



# Evangeline Ag News

News and information for our parish's agricultural producers and dealers

**February 2011**

## CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

### February

**9-12** La. Ag Technology & Management Conference  
 Ag Consultants Association Annual Meeting-  
 Alexandria

**13-19** State 4-H & FFA Livestock Show-Gonzales

### March

**2-5** Commodity Classic Conference – Tampa, FL  
 (National Meeting for Corn, Soybeans, Wheat  
 and Grain Sorghum Associations)

**3** Private Pesticide Applicators Re-Certification –  
 Ville Platte

**8** Mardi Gras Holiday

**10** Private Pesticide Applicators Re-Certification –  
 Opelousas

## BLACKBIRD BAITING PROGRAM TO BEGIN IN MID-FEBRUARY

As rice farmers prepare to make decisions about how much rice they will plant this year, they are subject to uncertainty in rice prices; great fluctuation in prices for fuel, fertilizer, and equipment; and uncertainty about the implementation of government programs. They are also watching hordes of blackbirds waiting for them to plant so they can eat the seed. Blackbird losses cause thin or failed stands, requiring the farmer to spend many dollars to replant the fields, dollars that farmers just don't have this year.

Another problem is that brown headed cowbirds, which make up a large percentage of the blackbird population, are responsible for destroying tremendous numbers of songbirds by laying their eggs in the songbird nest. According to "The Birds of North America" (Number 47, 1993), with adequate nutrition, female cowbirds lay almost daily during the breeding season and may lay 40 eggs each spring, all in the nests

of other species. Not only will the cowbird lay eggs in the songbird nest, but she will usually remove the songbird egg in the process. Even if she doesn't, the cowbird egg has a shorter incubation period, so it will hatch first. Young songbirds cannot compete with the bigger cowbird chick which the mother songbird feeds to maturity.

Ornithologists and farmers hate cowbirds, but the farmer usually considers them all as blackbirds that eat his rice.

1:00 & 5:30 p.m. – County Agent Office,  
 Because of the locally severe damage caused by blackbirds to sprouting rice in southwest Louisiana, officials with U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and the LSU AgCenter will be cooperating with local rice growers in a baiting program to control these bird populations.

The baiting program will begin in mid-February and run to about the end of March, depending on the number of birds present. A product called DRC 1339 will be used again this year to help control blackbirds.

Bait will be applied under the supervision of USDA/Wildlife Service's personnel trained in pest bird management procedures. Although dead blackbirds do not present a significant hazard to humans or pets, officials recommend that they be buried and that no blackbirds be utilized for human consumption.

The program was originated through the efforts of the statewide rice growers associations. Farm Bureau was also very instrumental in making the program possible.

For more details can call the USDA/Wildlife Services Office at 225-389-0229 in Port Allen.

## VARIETY SELECTION BY DR. JOHNNY SAICHUK



For many years most farmers looked at the recommended variety list and chose the variety or varieties that were most likely to produce the highest yields on their farm. Now the choices include traditional pure line varieties, Clearfield pure line varieties, hybrid varieties, and Clearfield hybrid varieties.

Within each of these categories are several varieties from which the grower has to choose. If we throw in the choice between long grain and medium grain it gets more complicated. Special purpose varieties such as Jazzman and Della do not affect many growers although more attention is being given to these and other varieties with unique properties. When I started working with rice we chose either long or medium grain and then from a short list in either category. All varieties were pure lines and none were resistant to Newpath or Beyond herbicides.

Our recently revised *Rice Varieties and Management Tips for 2011* lists 11 recommended varieties, 14 Other Long Grain Varieties, one Other Medium Grain variety and four special purpose varieties for a total of 30 varieties. The publication is available in hard copy from your local county agent or online at:

[www.lsuagcenter.com/en/crops\\_livestock/crops/rice/publications](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/crops_livestock/crops/rice/publications). One glaring error is the absence of a description of CL111 in the hard copy. In spite of repeated reviews yours truly did not catch the error in time. It is included in the on-line version. Again, none of the hybrids are listed as recommended varieties because of the lack of three years of testing rather than anything negative about them.

Based on comments from growers and millers I would consider growing a variety with high grain quality like Cypress or CL161 because despite their lower yield the grain quality is so good buyers looking for package rice seek out these growers. It might be advisable to treat this as you would Jazzman or Della in that a market should be negotiated prior to planting to compensate for the lower yield potential. I know a few growers who did that last year and were able to sell at decent prices when others had to settle for lower prices.

