

Missouri Ag News

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Rice - Look Back/Look Forward

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The 2011 rice crop harvest is history with over 95% harvested. While yields are ranging from very good, to poor, some are struggling with yields ranging 20-40 bushels/acre below normal.

As you look back and try to prevent low yields, below are just a few observations. The heat was certainly a factor but, in and of itself, was only partially responsible.

Water management proved to be crucial. The heat and drought strained the irrigation abilities of many growers and ultimately caused yield losses. Hot spots or areas where water never reached were evident in some fields. Drs. Joe Henggeler and Earl Vories MU Delta Center Research Engineers have valuable new irrigation data that they will present at our upcoming rice meeting at Dexter in February 2012.

Planting date in 2011 had a significant effect, as it normally does. The best planting date range is from Mid-April to Mid-May.

Low fertility, particularly potassium, was observed. Fields with inadequate fertility often expressed their effects as stem rot, cercospera (narrow brown leaf spot), and to a limited extent bacterial panicle blight and other diseases. Soil test and concentrate on potassium.

Take a close look at how to best fit your cropping system to your soils and conditions. Try to find a way to rotate. If you can't then study the best practices in order to avoid serious problems associated with rice after rice.



Lodging in Rice. This picture courtesy of www.arkansarice.blogspot.com.

Excessive lodging occurred in many fields. Some possible causes were several short strong wind storms, varieties, rice after rice rotation, soil types, later planting dates, not enough potassium fertilizer, too much nitrogen fertilizer, stem diseases and high yields.

Stinkbugs, were heavy again this year resulting in some blanking and pecky rice.

“Rice.....” continued.....

Preparing for 2012 - I'm starting this article by expanding on information from last month. Now is the time to note good and bad spots in your rice fields. There is no better time to address 2011 problems than after harvest while it's still on your mind. Take notes recording the location and a brief description of the problem as it could be very beneficial and profitable for next year. If possible try to determine if it is fertility, disease, water or something else. Call your consultant and discuss it with him.

Below are several MU Guides that will steer you in the right direction for basic information for 2012. Also, plan to attend meetings that provide new data and current information that might answer some of your problems.

G4361, Guidelines for Producing Rice Using Furrow Irrigation

G4364, Boron and Sulfur Fertilization on Rice
G4366, Phosphorus Management for Drill-Seeded Rice

G4365, Managing Midseason Nitrogen on Rice with Plant Area Measurements

MP729, Use of a Portable Chlorophyll Meter to Manage Crop Nitrogen in Rice

MP645, Rice Blast Control

MP646, Rice Sheath Blight Control

M171, 2011 Missouri Pest Management Guide: Corn, Cotton, Grain Sorghum, Rice, Soybean, Winter Wheat

Sam Atwell, Agronomy Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, New Madrid, MO

USA Rice Outlook Conference

December 7 to 9, 2011, Austin, TX

Multi-colored Asian Lady Beetles, Moving In?

There are numerous home insect invaders, some are considered truly detrimental to your food and health or your home's structure. For the Asian lady beetle, homes are only a place to hibernate. They do not pose a threat to you or your home, however they are considered pests in the home due to their presence in large numbers. The lady beetles are beneficial insects that feed on soft bodied pests such as aphids. During the growing season they remain outdoors doing their job. When temperatures begin to decrease they begin looking for shelter. In their native Japan, these insects overwinter in crevices of cliffs. Since Southeast Missouri is lacking this geographic feature they naturally look to buildings. Adult beetles converge by the thousands to hibernate. They find entry into

homes through cracks and crevices, typically around windows, doors and attic or crawl space vents. Preventing entry into the home is the best and surest way of avoiding these insects. Identify and repair, using caulk or tight fitting screen, potential or known entry areas. Usually, on warm days during the winter and early spring you will find them inside the home around windows. Vacuuming is the best way of removing the lady beetles. For more information contact your local extension office and ask for "Household-Invading Beetles", MU Guide 7368 or find it on the web: <http://extension.missouri.edu/p/G7368>.

Dr. Anthony Ohmes, Agronomy Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, Charleston, MO.

