

## Provisia™ Rice Featured at Horizon Ag Arkansas Field Day



Preparing for Provisia rice, proven Clearfield® variety performance, profit potential and product service were the headlines at the Horizon Ag field day in Jonesboro last week, where mild August temperatures greeted the more than 100 attendees.

“This event was about getting prepared for the 2018 season and beyond,” said Horizon Ag General Manager Tim Walker at the conclusion of the field day held at Wimpy Farm. “Through its partnerships with BASF and university breeders, Horizon Ag is focused on providing new technology, proven varieties and product service to improve profit potential for U.S. growers and help sustain the U.S. rice industry for the long haul. As we roll into harvest season, this field day serves as reminder that it’s never too early to plan and learn about new tools to help growers keep growing rice profitably.”

### Provisia Rice

Field day attendees got their first look at PVL01, the first Provisia rice variety to be brought to market by Horizon Ag for planting in 2018, and a lesson on understanding where and how to use the new Provisia technology.

The Provisia rice system, developed by BASF, is being brought to market to help clean up fields with rice volunteers that are resistant to the herbicides Newpath® and Beyond®, as well as help manage multi-herbicide-resistant grasses. Provisia rice is tolerant to Provisia herbicide and is intended to be used in a crop rotation pattern such as Provisia rice, followed by Clearfield rice and then followed by soybeans, explained John Schultz, BASF technical services representative.

“Provisia herbicide is going to give growers an excellent option for grass and weedy rice control in

Provisia rice going into the future,” said Schultz. “We have developed a lot of issues with both Clearfield resistance and grasses becoming resistant to many of our other herbicides in all rice-growing areas, not just Northeast Arkansas. Provisia will allow us to get back to cleaner fields and control those weeds that we have been unable to control.”

While Provisia herbicide is an excellent grass product, it is not a residual herbicide, so Schultz recommends a multi-herbicide approach that includes the use of products with residual activity. There are also rotational restrictions to abide by. Provisia rice cannot be planted in fields that were planted to Clearfield varieties and sprayed with Newpath herbicide the previous year.

Growers having trouble with resistant weeds now should be planning to incorporate Provisia rice in those fields in the future to help control the resistant rice and grasses, which will also help maintain the long-term effectiveness of Clearfield technology, said Schultz.

“Growers need to think about what their rice crop will look like 10 years down the road and plan when they can plant Provisia in those fields that need this technology,” he said. “You cannot plant Provisia rice in fields where Newpath was applied the year before, and in fields where Newpath has been applied for multiple seasons, we’re looking at maybe 2 or 3 years down the road before you can plant Provisia in those fields.”

Bred at the LSU AgCenter, PVL01 has tillered very well in demonstration and seed production fields this summer and shows excellent milling and grain characteristics, said Horizon Ag Senior Technical Service Representative Sunny Bottoms.

“We believe yield potential will be average on this variety but good enough with its quality and other agronomic characteristics to be a good initial line to take the Provisia technology to market in 2018,” she said. “We advise growers interested in trying PVL01 next season to let their retailers know now so seed can be allocated, as supplies will be tight in this first year of launch.”



Garrett Williams with Horizon Ag talks about new Clearfield varieties.

### **Proven Clearfield Varieties**

While there is a lot of excitement about the new Provisia technology, do not forget about the proven effectiveness and performance of the Clearfield system, said Horizon Ag District Field Representative Garrett Williams.

“It is currently the best broad-spectrum weed control system in rice, and today’s Clearfield varieties are better than ever,” he said.

The two newest Clearfield varieties, [CL153](#) and [CL172](#), both contain the *pitA* gene, which gives them resistance to most races of blast. Yield performance and milling quality have driven demand upward for these two lines.

[CL153](#) is a long-grain Clearfield variety with yield potential on par with the popular, high-yielding CL151 but offering agronomic improvements. CL153 offers significantly better grain quality, which is catching the attention of mills. This variety produces a larger grain size and less chalk than CL151, demonstrating excellent milling and the ability to deliver package-quality rice.

[CL172](#) is a new semi-dwarf variety from the University of Arkansas rice breeding program that yields better than CL111 and offers better blast resistance and better quality than CL111. A semi-dwarf variety with Lemont in its pedigree, CL172 produces a bold, translucent grain and demonstrates excellent milling quality and very low chalk. Both international and domestic buyers exposed to its quality have been impressed.

[CL151](#) is a proven variety and still planted on many acres in Arkansas due to its yield potential and weed control offered by the Clearfield system, said Williams.

“It’s been very popular here in Arkansas, but I expect [CL153](#) might take it over in terms of acres planted because of what CL153 has shown since it was released last year,” he said.

[CL111](#), very popular in the Louisiana ratooning areas, has also found a home in Arkansas. Very early maturity and milling quality have made it a favorite of growers trying to stagger harvest, said Williams.

### **Exporting U.S. Rice**

USA Rice COO Bob Cummings kicked off the field day with an update on efforts to boost U.S.-grown rice exports to China. With help from U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, China signed a long-stalled phytosanitary protocol that will permit the import of U.S. milled rice into the nation, said Cummings.

“The signing caps a decade of effort by the rice industry and the U.S. government to open access to the world’s largest rice importer,” said Cummings. “We export 50 percent of the U.S. rice crop, so we need to find new markets for our rice and maintain the current markets. The signing means that U.S. mills and shipping facilities will put in place a work plan to show the Chinese that they can ship pest-free, milled rice to China.”

Several steps will have to be taken before the first container is shipped to China, and Cummings said the expectation is that by early next year, milled rice could be shipping out. USA Rice is working with some 25 mills that signed up to go through the work plans and adjustments within their facilities to be able to ship milled rice to China.

“The Chinese are consumers of medium grain, short grain and long grain, and as the largest producer, importer and consumer of rice in the world, we are looking to get into more of that market,” he said.

Arkansas clearly has a need for a new technology such as Provisia rice to help manage resistant grass and weedy rice in fields, said Walker, in a wrap-up speech.

“I must stress the importance of following stewardship guidelines set forth with both Clearfield and Provisia technologies,” he said. “It has been over 15 years since the launch of Clearfield until the launch of a partner technology in Provisia. Exciting tools such as these do not get developed overnight. Steward the technology well so it has the opportunity to help you and our industry in the long term.”

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