Another consideration in variety selection is resistance to lodging. I mention this because of the problems experienced last year especially in northeast Louisiana. One consultant told me he could ride around and identify every field of Catahoula because it was the

only variety standing at the end of the season. This variety has not performed as well in south Louisiana as it has from the middle of the state northward. Dr. Mike Salassi did an economic analysis of the effects of lodging on return that demonstrated surprising economic losses which will be published soon. In it the effects of lodging on milling alone were surprising in addition to the expected losses in yield.

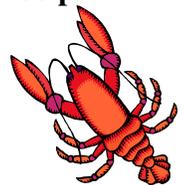
Where second crop is important the hybrids stand out because of their excellent second crop potential. This year prices at harvest time were so low some growers did not fertilize and in some cases did not even flood fields they had intended to second crop. When prices climbed they regretted that decision. Those who managed fields for the ratoon crop witnessed better prices and one of the best second crop yields we have had in a long time.

Because variety selection is so important, it's worth the effort to check the available publications before ordering seed.

## CRAWFISH MEETING

**Monday, February 21, 2011 – 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

Evangeline Extension Service Office  
(County Agent's Office)



### Topics:

- 5:30-Registration
- 5:45-Introductions- Richard Johnson
- 6:00-Water Quality/Oxygen Monitoring-  
Richard Johnson
- 6:30-Bait/Harvesting Efficiency-Dr. Ray McClain
- 7:00-Nuisance Wildlife- Mark Shirley
- 7:30-Spring Time Pond Management-  
Dr. Robert Romaine

### Speakers:

- Dr. Robert Romaine – Aquaculture Research Station
- Dr. Ray McClain – Rice Research Station
- Mark Shirley – Southwest Region Aquaculture Agent

For more information contact:

- Richard Johnson (337) 788-7547
- Keith Fontenot (337) 363-5646
- Mark Shirley (337) 898-4335



## PLANT BACK INTERVAL FOR POPULAR RICE BURN-DOWN HERBICIDES

Gramoxone Extra (sold under various trade names) - **no plant back interval** - apply anytime before, during, or after planting but before rice emergence.

*Tips: use a crop oil or surfactant - Gramoxone is a contact herbicide that is excellent on small annual broadleaves and grasses*

Grandstand - for **dry seeded rice apply at least 21 days** before planting  
for **water-seeded rice apply at least 14 days** before planting

*Tips: Use a nonionic surfactant or crop oil - not great on aquatics*

Harmony Extra - apply at **least 45 days** before planting

*Tips: use a nonionic surfactant - does an excellent job on winter annuals but plant back interval is limiting - activity on aquatics is unknown -Rate- 0.5-.6oz/A*

Hi-Dep (2, 4-D) - if **1-pint rate** is used then **plant back interval is 15 days** - if **2-pint rate** is used then **plant back interval is 30 days**

*Tips: use surfactant or crop oil with herbicide - this formulation of 2, 4-D is the only formulation that allows plant back within 15 days after treatment.*

Roundup and glyphosate formulations - **no plant back interval** - apply anytime before, during, or after planting but before rice emergence. In **water seeded rice**, apply herbicide to drained field only and do not relood for 8 days.

*Tips: Add 2, 4-D for improved broadleaf control - observe 2,4-D plant back*

Touchdown IQ- for this **glyphosate formulation of Touchdown, there is no plant back interval** - apply anytime before, during, or after planting but before rice emergence.

In **water seeded rice**, apply to **drained field only** and do not relood for 8 days.

*Tips: use the glyphosate formulation of Touchdown as you would Roundup.  
Add 2, 4-D for improved broadleaf control - observe 2, 4-D plantback*

2, 4-D Amine - (sold under various trade names) - apply 4 weeks before planting.

