making 2013 Rice Selections

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Crops	Horticulture
Engineering	Livestock
Forestry	Other



It's time for growers to buy seed for 2013. Given the high amount of variability in the 2012 rice growing season, some producers are very interested in getting some additional information prior to making their seed purchases.

Yield - While we do not yet have the results of this year's Missouri or Arkansas Rice Performance Trials (ARPT), the top varieties during these trials in 2011 were Caffey (189 bu/A), Francis (195), Jupiter (196), RoyJ (196), Taggart (215), and Templeton (194). The top hybrids were RiceTec XL723 (190 bu/A) and RiceTec XP753 (254). Averaged across the past three years, the highest yielding cultivars have been RiceTec XL723 (201 bu/A), RiceTec CL XL729 (195), Taggart (191), RiceTec CL XL745 (190), and RoyJ (186).

Some useful information from the UAR 2012 Rice Verification fields (harvest incomplete) is shown in the table below:

Milling quality - We're still in the

Variety	County	Field Size (A)	Soil Type	Yield (bu/A)
RiceTec XL 753	Jefferson	28	Clay	198
RoyJ	Lee	83	Silt Loam	196
RiceTec XL 753	Lincoln	40	Clay	176
RoyJ	Craighead	58	Clay	196
Jupiter	Independence	29	Silt Loam	221
Taggart	Jackson	36	Sandy Loam	171
RiceTec XL 745	Prairie	82	Silt Loam	193
RiceTec XL 723	Randolph	68	Sandy Loam	184
CL 151	Arkansas	120	Silt Loam	180
CL 151	Chicot	50	Clay	242

process of milling samples for all 2012 experiments, but I would like to look back to 2010 as an example of when we had high heat and low milling yields. Milling yields in the 2010 ARPTs ranged from 51-64 to 59-66 with an average of 54-65. In comparison, the 2009 and 2011 averages were 63-71 and 62-71, respectively. Every variety and hybrid tested in 2010 showed a significant drop in either head rice yield or total milling yield compared to their performance in 2009 and 2011. Reductions in milling quality can be caused by many factors, including high nighttime temperatures and re-wetting and drying once the crop nears maturity.

Economics - With reports of increased prices for both conventional hybrid and Clearfield hybrid seed for 2013 planting, it's increasingly important to look at the economics of your cultivar selection prior to purchasing seed. Basing some general estimates off of

Rice Selections.....continued

budget levels for 2012, a conventional (non-Clearfield) hybrid would need to yield ~5 bu/A greater than a conventional variety to provide the same economic return. In comparison, a Clearfield hybrid would need to out-yield a conventional variety by ~13 bu/A to provide a comparable economic return. Based on conservative estimates we've been hearing, prices may go up as much as \$10/acre for hybrids and Clearfield hybrids. This increase would mean the hybrids would need to outperform conventional varieties by an even greater margin to achieve a similar economic return. Hybrids have generally been meeting that performance need, but this year's verification field results suggests that is not always the case.

Summary - This information is a preliminary attempt to show that we have the ability to successfully (and profitably) produce a number of varieties and hybrids. The most important focus for rice growers should be in

getting the best cultivar (variety or hybrid) on the most appropriate ground. Some cultivars are better on certain soil types and conditions compared to others. While suggestions can be made based on our general observations, it is essential that growers test new cultivars on their farms under their particular growing conditions. Get enough seed of an alternative to try on 5-10 acres just to see if it performs well enough to try on a larger acreage next season. Our goal is to provide rice producers with as much of the best information possible for generating a high-yielding, high-quality, and highly profitable rice crop. However, we cannot account for every detail and nuance of every field on every farm. It's important to use this information as a guide to give you the best chance of success.

Sam Atwell, Agronomy Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, New Madrid, MO and Jarrod Hardke, Rice Extension Agronomist, UAR.

Cotton Production and Outlook Conference

Wednesday, February 6, 2013 at the Fisher Delta
Research Center in Portageville, MO

8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Dr. Jung Ha-Brookshire, assistant professor in the MU Textile and Apparel Center in Columbia, is working to get the country of origin listed on apparel labels to help support the U.S. cotton industry. Her topic will be Cotton: The Engine of the "Made in USA" Drive. Soil fertility, weed control, marketing, and new products from industry will also be topics discussed. Lunch will be provided to participants.

