Field Notes
August 31, 2009
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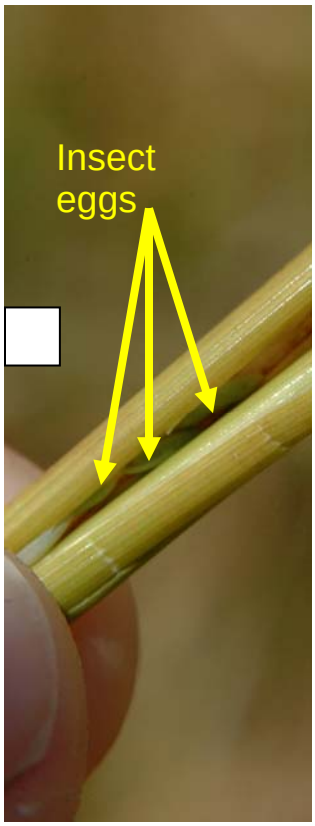
Last week I was called to a field already being harvested to try to determine why the yields in that field were so variable and so disappointing in some areas. While doing so we picked up a stalk that had the greenish insect eggs between the flag leaf sheath and the stem. Because I had never seen them before and because the eggs reminded me of a fly egg and the Hessian fly in wheat would appear something like these I photographed and collected them. I put them on my desk with the intention of taking better photographs the next morning. To my surprise the eggs hatched during the night revealing the "fly" was actually a grasshopper. We often see hundreds of these long horned grasshoppers in rice fields. I do not know if they do any damage to rice. I have been told that these grasshoppers are omnivorous, that is, they will eat anything and that they often eat other insects. I have not been able to verify this fact.

In the center photograph I included a **very small** first instar chinch bug for size reference. The eggs were about ¼ inch long by $^{1}/_{16}$ inch in diameter. The first instar grasshoppers are about $^{1}/_{8}$ inch long. They get their name from their antennae which are longer than their body.



The table below summarizes our yields in the Rice Research Verification program to date. In Concordia parish I thought the yields would be higher because the field looked good, rice seemed to be pouring out of the combines and the sample was one of the best I have ever seen making this field one of the overall best fields of rice in the program. I suppose it is foolish to be disappointed in that kind of yield when I remember being excited when we harvested 65 cwt (40 bbls or 144 bu) per acre. In Avoyelles I thought the yield was going to be 800 pounds lighter. I have no idea where the rice came from. The field struggled from the very beginning and did not start looking decent until mid-season.

While we have not experienced the yield drop off that others are reporting to me, we do expect our last field to yield less than the rest because it was not planted until May 30 which is outside of our recommended planting dates even for northeast Louisiana. We kept the field in the program because the farmer is young and growing rice for the first time and we felt like we could help him. The other remaining field will probably yield about the same as these.

Parish	**Acres**	**Variety**	**Cwt/A green**	**bbls/A green**	**Bu/A green**	**Cwt/A dry**	**bbls/A dry**	**Bu/A dry**
Acadia	56.6	CL151	99.47	61.4	221.0	91.10	56.2	202.4
Avoyelles	28.6	Catahoula	87.29	53.9	194.0	82.14	50.7	182.5
Calcasieu	41.7	CLXL729	81.15	50.1	180.3	76.44	47.2	169.9
Concordia	57.0	Catahoula	87.61	54.1	194.7	80.35	49.6	178.6
Evangeline	22.5	Jupiter	85.21	52.6	189.4	80.95	50.0	179.9
Vermilion	41.5	CL151	91.55	56.5	203.4	87.08	53.8	193.5
Average[1]			85.65	52.9	190.3	81.01	50.0	180.0

[1]Averages are weighted to account for different field sizes.