

these instances potassium may be applied at or just prior to planting.

Where red rice is not a problem and crawfish culture is not involved the simple technique of drilling was changed to permit seeding into undisturbed soil. Equipment developed for other crops was modified as necessary especially in the heavy clay soils of northeast Louisiana.

By far the single most influential change facilitating the adoption of reduced tillage was the development of Clearfield rice varieties. These varieties are tolerant of the herbicides Newpath (imazethapyr) and Beyond (imazamox) which will control red rice in conventional rice. This opened the door to drill seeding into red rice problem areas solving the problems associated with water seeding of rice increasing the acreage eligible for reduced tillage.

► Trends In Texas Rice

Presented by Dr. Jim Stansel

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Dramatic changes in most phases of Texas rice production occurred in 2006. The 147,549 rice acres in Texas were the lowest since 1934. Average yields in 1934 were 2,241 lbs/ac (14 barrels), illustrating how far production has advanced. The 2006 acreage was a 26 percent reduction from 2005. Texas yields were the highest ever recorded and there were significant changes in the varieties grown.

Cocodrie remained the leading variety comprising 42 percent of the Texas acreage followed by Cheniere at 14 percent. Clearfield varieties made up 16 percent of the acreage with CL131 the most popular. The Rice Tec hybrids were grown on 14 percent of the acres with XL 723 having the largest acreage.

Main crop yields were over 8,000lbs/ac (50 barrels) dry weight, the highest average ever recorded in Texas. Over 40 percent of the hybrid fields yielded (main crop, dry wt.) over 10,000 lbs/ac (62 barrels). Hybrid milling yields averaged 60.7/72.8 number 2. Main crop yields across all varieties were above normal in the western regions with yields about normal in the east.

The first 50 percent of the crop was planted 2 weeks earlier than normal due to dry field conditions during the winter and early spring. The crop survived near record cold in late March and early April and was harvested a week earlier than normal. The second half of the crop in the east was later than normal due largely to a wet and cold April. Statewide, the reduced acreage, early planting and early harvest contributed to the record yields.

► Rice Nutrition Studies For Mississippi River Alluvial Soils

Presented by Dr. Timothy W. Walker

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A large percentage of southern USA rice production is located in the Mississippi River Alluvial Valley. This area is known for its highly fertile soils and abundant water supply. Research is conducted so that information regarding nutrient recommendations keeps pace with an agricultural climate where change is rapid and certain. Much effort is placed in defining nitrogen (N) recommendations because it is applied in greater quantity and incidence compared to other plant nutrients. Furthermore, because there currently are no soil tests suitable for determining the amount of N that should be applied compared to the amount that is or will become available in the soil. In addition to N, grain yield responses to other nutrients such as P, K, S and Zn are evaluated so that general recommendations can be made based on where nutrients should be supplied, at what rate they should be applied, and the proper timing of the application so that optimum efficiency can be achieved. A summary of N-, P-, and K-nutrition studies conducted in Mississippi in 2006 are presented in this report.

In Mississippi, rice receives N-fertilizer typically three to five times throughout the grow-