Call Mike Milam at the Dunklin County University of Missouri Extension Office at 573-888-4722 or Andrea Jones 573-379-5431.

Recovering from the Drought

It is now time to begin looking at what options exist for spring and summer planting to continue recovery from the 2012 drought.

Planting guides indicate that cool-season grasses like fescue, orchardgrass, and perennial ryegrass can be planted in both the spring and fall. However, it is best to plant these crops in the fall. Cool-season grasses planted in the spring usually fail from an incomplete root system entering into the summer dry period. If fescue pastures are thin, I recommend considering other alternatives and replanting cool-season grasses next fall.

Interseeding legumes is one option to thickening drought-thinned pastures. Legumes like white clover, red clover, and annual lespedeza can be broadcast in late January to early February or they can be no-till drilled in early spring. Legumes will help to fill in some of the gaps that the fescue does not fill, will increase the nutritive value of the forage, increase the forage supplied in June, and will fix nitrogen from the atmosphere. Clovers require high levels of soil fertility, so consult your soil report before seeding. Annual Lespedeza can be planted in areas with lower fertility levels. Also, annual lespedeza will germinate later in the spring and provide forage into the summer months. Make sure to check herbicide spray records, as they can affect legume germination.

Oats, a spring annual, can be planted in late February to early March. This crop will grow rapidly to provide early spring forage. Oats can be interseeded into fescue pastures, but it requires careful management because the oats can shade out the fescue. This practice, when

not managed, can further thin already weak stands.

Annual ryegrass can also be planted in early spring. This forage can be interseeded into fescue stands successfully. However, annual ryegrass is a significant weed in other crop systems, particularly wheat crops. It is also difficult to prevent annual ryegrass from producing seed that will germinate in the fall. In pasture situations, this is usually a benefit, but can be problematic when planted near cropping systems. Therefore, please consider what your neighbor is growing before planting this forage.

Summer forages should also be considered. It is recommended that farms in southern Missouri have 15 -40% of their total grazing acres planted with a warm-season forage. Perennial warm-season forages include: bermudagrass, caucasian bluestem, and native grasses like big bluestem, switchgrass, or indiagrass. Annual warm-season grasses include: crabgrass, pearl millet, sorghum, or sudangrass. Many of these crops need to be planted in May.

With any forage that you decide to plant make sure that the planting is timed correctly. Information about planting dates and rates can be found at: <http://extension.missouri.edu/p/G4652>. Additionally, make sure soil fertility is adequate to support the forage that you plant.

Sarah Kenyon, Agronomy Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, Alton, MO

Missouri Hay Directories

www.mda.mo.gov/abd/haydirectory

www.mocattle.org/haydirectory.aspx

www.agebb.missouri.edu/haylst

Grain Market Commentary

Corn production increased 55 million bushels (mb) due to a 300,000 cut in harvested acres and the 1.1 bushel/acre yield increase. The average trade guess was a 700,000 cut in harvested acres and a 0.8 bushels/acre yield increase. There was a demand increase of 300,000 bushel in feed and residual based on a smaller than expected quarterly stocks inventory. This could be due to a smaller than expected liquidation of the livestock herd and more corn fed due to less distiller's grains available. Exports were cut 200,000 bushels due to a slow export pace this marketing year. Ending stocks were cut 45 mb to 602 mb. The average trade guess was for corn ending stocks to remain unchanged at 647 mb. World ending stocks were lower 1.6 million metric tons (mmt). Argentina's corn production increased 0.5 mmt and Brazil's increased 1.0 mmt.

Rice production and exports were increased 1 million cwt each with ending stocks unchanged at 30.1 million. World ending stocks remained unchanged at 102.5 mmt.

Soybean production increased 44 mb based on a 400,000 harvest acre increase and 0.3 bushel yield increase. The crush use was increased 35 mb due to strong demand but exports were unchanged at 1.345 billion bushels despite strong sales. With the prospects of a large soybean crop from South America, USDA must expect U.S. exports to slow considerably the second half of the marketing year.

Ending stocks were increased 5 mb to 135 million. Stocks remain very tight. Brazil's soybean crop increased 1.5 mmt but Argentina's was cut 1 mmt.

