

Regional Crop Reports

Harvest Resumes After the Storm



South Louisiana and Texas

Luckily, Harvey came when 85 to 95 percent of the rice had been harvested in Louisiana and Texas. As everyone has seen, this storm caused flooding across a very large area. Most of the rice that wasn't harvested west of Houston prior to Harvey was organic rice. A larger percentage of unharvested rice was east of Houston, and that is also where substantially more flooding occurred. I did speak to several farmers during the storm and there was concern about water getting into rice bins. One farmer I spoke to had about 1.5 feet of water in his dryer but thought the rice didn't get wet. The last time I spoke to him, he was helping out with airboat rescues.

In Louisiana, we actually didn't experience the large area of flooding like in Texas, but

we did have some flooding in southwest Louisiana. There was a small amount of first crop left in this area, and it appears it will probably be lost. Most of the rice left in Louisiana was in the central part of the state where they were actually harvesting a good crop. However, after 6 days of no sunshine and rain, one farmer told me he was starting to see some of his rice germinating on the panicles, and his rice was still standing. The main concern in south Louisiana is the ratoon crop, and what kind of effect Harvey will have on that is yet to be determined. This has been one challenging year for south Louisiana and east Texas, but our farmers will be OK. Please pray for all of the people who have been affected by this historic flood.

Michael Fruge

District Field Representative

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Arkansas Grand Prairie

Harvest is finally in full swing on the Grand Prairie. Tropical Storm Harvey made its way into our area last week and dumped substantial rains that we didn't need. Rainfall amounts ranged from 4 to over 7 inches. Luckily for us, those amounts were a little lower than the original predictions. Wind and rain during harvest usually means lodged rice, and it's not hard to find rice that's down in this area. Some cultivars fared better than others, but even varieties that have good lodging resistance are down some in places. Cultivars that have tendencies to lodge even when there is no wind and rain are down the worst. I've talked to growers who have a lot of rice down and others who don't really have any down. We've had a very good harvest with great yields up to this point, so hopefully yield loss due to lodging won't be a huge issue.

The new Clearfield® varieties handled the storm fairly well, and yields prior to the storm were very good. I've had multiple yield reports from the new varieties in the 190 bushels per acre range to over 200 bushels per acre. We've harvested one trial so far on the Grand Prairie, and yields in all varieties were very good. The weather looks better for later this week, so growers should be able to get back to harvesting rice. Lower temperatures and humidity, plus a good north wind, will help this rice dry, and hopefully we can get another good run. As always, please give us a call if we can help in any way.

Garrett Williams

District Field Representative

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Northeast Arkansas and Missouri

Harvest has picked up this week, and things are getting busy. I have seen folks cutting rice and corn and have noticed countless acres of soybeans with paraquat applied. Last week, little progress was made as high crop moisture and Harvey kept most combines at a standstill. The tropical storm brought more rain and wind up this way than initially anticipated and caused many acres of rice to lodge. The current weather forecast is shaping up to be nice for the rest of the week and that will give us the opportunity to make great progress. Next week is also looking good, but that could change quickly depending on what Category 5 Hurricane Irma decides to do. Early yield reports are good, continuing the trend from the southern half of the state. We cut our first variety trial here in the north on Monday and look to harvest another one midweek. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance.

Jason Satterfield

District Field Representative

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Mississippi, Northeast Louisiana and Southeast Arkansas

The remnants of Harvey came through Thursday (8/31) of last week, bringing heavy rain and wind gusts of 50-plus mph in some areas. Unfortunately, in some locations, fields that had been drained coupled with the associated effects of the weather caused a good amount of rice, regardless of variety, to lodge. However, yields overall had been doing very well through last week, and I look for that trend to continue. Harvest started back in my area Sunday (9/3) and was slowed in some spots due to isolated showers on Monday (9/4) and Tuesday (9/5). The forecast looks positive for making harvest progress over the next 10 days, assuming the approaching hurricane doesn't change its current course. Please feel free to call with any questions.

Tim Jett

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