*Tips: Add a surfactant or crop oil to increase activity, usually the best choice for aquatics*

# \*WINTER WEED BURNDOWN PRIOR TO RICE PLANTING



	Paraquat**	Paraquat /Harmony Extra	Paraquat/2,4-D	Glyphosate or Touchdown	Glyphosate or Touchdown /Harmony Extra	Glyphosate or Touchdown /2,4-D	2,4-D
Annual bluegrass	90	90	90	90	90	90	0
Ryegrass	40	50	40	70	70	70	0
Carolina foxtail	80	80	80	90	90	90	0
Little barley	90	90	90	90	90	90	0
Buttercups	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
Geranium spp.	90	90	90	60	80	80	60
Chickweeds	90	90	90	90	90	90	30
Curly dock	40	70	70	60	90	90	70
Cutleaf eveningprimrose	40	80	90	60	70	90	90
Clovers/medics	60	90	80	50	80	90	90
Dandelion	80	90	90	90	90	90	90
Groundsel	70	90	90	90	90	90	90
Henbit	80	90	80	70	90	80	50
Marestail	50	70	60	90	90	90	60
Smartweed spp.	40	90	60	70	90	80	60
Purslane speedwells	70	90	80	90	90	90	50
Shepherd's purse	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
Smallflower bittercress	90	90	90	90	90	90	70
Swinecress	20	70	60	70	90	80	60
Vetch	60	90	90	50	80	90	90
Virginia pepperweed	20	70	90	90	90	90	30
Wheat	70	70	60	90	90	90	0

Plant back restrictions (days before planting) for select herbicides.

	Rice
Harmony Extra	45
Roundup Ultra Max	Anytime
Paraquat	Anytime
Hi-Dep @ 1 pint/A	15
2,4-D	30

\*Information adapted from Research Information Sheet 105. “Guidelines for Managing Winter Vegetation in Northeast Louisiana”

\*\*Paraquat at 0.47-0.63 lb ai/A (1.5-2 pts/A Gramoxone Extra), glyphosate at 0.75-1.0 lb ai/A (1.5 to 2 pts/A Roundup Ultra), Touchdown at 0.75-1.0 lb ai/A (1.2-1.6 pts/A), Harmony Extra at 0.014-0.023 lb ai/A (0.3-0.5 oz/A), and 2,4-D at 0.5 - 1 pt/A.

RICE<sup>1</sup>

Active Ingredient <sup>2</sup> and Rate	Formulated Product and Rate	Weeds Controlled	Remarks and Precautions
<b>PREPLANT BURNDOWN:</b>			
2,4-D @ 0.5-1.0 lb/A	2,4-D @ 1.0-2.0 pt of 4 lb/gal material	Most broadleaf weeds. Good on hard to control weeds like alligatorweed and cutleaf evening-primrose	Labels differ in the time interval between application and planting. Follow label restrictions regarding application timing and total amount of 2,4-D that can be applied per season.
paraquat @ 0.6-0.75 lb/A	Gramoxone Inteon @ 2-3 pt/A Apply with NIS @ 1-2 pt/100 gal	Most annual broadleaf weeds and grasses	Apply near planting and when weeds are less than 6 inches tall. Especially useful on small red rice immediately before flooding to water-seed. Apply 2 days before establishing a flood. Avoid nontarget drift.
triclopyr @ 0.375 lb/A	Grandstand @ 1.0 pt/A Surfactant required: see label.	Good on alligatorweed and other perennial broadleaf weeds	Apply 21 days prior to planting. May be useful where 2,4-D use is restricted.
glyphosate @ 0.5-2.0 lb/A	4 L glyphosate formulations <sup>3</sup> @ 1-4 pt/A	Most annual grasses and many broadleaf weeds	Apply 7-14 days prior to planting. For use in reduced-till or no-till rice. Allow 5-7 days between application and flooding for planting.
thifensulfuron @ 0.0164-0.025 lb/A + tribenuron @ 0.0164-0.025 lb/A	FirstShot @ 0.5-0.8 oz/A Adjuvant required: consult label	Curly dock, herbic, smartweed, and garlic	Apply before planting with other burndown products like glyphosate or paraquat.
halosulfuron @ 0.032-1.33 oz/A	Pemid/Halomax @ 0.66-1.33 oz/A Adjuvant required: consult label	Sedges, hemp sesbania, jointvetch	This is a 24C label that was approved March 10, 2008 and will expire in 5 years. Use as part of a preplant or at planting burndown treatment. Safe on soil pHs up to 8. May injure rice under certain environmental conditions: see label.