Things to Look for in Replacement Heifers

Replacement heifers are one of the most important investments for a cattle producer. The heifers you keep or buy to replace your old cows should be with you for a long time. There are several traits you should look for in a heifer to ensure she will be productive. Reproductive capabilities are extremely important for a replacement heifer. A heifer unable to breed or not able to have a healthy calf is only costing the producer money. One way to check for reproductive traits is a pelvic measurement and a reproductive tract

score. Pelvic measurements measure the pelvic area to estimate how heavy of a calf a heifer can have without assistance. For example, a 12-13 month old 600 lb. heifer with a pelvic area of 160 cm² can have a 76 lb. calf.

Reproductive tract scores measure if a heifer is cycling and will be able to

breed. It is recommend that a heifer have a pelvic score of 150 cm² or above 30 days before breeding or a score of 180 cm² or above at first pregnancy check. A tract score of 3 or higher is recommended for heifers 30 days prior to breeding.

Vaccinations should also be important when looking for replacement heifers. Vaccinations not only ensure the heifer is guarded against disease, but also allows that immunity to be passed to the calf early in life. The common vaccinations to look for are IBR, BVD, PI3, BRSV, 7-way clostridia, Vibrio,

and 5-way Lepto. Calfhood vaccination against Brucellosis (Bangs) is also recommended even though Missouri is a Brucellosis-free state. Frame, muscling, structural soundness, disposition, weight, and general appearance should also play a role in heifer selection.

The heifer is not the only thing you should take into consideration when looking for replacement animals. The bull you use plays a big part in what type, size and breed of animal you choose. If the bull is large

and tends to throw heavy calves, you may want to buy large frame, heavy heifers to avoid calving problems, or get a different bull. Heifers are much smaller than cows and should be bred to a calving -ease bull to help ensure a healthy calf and no internal damage to the heifer. When selecting heifers keep in mind that you are making an investment in your

herd and want to choose animals that will give you a return on that investment, even if it means spending more money at the beginning. If you are interested in purchasing some heifers, the Southeast Show-Me -Select heifer sale will be Saturday, December 3rd starting at 1 p.m. at the Fruitland Livestock Auction. Contact me for a catalog or visit the website at www.semobeef.com

Kendra Graham, Livestock Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, Greenville, MO.



Picture Courtesy of Show-Me-Select Heifer Sale from Martz Farm October 2001



MAESTRO is a program funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and operated by the Missouri Department of Agriculture, University of Missouri and EnSave, Inc. The program offers farm Energy Management Plans, Technical Assistance and Home Energy Audits.

MAESTRO looks at ways to save energy on the whole farm including the farm residence through the installation of energy efficient equipment.

The audit helped me realize the potential of energy efficient equipment. I now look at my operation completely different.
Steve Shehadey, Dairy Farmer

Program Highlights:

- **Energy Management Plans** – a \$1,500 value for only \$250, FREE if you install the recommended equipment
- **Free Technical Assistance**
- **Home energy audit** – a \$500 value for only \$125, FREE if you install the recommended equipment
- **Incentives up to 75% of the total project cost, not to exceed \$5,000**
- **Loan buy down to 3%** - up to \$50,000, and
- **75% loan guarantee for loans up to \$50,000**

To receive incentives, projects must have 15% energy savings or greater.

For assistance call the MAESTRO TEAM at (800) 732-1399
MoAgEnergySavings.org

SAVING ENERGY. STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURE.



Energy saving technologies must be installed no later than November 30, 2012.
Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Energy through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Regional Corn Meeting

The Regional Corn Meeting
Will be held in Sikeston, MO at the Clinton Building
Tuesday, December 13, 2011
Registration begins at 7:30 am
The program runs from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Report Drought

Has drought affected your farm, business or community? Missourians can help scientists and decision-makers assess, plan for and respond to droughts by using a simple online tool to report local conditions, said a University of Missouri Extension climatologist.

Drought is a slow-moving natural hazard that affects millions of people worldwide each year by triggering a cascade of agricultural, economic, environmental and social impacts. Understanding these impacts is crucial for drought planning, mitigation and response.

