

[00:01] Intro/Outro

Arkansas Row Crops Radio, providing up to date information and timely recommendations on row crop production in Arkansas.

[00:11] Jason Norsworthy

Let's do it.

[00:19] Bob Scott

Welcome to the Weeds AR Wild podcast series as part of the Arkansas Row Crops Radio. My name is Bob Scott. I'm an extension weed specialist for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. Today, we're going to discuss weed control programs for rice from burn down and plant all the way through post flood. We will probably touch on differences between production systems, such as row rice versus flooded rice and herbicide systems such as Clearfield or FullPage and Provisia with Provisia herbicide and Max-Ace with Highcard system versus conventional. Before I get started, I want to introduce my coconspirator and research counterpart on this podcast. Distinguished Professor and Elms Farming Chair, Dr. Jason Norsworthy. Jason, how are you doing?

[01:08] Jason Norsworthy

I'm doing great, Bob. I am excited about this podcast. Look forward to talking about weed control in rice.

[01:15] Bob Scott

All right. Well, I know that there are some seed availability issues out there and we're already getting into the growing season and we have agronomic issues. We were just discussing some of the phone calls that were coming in about rainfall too much, not enough, none at all. And in some places just right. And what that means. And so I'm glad to have our other guest here to talk about those issues. And I want to welcome Dr. Jarrod Hardke, the extension rice agronomist here. Welcome and thanks for joining the podcast.

[01:53] Jarrod Hardke

Yep, always happy to talk to rice.

[01:58] Bob Scott

Great. In addition today, I want to give a special thanks to our next two guest for taking time out of their schedule to join us. I want to welcome Dr. Tim Walker, CEO of Horizon AG. Tim, welcome to the podcast.

[02:13] Tim Walker

Thank you, Bob. Looking forward to it.

[2:15] Bob Scott

All right. And also Van McNeely, president and head of excuse me, president and head of business with Rice Tec. Welcome, Van

[02:25] Van McNeely

Thank you, Bob. Thank you for the opportunity.

[02:27] Bob Scott

Yeah, glad to have you here. And I'm sure you guys haven't been getting any calls lately. Looking for any seed, right? No, not at all.

[02:39] Van McNeely

No. None at all.

[02:39] Tim Walker

You know, I've run across a lot of people in the rice business over 20 plus years. And I think I've reacquainted myself with just about everyone over the last few weeks. Hey, need a favor, Need a favor. But no, it's always been great to reconnect with people. And we definitely are. I know from my standpoint, are experiencing unprecedented days. This is normally not an issue for us.

[03:07] Van McNeely

Yeah, it's as Tim said, some of those phone calls are not that pleasant. You know, where's where's my seed? How come I can't get this seed, so can you help me out? But to Tim's point, it is nice to maybe not in these circumstances, but catch up with some of those customers I haven't talked to in a while.

[03:27] Bob Scott

You know, Van I actually had one farmer that told me that I don't understand what Horizon and Rice Tec, don't just put a bunch of seed in cold storage just in case we need it.

[03:38] Van McNeely

Yeah, I mean, that, that is we do you know, that's a practice we do every year. We try to overproduce to make sure we have, you know, safety stock to address the market needs. But unfortunately, you know, with two years of up rice, that was not in our crop planning scenario. And, you know, we had some issues with the heat in Texas this year, some new products that didn't perform as we expected on the production side. So we're, you know, we're sure, but I think the big driver there is two years up on rice that we did not expect.

[04:12] Bob Scott

Right. You know, I spent I spent a couple of years down at the Rice Research and Extension Center, and it was even hard to plan Foundation acres and things like that because predicting those acres is tough to do. Having said that, Jarrod, I thought I'd give you a chance to just kind of update us on what where are we on acreage and what are you seeing out there as far as that division of acres? And there's a lot of rice was planted last weekend. I know. So, yeah.

