

Field Notes
July 30, 2009
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When checking our verification field in St. Landry parish we discovered this debris trail across the field road. One end led to an adjacent drainage canal and the other to the edge of the rice field. I knew we had an unwelcome visitor, a beaver. I also knew the pipe drop would be plugged. It was filled with the combination of mud and rice straw from the bottom to the top.

Growing up in south Louisiana we had nutria, but no beavers. In the last 15 to 20 years they have become so common they have joined the list of road kill common here and can really make a pest of themselves in rice fields. Last year we had a similar occurrence in our verification field in Concordia parish. It required the combined efforts of several of us to un-plug that one. I cautioned the farmer not to let this one harden.





The above photograph illustrates how severe blast can be when there is little or no water in comparison to a well flooded area. The margin of this paddy was the high side of that paddy and during the hot, dry weather of June the farmer could not keep up with water demands resulting in shallow water in the low areas and none in the highest. The variety is CL151.

We applied 21 ounces of Quilt plus 4 ounces of Quadris on June 4th to slow down heavy sheath blight pressure. At that time blast had not appeared. Blast showed up a couple of weeks later when water was a problem. The heavy dose of Quadris apparently did its job because we harvested this field Monday and Tuesday and it yielded 9947 pounds (61.4 bbls, 221 bu) per acre green or 9122 lbs (56.3 bbls, 203 bu) per acre at 12% moisture. We recommended fertilizing and flooding to produce a second crop.

I have had several phone calls reporting blast in CL151 and to a lesser extent in CL131. In spite of the disease yields have been good to excellent. It looks like fungicide will be required when either of these varieties is planted. I am considering a mixture of Stratego spiked with Quadris to increase the spectrum. We only have one verification field that could require fungicide so we might give it a shot there. We will let you know.