“No instrument or third party will be able to describe a drought situation as well as someone living in the area and experiencing the situation,” said Pat Guinan, state climatologist with the MU Extension Commercial Agriculture Program.

The Drought Impact Reporter (DIR), <http://droughtreporter.unl.edu>, lets anyone report drought conditions and their local impact to the National Drought Mitigation Center in Lincoln, Neb. DIR has been online since 2005, but the revamped version that launched in October is more user-friendly, Guinan said.

Contributions to the DIR appear in an interactive map on the DIR website. They are also used by the authors of the NDMC’s Drought Monitor map (<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>), which provides a detailed weekly assessment of the extent and severity of drought throughout the U.S.. Greater participation and input from Missourians will provide a more accurate portrayal of drought in the state, he said. This can help ensure that authorities mount a swift and appropriate response and aid scientists seeking to better understand drought.

Listeria in Cantaloupe? Protect Your Farm

For information on GAP certification come to the watermelon meeting on November 30, 2011 at the American Legion in Kennett, MO.

Have you been keeping up with the national news discussing the “first ever” Listeria outbreak in whole melons? When you hear the latest news story covering contamination of fresh produce do you wonder if you are protected?

If you wonder, then you could likely do more. Protection of your farm starts with good sanitation practices such as the health and hygiene of workers, microbial testing of water, sanitation of toilet facilities, provisions for handwashing and equipment sanitation.

Start here with a plan on how to accomplish the above and how to show that you have accomplished these measures of prevention. Once you can show this level of planning you have the beginning of a plan for good agricultural practices. Through consideration and documentation you can minimize microbial hazards for your fresh produce operation.

In the latest story being covered by the national media, the outbreak was attributed back to equipment that was not easily cleaned and sanitized and failure to cool newly harvested cantaloupes before sending them to cold storage. This finding was released by the FDA who made the statement, “we are quite confident and certain,” regarding the factors that led to the outbreak.

If an outbreak was blamed on produce from this area of Missouri could you say with certainty that it wasn't your produce? Traceability is an important part of protecting your farm. With traceability you are able to track your product at least one step backward (perhaps to a specific field or to the company where you purchased your seed) and one step forward (to a broker or store where your product was shipped. This is done by maintaining records, in this case for each field, on what was added and what went through it.

For example, if you use harvesting wagons that come in contact with fresh produce then it must be cleaned and sanitized on a daily basis when changing fields or locations. This is done by removing residue, cleaning and then sanitizing.

Take a look at your farming practices to find out where you could improve your sanitation practices and lower your risk. There is always room for improvement and you can never be too careful.

For information on GAP certification come to the watermelon meeting on November 30, 2011 at the American Legion in Kennett, MO.

Sarah Denkler, Horticulture Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, Poplar Bluff, MO.

Annual Watermelon Meeting

Watermelon Meeting

Will be held in Kennett, MO at the American Legion

November 30, 2011

Registration begins at 7:30 am

The program runs from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Call 573-686-8064 to register.

Energy Conservation for Poultry Housing Virtual Field Day

Held via Internet through a Webinar at <http://univmissouri.adobeconnect.com/r9mciuifnezj/>

Thursday, November 17 from 9:00 am to 10:30 am

Topics to be covered include:

- Identifying Energy Saving Opportunities in Poultry Housing
- Conducting an Energy Audit/Assessment
- Calculating Energy Savings/Payback
- Incentives/Grant Programs for Energy Savings for Poultry Producers

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USDA Rural Development Presentation

Guest Speaker is Janie Dunning, Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development

Monday, November 7, 2011 at

Mineral Area College at 6:00pm

Come to this presentation to help improve the economy and quality of life in rural America by exploring programs, grants and resources available to our community through the USDA Rural Development.

RSVP to Nancy at 866-631-8781 or nancy.suthoff@hourse.mo.gov

Cotton and Rice Conference

January 31 to February 1, 2012

Tunica Convention Center in Tunica, MS

For information go to: <http://www.nctd.net/graphics/confregistration1.pdf>

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