[04:41] Jarrod Hardke

I'll chime in. One thing like Van's comment there, you know, briefly. I mean, nobody, we knew we hit kind of the reset button on annual acreage expectations here over the last couple of years with a couple of down rice years. And I think we all kind of expected to somewhat return to that open down acreage rollercoaster. And none of us were prepared for this second straight year of of really certainly recently, high rice acres, or staying north of 1.4 million. So again, it caught everybody off guard to that extent. So it is what it is now. But nobody was was thinking that was going to happen. Maybe that we would hold up somewhat. I think I was saying back in November, December Van, you know, we weren't going to fall

as far as we normally do. You know, there was some support for that. But when it said, no, we want to plant what we did last year and even more, and that wasn't in the script but yeah. On on acres. So with that in mind, I mean if if seed availability was just we had had piles of it in cold storage or wherever, you know, we had talked about this this could be a, you know, 1.6 million or more acre year for Arkansas, though. The reality now is and I agreed with this, I mean, the most recent prospective planning is was in in between 1.4 and 1.5 million. And that's that's kind of where I'd reached maybe expecting it to say more like 1.5 in reality. But again, really close to that and over the past couple of weeks, I mean, we're sit here, you know, a week into April and in northeast Arkansas, a ton of growers are finished planning or have a very high percentage completed a little slower pace in the central part and in the southern part of the state, struggling a lot more the early, early window for them, just inundated by rain from the start, hadn't been able to miss one. So a little surprised at some of the official reports of planting progress is way behind what we're actually doing out there to this point. But yeah, all signs point to at least with this early jump us achieving that that pretty big number out there with with what we've already gotten in the ground some have taken the stance of as we approached, you know rainy window, okay I've got you know 50% or more planted, I'm going to, I'm going to hit pause and let this go then then I'll go after the rest of it. So we've got a pretty wide mix. There's few people out there that haven't started me wrong. Not everybody has their rice started in the ground, but we're we're a long way down the road already.

[07:26] Bob Scott

So I know with the shortage Van, Horizon or excuse me, Rice Tec was trying to do some things to provide seed out there and I heard about this brand B and there was a lot of things being said about it. And one of the reasons I really wanted to have you on was to talk a little bit about those. But my understanding is you got you sold out of those varieties as well, is that correct?

[07:51] Van McNeely

That is correct. We're I mean, we're completely sold out of everything. Well, we have some of our Max Ace variety in medium grain hybrid left, but pretty much everything else is completely gone. Yeah. And so, you know, we did have some some branded products on the market this year. We had conversations with growers on those. You know, we they meet all the regulatory standards within the market, but they're below our strict standards. So we weren't normally we wouldn't sell them, but we said, well, we're short, we've got to man the market. Let's go have the conversation with the grower, let him know exactly what this may be. And if they want it, you know, we'll deliver it directly to them or work directly with the local retail location to make sure it goes to the right farmer and they know how to manage it and move forward. And it was, you know, well that it was gone within ten days.

[08:47] Bob Scott

And, you know, there was some talk about weedy rice contamination in that in those varieties. But I think you said it already that they were within the legal amounts or whatever you want to call it, the you know, the required official amounts. And everybody was made aware what it was. Also, y'all did some testing of any possible weedy rice that was in there and it turned out to be non Clearfield is my understanding or non IMI-tolerant, I should say yes.

[09:21] Van McNeely

Correct. So I mean if there is presence in there and that's the conversation we need to have with the growers to let them aware that it potentially could be there. But they need to make sure and put out the preface postscript or, you know, full script on those acres and that should be no issue whatsoever.

[09:39] Bob Scott

Gotcha. I also learned while I was managing Stuttgart that the rumor mill runs wild when it comes to varieties and any potential issues that are associated with those varieties. So I don't take anything for face value when I hear it usually.

[09:55] Van McNeely

Yeah, it's like you and I talked the other day, Bob. I mean such a small market. I mean it doesn't take long for talk to go within our small rice market.

[10:05] Jarrod Hardke

So outside of that, you know that weedy rice, you know, question, you know that part of it it's a brand brand one and brand two, correct? Do you want to give any kind of description of those two kind of what they are?

[10:19] Van McNeely

Yeah so they're going to be well brand one will be a combination mainly 7421 FullPage with some 7321 FullPage in it's a blend and it has the components listed right on the bags so I think it might be a 90-10 blend or something like that, but that'll be on there. And it is a lower germ. So we do increase the seeding rate on that. I think it's labeled a 70%. Then the the brand two is 100%, 7521. So that's just a it'll have the components listed on there.

[10:54] Bob Scott

And these are sold actually to reduce costs, correct? I mean, compared to your current and your standard varieties.

[11:05] Van McNeely

Yes, they were sold at a reduced cost versus our list price than our other products.

[11:11] Bob Scott

Tim, I understand, you guys are also in a more or less sold out position. Now, you mentioned aromatic before, but I'll let you unmute and say anything on that.