TABLE 1. Effectiveness of selected preplant and preemergence rice herbicides on certain weeds.

	palmetto	moringa	eclipta	barnyardgrass	red rice	sprangletop	signalgrass	fall panicum	sedge	alligatorweed	duckweed	redstem	hemp sesbania	waterhyssop	jointvetch	smartweed	dayflower	Texasweed	
<b>PREPLANT BURNDOWN:</b>																			
2,4-D	9	9	9	0	0	0	0	0	5	8	8	9	9	9	8	5	7	9	9
Gramoxone Inteon	8	9	9	9	8	9	9	9	5 <sup>1</sup>	6	7	9	9	7	8	4	7	9	9
Grandstand	9	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	9	7	9	9	8	8	5	7	9	9
Roundup	7	8	9	9	7	9	9	9	7	7	7	9	7	7	7	6	6	9	9
FirstShot	-	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	9	7	9	8	-	8	9	-	-	-
<b>PREPLANT INCORPORATED, PREPLANT or PREEMERGENCE:</b>																			
Bohero PPS <sup>1</sup>	4	0	8	8	8	8	7	6	5	4	7	3	0	6	4	5	7	5	5
Bohero (D PRE)	5	8	8	0	8	8	5	7	5	4	8	8	6	8	5	5	8	6	6
Clearpath	8	8	9	8	8	8	9	5	9	6	8	8	7	6	7	6	7	8	8
Command	0	0	9	0	8	8	8	9	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	2	7	0	0
Facet (PRE drill-seeded)	8	8	9	0	0	0	9	5	2	4	3	4	7	6	7	0	5	4	4
Newpath PPI/PRE	8	6	8	8	8	8	9	5	9	6	8	8	4	6	4	6	7	8	8
Pendimethalin + Facet (D PRE)	8	8	9	0	9	8	5	4	4	6	3	2	8	4	7	0	3	6	6

<sup>1</sup>Annual sedge suppression; <sup>2</sup>With proper water management

## Pesticide Re-Certification Meetings

Two pesticide re-certification meetings have been scheduled in Evangeline Parish:

**Thursday, March 3, 2011 – 1:00 p.m.**

**Thursday, March 3, 2011 – 5:30 p.m.**

The meetings will be held at the **County Agents Office**, 230 Court Street in Ville Platte. Refer to your card for the expiration date. The only people who need to attend are those whose cards expire on **March 31, 2011**. The meeting will last 90 minutes and you must attend the entire time to be re-certified. You need attend only **one meeting**.

There is a **\$25.00 charge** for your pesticide card. Checks and or cash will be accepted at the meeting by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry.

If you cannot make the Evangeline Parish Meeting date or times, you may be interested in the following meeting dates and times:

**Monday, Feb. 28, 2011** - 1:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.,  
Deridder Civic Center

**Thursday, March 10, 2011**- 10:00 a.m.,  
Crowley LSU AgCenter Office

**Thursday, March 10, 2011** - 1:00 & 5:30 p.m.,  
Opelousas, LSU AgCenter Office

**Thursday, March 31, 2011** - 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.,  
Deridder Civic Center

If your card has already expired or if you have not been certified, it will be necessary for you to take a closed book examination. This **test will not** be given at these meetings. You may call our office to make arrangements for this test.

## E-MAIL LIST UPDATING

If you have an e-mail address, please call our office at 337-363-5646, or send an E-mail to me at ([kfontenot@agctr.lsu.edu](mailto:kfontenot@agctr.lsu.edu)) or my secretary, Susan Fontenot at ([slfontenot@agctr.lsu.edu](mailto:slfontenot@agctr.lsu.edu)). We will put you on our electronic mail list to receive this newsletter as well as other informational crop situation bullets that we receive during the year. You may also visit the LSU AgCenter home page at ([www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com)) where you may find information on many different and varied topics. For rice-specific information, go to [www.lsuagcenter.com/en/crops\\_livestock/crops/rice](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/crops_livestock/crops/rice) where you will find current information dealing with many facets of rice production and the industry itself.

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If you have any questions, please contact the office of the LSU AgCenter at 230 Court Street in Ville Platte, or call me at 337-363-5646, and we will try to answer any and all questions you may have on these topic.



Keith Fontenot  
County Agent  
Evangeline Parish

**LSU AgCenter**  
**Cooperative Extension Service**  
**Evangeline Parish**  
**230 Court Street**  
**Ville Platte, La. 70586**



**February 2011**

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