

AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC.

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WEATHER - More rain predicted this week. No break from weather pattern in sight. Rain chances most days this week with 100% chance Monday night.

It will be time to begin watching the river stages soon if this pattern does not break. It is inevitable that those along the "Big Ditch" (Mississippi River) will feel the effects of flooding in the unprotected areas and seep water near the levees.

RICE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP - Feb 22-25, Beau Rivage Resort, Biloxi, MS.

BURNDOWN - Less than 10% of burndown applied in our area. To date there have been only three days for applying burndown since January 1. If it wasn't too cold, it was too wet or too windy.

We are late on corn burndown. As soon as it dries corn farmers will be planting if soil temps are warm enough. It is critical that corn ground be burned down ASAP. Corn trying to emerge and grow in green or dying vegetation will have reduced vigor and growth and reduced yields.

Call us for your burn-down recs; they are changing as we get closer to planting and as winter vegetation increases in size.

WHEAT - Some wheat yet to be fertilized with the first shot of fertilizer. Most wheat scheduled for second shot within next two weeks.

Wheat is water-logged, cold-burnt, and downright ugly in some fields. Wheat on higher or the best drained ground looks acceptable.

COTTON - Some farmers increasing acreage, some farmers decreasing acreage. Overall impact in our area will be fewer cotton acres in the southern area while higher acreage to the north. Some landowners lowering rent structure for cotton to entice more cotton acres. They figure that 15% rent on cotton is better than 25% on soybeans. And soybeans take more out of the soil than cotton.

Even at 15% it is difficult to get every farm to cash flow on cotton without cutting costs. Mixed fertilizer and/or lime is usually the first to go. And, yet, that is one area where we can get a serious yield boost on many soils.

There will be limited supplies of the 010 crop of DPL varieties. Do not plant a high percentage of acres in any of the newer varieties. Spread the risk by planting 4 - 5 of the new ones.

SOYBEANS - Get your seed ordered and put your eyes on them. Have germ and vigor tests run. We have a "cheat sheet" if anyone is interested in seeing what varieties we picked. Call and we can fax or email it to you.

And don't forget to apply a pre-emerge on soybeans. Resistance management requires it. Valor has been our standard for several years, but there are several others that have looked good.....Canopy EX and Authority MTZ. Valor has little grass activity, therefore the addition of Sequence (Dual + glyphosate) after soybean emergence or Prowl pre-emerge is suggested.

CORN - Ground temps still too cool, but with five days of sunshine soil temps will increase dramatically on exposed soils. However, we strongly encourage all corn farmers to get their burndown out first and then wait to plant. Increase rates of glyphosate where label permits. Use 0.5 oz Basis or 1.0 oz of Resolve/ac. Add $\frac{1}{4}$ gal/ac of 2,4-D ester or 1/16 gal/ac of Clarity if you can wait to plant. Don't forget the ammonium sulfate.

If we can run by ground then applying a full rate of Gramoxone plus atrazine plus FirstShot may be an alternative to enhance knockdown.

RICE - If you will be using a residual in the burndown, then burndown now. Otherwise wait 2 weeks.

Farmers not planting any hybrid rice should at least "play" with a little this year. Clearfield rice should be put into an area on its own since Newpath and its sisters are tough on conventional rice. Pick 100 acres to the side so that you will have some experience with the newer varieties. Sure, the price is high, but also the gain. And hybrid rice can be very forgiving of later fertilization.

There was a little 745 left last week, but it was going fast.

Beyond the hybrids there are three varieties we would consider.....Cheniere, Cocodrie, and Catahoula.

CONDOLENCES - To the family of Mrs. Marvyn LaPraire we extend our greatest sympathy. Our thoughts will be with Mr. George and his family during this tragic time.

GET WELL SOON - Joey Russell, Hank Rabb, Ray Young, Morris Ray Arthur, Charles Miller, Cliff Merritt, Royd Wiley, Mrs. Alta Deville (Jerry Wiley's mother), Jack Bonner

Rodney Dangerfield Classics

My parents hated me so much my first bath toy was an electric toaster.

"When I was born the doctor came out to the waiting room and said to my father, "I'm very sorry. We did everything we could...but he pulled through."

"I worked in a pet store and people kept asking how big I'd get."

"I remember the time I was kidnapped and they sent back a piece of my finger to my father. He said he wanted more proof"

"Once when I was lost. I saw a policeman and asked him to help me find my parents. I said to him...Do you think we'll ever find them? He said, "I don't know kid. There are so many places they can hide."

"I remember I was so depressed I was going to jump out a window on the tenth floor, so they sent a priest up to talk to me. He said, "On your mark..."

"Last week my tie caught on fire. Some guy tried to put it out with an ax!"

"I met the surgeon general. He offered me a cigarette!"

"A girl phoned me and said, "Come on over; there's nobody home." I went over. Guess what. She was right. Nobody was home!"

"I remember when I swallowed a bottle of sleeping pills. My doctor told me to have a few drinks and get some rest."