[11:24] Tim Walker

Absolutely. Well, you know, we are sold out of our our long grains outside of the CLJL1 which is an aromatic. I'll just try to tie in the cold storage and all of that that we kind of started with. So the good thing for us is currently, even though we're sold out of long grain, we are at 20% above sales year over year. So it wasn't that we didn't anticipate big acreage, obviously in the open pollinated system or varietal system. We had a flexibility to overproduce each year and we do overproduce each year. Now regarding cold storage, number one, we think a lot of our brand, we think a lot of the quality standards by which we grow our seed under cold storage. There is always that risk of losing germ, especially, you

know, depending on one when it gets into cold storage and all of that. In addition to that, the crop's already planted before we could make a decision whether something goes to cold storage or not. So we just always try to do the very best that we can in forecasting and overproducing so that we don't have to use cold storage as much. We do cold store on occasion. We do. This year we wouldn't have had anything to cold store that would have been a value in the marketplace to speak of, especially looking out a year in advance. When you look at our offerings this year, 18 was a limited launch last year and it was sold out so there was no seed available to cold store. 19 was a new launch, so it was not even available last year and it sold out. Some of the older varieties that we were already discontinuing we did cold store some of those and those have sold out so, so anyway you know we again Clearfield side of things we're up in sales year over year 20% we're at the highest number of Clearfield sales that we've had since 2020. And then even comparing to that 2020 year, we're above that largely due to the Provisia system and the growth that we've had in in the Provisia rice system. So we've been increasing, you know, 20 to 30,000 acres a year since the launch of that brought in a new variety this year and it sold out. PVLO4 developed at the University of Arkansas. We do still have PVLO3 available. We still have the Clearfield, medium grain CLMO4 available and some CLJO1 so great year from from a seed sales standpoint again, I don't like being able to tell people, no, I would love to sell everything, but also don't like those years where we have had to dump a lot of seed, you know, because the demand was not there. And that has been a big change in the whole rice seed industry over the last ten years that quite frankly, I've kind of seen coming. We just don't have as many players in the seed business today that we did, you know, ten years ago, and rightfully so. These guys have planted seed year in and year out and dumped a whole lot of seed every year. And you can't stay in business, dumping seed. So this didn't get here overnight. It has happened over the course of many years. And it's unfortunate that we are being challenged right now. And hopefully those of us on this call, as well as others that can participate, could have those types of conversations and about what needs to happen going forward.

[15:32] Bob Scott

You mentioned a lot about Provisia and Clearfield and the MaxAce and the FullPage programs in there. Jason, last week we talked a lot about burn down programs on last week's episode to kind of get us to the point where we are now. And you know, as we're recording this podcast, we just got a pretty good rain last night through Central Arkansas. Unfortunately, I think the Northeast is has not gotten that rain. Maybe some areas, you know, below us have gotten it. So we might be looking at a situation where we're sitting pretty after getting some residual herbicides out. We may be in a situation now where they're not being activated. So I don't know what your calls are like, but I've already had one discussion about flushing in a pretty expensive residual program rather than just watching it you know, lay out there.

[16:31] Jason Norsworthy

You know, I'm getting calls right now in terms of giving what they expect the weed spectrum to be, still what the what the burn down is going to look like. Folks are still doing that. They're anticipating having sedges in the field. How do they get in front of those sedges? You know, sedges have a tendency to emerge a little bit late, later in the season for us. And so how do they ensure that they're going to keep them at bay? I've had some calls, folks, telling me that they know they're going to have smart weed in the field. So what's the best residual to start out front to keep smart weed, held back? And you know, when I look at really the residuals we have out there Sharpen and the Permit, Gambit type products are two that really come to mind, you know, Sharpen does a real good job on flat sedge, the Gambit the

Permit products do as well. If I've got smart weed in the field, or if I know I'm going to have smart weed Gambit tends to be the preferred product. Where I'm going to use Gambit, I like to make sure guys don't use any more than an ounce of planting or in the burn down because that's going to give them an opportunity to come back with a subsequent application later. If you go any higher than that, you're not going to have opportunity to come back. Along those same lines, the other thing I'll look at is really where we are in the growing season is really going to dictate again the amount of pressure that we have with these weeds early on. Right now, like I said, these the rice flat sedge doesn't doesn't scare me. But as we get later and later and later, that's a weed that has a tendency to emerge later. I really like to see some Bolero as soon as we get rainfall, that rice is in water, it's sprouted. I like to see Bolero on the ground just to ensure that we're overlaying these residuals and we're trying to carry them as far into the season as we can. Any weed that comes up is going to cost us more from a standpoint of trying to kill it, post emergence than trying to kill it before it ever comes out of the ground.