Wheat feed and residual use increased 35 mb due to more feeding and fewer winter wheat acres. Ending stocks were cut to 716 mb. The average trade guess was for ending stocks to go up 25 mb. Total winter wheat acres were 500,000 acres up at 41.82 million acres. However, this was 765,000 less than the trade estimate and hard red acres were 1.2 million less than the trade guess. Soft red acres were 522,000 acres more than the trade estimate.

Cotton production was cut 0.25 million bales (mba) and exports were increased 0.4 mba resulting in a drop of .6 mba to 4.8 mba for ending stocks. World ending stocks increased 2.0 mba. China's production increased 2.0 mba, imports 1.0 million and ending stocks 3.0 million. As long as China keeps buying cotton and building stock prices will be supported in the short term but will likely fall off when China stops building stocks and starts releasing cotton from their reserve.

Commentary can be checked anytime by going to <http://extension.missouri.edu/seregion/fmmkt.htm>

David Reinbott, Ag Business Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, Benton, MO

2013 Missouri Rice Producers Conference

Tuesday, February 19, 2013
The Eagles Club, Dexter, MO – HWY 25 & 60

7:30 a.m. Registration, Program 8:00 a.m. to Lunch

TOPICS - Rice Field Conservation Program; Irrigation, Pumps & Wells; Arsenic in Rice Issue; Rice Varieties; Rice Production Issues, Weeds etc.; SEMO Aquifers; U.S. Rice Markets; and Rice Market Outlook

Machinery Management

Since I have been residing in Southeast Missouri, I have been enthralled by the ability of the farmers in the region, to get a crop planted in the spring; and then get it harvested in the fall in both a timely manner. It is my opinion, that over the years, most farmers in this region have obtained proper equipment, and have operators who allow a well-timed planting and harvest. This is a change that has happened over the decades.

Additionally, area farmers have graded fields, taken out fence rows, and combined fields, to allow more efficiency in their machinery management. Of recent, there is increased interest in sub surface drainage, that not only improves the productivity of the soil, but allows early planting and later harvest. As the farms became larger; the efficient management of the equipment became paramount.

To assist in machinery management, The University of Missouri has released an Excel program titled Probable Fieldwork Days Model. This program will determine the probability of completing a specific field operation within a selected time period. This program has several variables

including, field equipment width, operating speed of the equipment, acres worked with the equipment, and field efficiency. Average weather for the selected dates is taken into the calculation for each region of Missouri. For us, the Southeast region is considered.

A farmer who begins planting on April 1, using a 30 ft. planter, traveling at 5.5 miles per hour, planting 1000 acres, with a field efficiency of 65% in the daylight hours, six days per week in Southeast Missouri; will have only a 35% chance of completing the 1000 acres by April 14. If the field efficiency goes up to 80%, then there is a 50% chance of completing this task. Users of this program can make changes to the inputs, until a desired outcome is reached.

This program, like others is not perfect, but it is a good tool to decide needed equipment. The program may be downloaded from the web site: <http://crops.missouri.edu/machinery/>. Go to Tools and click on Fieldwork Days Estimator.

Van Ayers, Agriculture and Rural Development Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, Bloomfield, MO.

Farmer's Market Workshop

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Black River Electric Cooperative - Fredericktown, MO

8:30 am to 3:00 pm

Registration is \$10.00 by Feb. 8; call 573-238-2420.

Scale Certification and Pressure Canner Testing



Loans for USDA Disaster Designations

Thirty-one Missouri counties are among almost 600 counties in the U.S. designated by the USDA as primary natural disaster areas due to drought and heat. Farm operators in these counties are eligible for low-interest emergency loans from USDA.

Whether to take advantage of those loans is an important decision for many farmers, especially livestock producers.

Hot, dry conditions last year sharply reduced crop, pasture and hay production, leading to very high feed costs, Plain said. "For a lot of producers, this designation gives them the opportunity to get some low-interest financing so they can carry their herds through the winter."

Currently, the interest rate on these emergency loans is 2.15 percent. Producers need to remember that it is a loan and put it into an investment that will generate revenue.

"Low-interest-rate loans can be very appealing, but farmers need to have a plan on what they will do

with that money," he said. "It needs to be something that will generate income so they can repay the loan. That loan needs to work for you to help cut costs or improve efficiency, otherwise borrowing that money is not going to make you better off."

