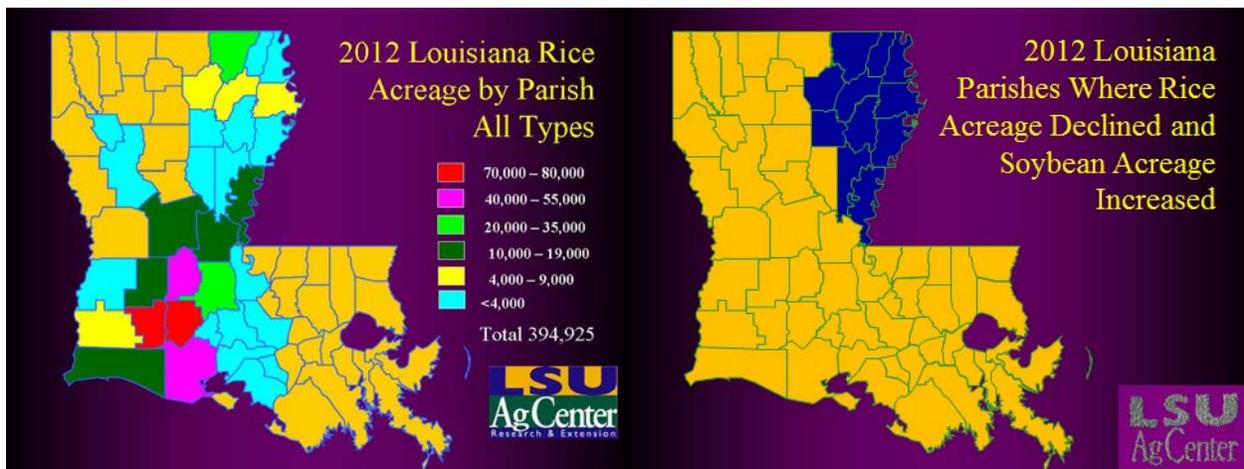


Field Notes
March 15, 2013
Johnny Saichuk



The most important news this week is how much rice has been planted in southwest Louisiana. Estimates by county agents range from 30% to 50% from Evangeline parish south. Total acreage is not expected to change much from last year. Those who planted rice last year will likely plant again and those who switched to other crops such as soybeans are not likely to return to rice this year.

Most of the acreage decrease occurred in northeast Louisiana. When I compared acreage figures from the Ag Summary from 2011 to 2012 those parishes where rice acreage declined, corn acreage remained fairly constant and soybean acreage increased. The first map below shows the acreage figures from our 2012 acreage by variety survey conducted by county agents. These figures are not exactly the same as the NASS figures, but are close. The second map shows the parishes where rice acreage declined and soybeans increased.



Two verification fields have been planted, one in Vermilion and the other in Jeff Davis. The fields in Evangeline and St. Landry are a couple of weeks away. We will let you know details as they develop.

Effective January 1, 2013, Dr. Clayton Hollier, professor in the Department of Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology, assumed the field crop plant pathology research and extension responsibilities at the Macon Ridge Research Station.

Dr. Hollier's current responsibilities with respect to rice disease management will be assumed by Dr. Don Groth, professor at the Rice Research Station, during the interim period.

Dr. Groth has contributed to Field Notes in the past and will in the future. Earlier this week he sent some excellent information on blast to me so I could send it out to you. It follows on the next page.

10 Things you need to know about rice blast

Don Groth, LSU AgCenter, Rice Research Station
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1. Current rice varieties range from resistant to very susceptible. How you manage blast on each varies greatly.
2. Blast is transmitted by wind borne spores that can travel miles from field to field.
3. Drained rice is 5 to 10 times more susceptible to blast than flooded rice.
4. The later you plant your rice the more severe blast tends to be.
5. The more nitrogen fertilizer used the more severe blast is.
6. Blast is more severe in rice planted in sandy or light textured soil and in tree lined fields.
7. If leaf blast is in the field or has been reported in the same general area and if the variety is susceptible, fungicide applications are advised to reduce rotten neck blast. The absence of leaf blast does not mean rotten neck blast will not occur.
8. If a single fungicide application is used to suppress blast it should be applied when 50-70% of the heads have begun to emerge. Application as few as 5 days before or after this growth stage will not provide control of this disease.
9. Heading growth stage is difficult to detect so it is important to scout for crop growth stage at the same time as scouting for disease. Allow time to obtain a fungicide, schedule the application, and allow for poor weather conditions.
10. Under heavy blast pressure or when growing a very susceptible varieties two applications, one at boot, to suppress spore production, and on at 50-70% heading , to protect the head, may be needed to effectively suppress blast.