[18:47] Bob Scott

Yeah, I think one of my favorite treatments after I get my, you know, Command, Facet or Command, Sharpen and whatever my, my initial pre emerge is I like to come back with as some sort of Bolero containing product where that's you know, that might be RiceBeaux plus Prowl, it might be Bolero, Prowl. I really like that Prowl a little bit later where it helps pick up some of those later emerging grass weeds that it's better on like crabgrass and some of the sprangletops and that sort of thing. But you know, right now we're in a situation where, you know, we're really relying heavily on overlapping residuals in our rice production program and that really goes across all production systems, wouldn't you agree?

[19:41] Jason Norsworthy

Oh, absolutely. I would agree. It's all you know, we talk about Max Ace, we talk about Provisia. You know, when I look at those technologies, it's all about having a stout residual in there to take selection pressure off of those herbicides. And, you know, obviously a conventional system, definitely the residuals have got to be the the backbone of it. But it's it's all about overlaying those as much as possible. Just one, again, mentioned when you talk MaxAce, you talk Provisia, there are some differences in those systems. I've talked about those at meetings throughout the the winter today we have in our Provisia recommendation we want three passes of Provisia. We want a 10-10-11 or you can go 11-10-10, but we want that last application to be post-flood. And I like to see that preferably with Rogue out there. We talk about having where I can use Rogue, where I've got side inlet or zero grade, if I've got weedy rice under the water, I'm confident I can kill it with Rogue if it's above I can kill with Provisia. The problem in a MaxAce system is I just cannot go with three splits because of the safener that's in HighCard. And so there we don't feel comfortable. We're going to have to go 15 and a half, followed by 15 and a half with that last application being pre-flood. And what I tell folks there is we've got to try to get the water on that field as soon as possible. And it really doesn't matter what herbicide we're talking about when you make a pre flood application, if it's going to take us 10 to 14 days to get water across the field, it's all about having a residual out there that's going to carry us into the flood. And the reason that we had as long of a successful run with the Clearfield system as we did was the fact that when we went to flood and we had NewPath out there, that NewPath gave us ten, 14 days of residual, residual and hence we did not have another flush of weedy rice or red rice that came through that. We don't have that privilege with the technologies that we're talking about today.

[21:56] Bob Scott

Yeah, I agree 100% with that. And it's also concerning when we talk about maxing out our rice acres or having a shortage of seed, Jarrod one of the things that inevitably comes up to me is we can't get that flood on that rice. We're irrigating beans we're irrigating corn, we're trying to get a flood on rice. And if the rain is not cooperating, we can really get in trouble there as far as trying to get a quick flood on and that affects nitrogen as well on that.

[22:28] Jarrod Hardke

So well, you had that, just to echo and where you're going with that the the the number of stacked acres we've got right now for individual operations. I mean this this spraying, fertilizing and flooding window is going to drag out, meaning that we're going to have to start earlier with some acres on rice, a little smaller to not have some of the other rice be so big and so late by the time we go in again, expanding that that weed control window as a result of it and can get pretty long in there. So for some areas and acres, it's going to get very interesting. I kept joking the fun has only just begun with with the seed dynamic and then as we go away from here with how things are going it's going to get more interesting as we go forward.

[23:22] Jason Norsworthy

Along those lines there, Jarrod, you just you touched on you were talking about the the size to rice, it seems like to me over the last 15, 20 years, we have weighted later in later and later in terms of flooding rice. I mean, I can remember back three leaf, four leaf and you were trying to push water across the field because the flood is your friend when it comes to weed control. And I'm just I want to remind everyone that, I mean, I'm fine. We flooded three leaf, four leaf. Yes, it's going to have to be a shallow flood. But the longer that we sit there and we wait to flood that field, we're putting a lot more pressure or on our herbicides. And it's no different than if you think about row rice. And when we look at row rice, we're going to spend at least one, if not two additional herbicide applications in row rice just due to the absence of the flood. So anything we can do to take seven days, ten days all of the time from planning to actually flooding that field is going to help us out from a weed control standpoint. We're going to be a lot cleaner at the end of the year with a lot less risk of resistance developing.