Plain says buying feed to maintain cattle herds would be a good decision, as cattle prices are likely to be at record highs again in 2013. For crop producers, putting in an irrigation system can be a very valuable long-term investment.

"One of the things to keep in mind is that debt is a risk," Plain said. "The more debt you have, the greater risk your farm is in. So farmers who can keep their debt load low and can get by without borrowing, even in difficult times like this, are in stronger financial position for the future."

To learn more about low-rate emergency loans, contact your local Farm Service Agency office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Tall Fescue Renovation Workshop

Monday, March 18, 2013 at the University of Missouri
Southwest Research Center in Mt. Vernon, MO

10:00 am to 5:30 pm

Registration: \$60.00 or \$110 per couple

Producers will learn how to replace toxic fescue with nontoxic tall fescue. The curriculum covers fescue toxicosis, field testing, establishment of noel endophyte fescue, management of new pastures, seed quality, cost-share opportunities and new fescue cultivars.

Conducting Energy Audits on the Farm

Generally speaking, every five years a farmer should take a look at energy used on their farm and consider opportunities for reducing energy consumption, according to Don Day, energy extension associate, University of Missouri Extension. However, he cautions that many factors determine exactly when someone needs to conduct an energy audit. For instance, if a farmer already had an energy audit conducted on the farm, it will continue to provide accurate information regarding potential energy savings until they make changes that affect energy usage.

Day says, "Unless there were changes made in the operation, the audit that had already been conducted on the farm would give a good idea of the energy savings from various options that were considered. However, if energy prices change or there is an additional energy alternative that a farmer is considering using that was not addressed initially, a new audit may be in order." Day says changes in energy prices can alter payback periods. "We have seen changes in the relative prices of energy sources over the past few years that will change what fuel a farmer might use," he notes. However, he cautions that generally it doesn't pay to change what type of fuel you are using unless a piece of equipment such as a

furnace or an engine needs to be replaced.

Here are some additional recommended guidelines to help farmers decide when they need an energy audit on their farm:

- ◆ If enterprises have been added to the farming operation after an original audit was completed, they need to be audited as they change total energy consumption.
- ◆ If an additional farm location has been added to the farming operation, it is recommended that a farmer conduct audit on the new location.
- ◆ When equipment needs to be replaced, energy use of the replaced components should be considered.
- ◆ New industry developments might necessitate a new energy audit or assessment. A good example is lighting developments (LED and CFL options) that have taken place over the past few years.
- ◆ If a farmer wants to apply for a grant or loan for energy updates, they may need an updated energy audit or assessment.

Don Day, Energy Extension Associate, University of Missouri Extension, Columbia, MO (573) 882-6385,

Organic Vegetable Program

Tuesday, February 26, 2013

Colton's Annex - Poplar Bluff, MO

8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Registration is \$12.00. To register call 573-686-8064.

Transition to Organic, Weed Prevention, Managing Soil Nutrients, Vegetable Grafting and Season Extension

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Future Meetings & Events -

Missouri Cotton Production Conference: February 6, 2013 beginning at 8:00am at the Jake Fisher Delta Center in Portageville, MO

Peach and Fruit Meeting: Tuesday, February 12, 2013 beginning at 5:30pm in Dexter, MO. To register call 573-686-8064

Farmer's Market Workshop: Tuesday, February 12, 2013 beginning at 8:30am at Black River Electric Cooperative in Fredericktown, MO. To register call 573-238-2420

Missouri Rice Meeting: Tuesday, February 19, 2013 at the Eagles Lodge in Dexter, MO. Registration is at 7:30am.

Grow Your Farm: February 21 to April 25 in Poplar Bluff, MO (to register call 573-686-8064) and February 21 to April 11 at the Cape Girardeau Extension Center in Jackson, MO (to register call 573-883-3548).

Organic Vegetable Production Workshop: Tuesday, February 26, 2013 beginning at 8:30am at Colton's Annex in Poplar Bluff, MO. To register call 573-686-8064

Scouting School: Beginning Monday, March 4, 2013 every Monday-Thursday from 5 to 9 pm at the Fisher Delta Research Center in Portageville, MO. To register call 573-379-5431

Commodities and markets - <http://extension.missouri.edu/seregion/fmmkt.htm>