[24:31] Bob Scott

Yeah, I think we're talking about resistance. And then, you know, one of the later things I had here in my notes was pre and post flood, you know, kind of what are some weeds to watch out for and that sort of thing, but if, you know, we are unable to get that flood on in a timely manner, if we don't have those overlapping residuals activated, we can really defeat the purpose of anything we're trying to do when we have to come back with a very expensive post-emerge post-flood herbicide program in an attempt to clean up the field. Now, there are some weeds scenarios, Jason, that we probably can't clean up with our resistance issues we have now, but we can throw a lot of money at trying.

[25:15] Jason Norsworthy

And we do what we do, go on year in, year out when we get into a post flood scenario, especially trying to clean up barnyard grass. We're going to through, I mean I've talked to folks is thrown upwards of 75 to \$100 at barnyard grass and still have it in the field at the end of the growing season when they don't have it controled going to flood.

[25:39] Bob Scott

So we do have some later products that we can look to for I don't really want to call it salvage at this point, but options you mentioned Rogue and we have Loyant now. I'm saying now from my standpoint of when I kind of quit being a weed scientist five years ago and I've gotten back in it now, you know, Regiment late still has a fit for certain weeds. So there are some tools we can use, but we really need to be looking at that field pre flood and immediately post flood to see to see what it needs and not wait and to see it come through the top or getting too late spray.

[26:21] Jason Norsworthy

Let's go to flood. Let's be clean when we go to flood and then let's not deal with these these post-flood is going to cost you a lot of money if you do that.

[26:31] Bob Scott

Well, guys, we've covered a lot of ground. It seemed like a fairly short amount of time on this. Anything else we need to mention from anybody's standpoint or anything that we've left off?

[26:48] Bob Scott

Kind of run through a lot of notes. Tim, I did want to give you and Van an opportunity. I know y'all got field days coming up. I believe they're at our new research station up at Jonesboro. Do y'all want to mention those dates?

[27:03] Tim Walker

Sure I will. Bob, I'm very appreciative of being able to work with the University of Arkansas at the new facility there in Harrisburg, August the 15th. It will be that evening. I think normally our registration starts about 4:30 and the program will start at five. You know, we're we're we're a ways out. So we will be notifying the industry. But that date is set August 15 at Harrisburg. Looking forward to having a good crowd there. I know a lot of times many of you guys come and join us and and speak to the crowd and all of that. So very much looking forward to it and appreciate the opportunity.

[27:28] Bob Scott

And Van?

[27:49] Van McNeely

Yes, so we'll have several regional field days which we haven't set the dates on yet. So I won't mention those yet, but we will have one here at our Harrisburg, Arkansas location to celebrate 25 years of hybrid rice. So this this year, 2024 will be 25 years of hybrid rice being commercially grown. Yeah. So it won't be a Rice Tec field day. It won't be a field day, it'd be more of a celebration of hybrid rice in the U.S. for 24 years excuse me, 25 years. And so we will see more information coming in on that soon. But it'll be August the seventh in the evening. I think Dr. Tim Burcham has one here at the extension research station just down the road from us the day the morning after that. So maybe we try to time there not conflict, maybe help also travel with the people attending.

[28:45] Bob Scott

Well I appreciate that and I was going to mention the field day at Harrisburg at the New Northeast Rice Research and Extension Center will be on August eight. We will have one a week before that, Jarrod

down with you at Stuttgart on August the first and Van, I also want to thank you for making me feel incredibly old with that. I'm in about 25 years because I fully remember Rice Tec's introduction into the market and some of those first few years were a lot of fun. But you guys have settled in to having some great products over that 25 years. So yeah, that'll be a good event. Lot to celebrate there. Yeah.

[29:29] Van McNeely

I'll dust off some of your old Delta Farm Press articles, Bob.

[29:31] Bob Scott

I'll bet. Well, anybody else got anything before we wrap this one up? I'll just thank all of our guests again on behalf of Dr. Norsworthy and myself, as well as Dr. Tom Barber, who is also part of this podcast. But we gave him a break from this one. Since we're primarily discussing rice I'm sure he'll be taking over when when we the conversation moves to cotton later on in the year. So I want to thank all of you for joining us for this latest episode of The Weeds AR Wild podcast series on Arkansas Row Crops Radio.

[30:27] Intro/Outro

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