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Rice Outlook In '79 Is Promising

(Continued from page 1)

event yields are down and the crop is well below average. Gerlow added that local producers can add a \$1 per cwt. to those figures because of the good quality rice raised here.

Yields To Be Down

Rice scientists are predicting that the 1979 yields in Texas will be down this year because of the late planting of rice, because of the wet, cold spring planting season. Gerlow said, "We know from past experience and research that best yields are obtained in rice planted prior to April 5th and good yields from rice planted in the period from April 10th to 15th. He went on to point out that in Texas in the period from April 6-8, 79% of the crop was planted in 1978 during that period while only 14 percent is planted this year in the north zone which includes Harris, Waller, Wharton, Austin and Colorado counties. In the north zone for the period April 13-15, Gerlow commented that 93% of the rice had been planted by those dates in 1978 while only 46% had been planted in 1979; and by the period April 27-29, all rice had been planted in the north zone in 1978 but this year only 81% had been planted by those dates.

Ending Stocks Down

The economist told the group that beginning stocks of rice in March and April of 1978 were 27.4 million hundredweight while beginning stocks this year are 39.2 million hundredweight. Production last year was estimated at 137.8 million cwt. and this year the production is anticipated at 141.0 million cwt. with a good crop and 125 million cwt. if the crop is not a good one. (These figures based on the April planting intention figure of 2,824,000 acres of rice).

He also noted that

domestic consumption in 1978 was 44 million hundredweight and that domestic consumption this year is anticipated at 48.5 to 44.5 million hundredweight; exports last year were 81 million cwt. in April, and exports this year are expected to be 83 million cwt. at the lower prices if the crop is good and 91 million cwt. at the higher prices in the event of a bad crop.

This all amounts to ending

stocks of 39.2 million cwt. in April of 1978 and forecasts from the USDA are that ending stocks or carryover for 1979 could be as high as 48.7 million cwt. if the crop is good and 28.7 million cwt. with a bad crop.

Dependable Markets

Gerlow said that two-thirds of the U.S. exported



rice goes to the Asian and European markets which he cited as "dependable markets." In 1979 exports to all areas is predicted at 41,929 thousand cwt., as compared to 35,422.3 thousand cwt. in 1978, an increase of 18% giving cause to a good outlook for price strength in the 1979 market.

He commented that the

United States exports one-fourth of all world exports of rice. Ending stocks worldwide in 1978 were 200,600 thousand cwt. (milled rice) and 447,583.3 thousand cwt. rough rice. "The population increases that we have been predicting for several years, are now catching up with the supply and demand. Rice exporters such as Thailand, People Republic of China, Pakistan, Burma, Australia and Italy are consuming more rice decreasing exports from these countries."

"Where is the carryover

in the United States?" asked Gerlow. He said that much of it is commodity credit stocks. His report showed that reports from the millers in California, Louisiana and Texas state that there is no rice available, creating a rather tight situation.

Unfavorable Factors

He listed as some of the unfavorable factors in determining the outlook for 1979 rice: additional mills are being built in Mississippi to relieve some of the pressure caused at harvest time in that state; monsoon rains are reported on time in such rice exporting countries as Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, India and China (which produces 50% of the world crop) and good production is anticipated, unless the rains end before the harvest time. He estimated that 70% of the crop in these countries is raised strictly dependent on rain from the monsoons.

Further unfavorable factors

listed by Gerlow included: Japan is moving stock 900,000 metric tons for sale to Korea, Indonesia and others; Nigeria which has taken 700,000 tons of old crop rice, is having difficulty insuring import licenses; Bangladesh, which imports from India, Japan, Philippines and Pakistan, is having internal pricing problems; and the Brazilian market which once reached 700,000 tons has dropped to 100-150,000 tons and there is a 50% chance there will be no exports to that country in 1979. Also Thailand, a two-crop country, is reporting a good spring crop; and finally there are limited export sales for 1980 on the books in the U.S. As of June 14 of this year U.S. exporters had contracts for only 21,000 tons as compared to 143,000 tons last year and 310,000 tons in 1977.

Another factor which

might determine the market, includes the fact that Arkansas reports that 90 to 90% of its crop is planted with an average to good yield expected.

Favorable Factors

Under favorable factors, Gerlow noted that the U.S. is the only country at this time with stocks of rice which are available. "At this time all purchases have to come from the U.S." A

ARG Rice Assn. At Garwood Has Its Annual Meeting

The American Rice Growers' Cooperative Association of Garwood held its annual meeting Tuesday night, June 26, at Schober's Restaurant in Columbus. One hundred and sixteen members and guests were in attendance. A delicious buffet style meal was served.

Special guests were introduced by President Walter Braden. They included Mr. and Mrs. Dave Crutchfield and Paul Crutchfield of American Rice, Inc., Houston; Pete Stacks, American Rice Growers' Exchange, Lake Charles, La.; Mr. and Mrs. Alan Hill and Mr. and Mrs. Gus Miller, First State Bank of Columbus; Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Hajdik, Colorado County Extension Agent; Dr. and Mrs. Jim Stansel, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Eagle Lake; Nat Goodwin, Columbus; Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Turner and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kasmierky of Garwood.

Resolutions For Deceased

The evening's agenda included a resolution read in memory of the late Harry Engstrom in memory of the late Harry Engstrom, Secretary of Agriculture, William K. Lehrer, L. F. Doplaust, and James T. Danklefs.

Manager Parks Christensen

gave an annual report (FERC), originally designated June 15 as the last day for the requirement but extended it by one month.

Users of interstate natural

gas have been certified by the Secretary of Agriculture to be protected up to the full requirement against curtailment.

The request should include:

name and address; intended use and volumes of natural gas needed; natural gas purchases for most recent 12 months for which records are available;

Also, documentation to

support calculation of needs; standard industrial classification (SIC) code numbers such as 01 for crops and 02 for livestock, and signature swearing or affirming to accuracy of the request.

The ASCS office suggests

that local natural gas suppliers be contacted concerning procedures for obtaining agricultural priority. "If additional assistance is needed, the state and county offices will soon have information regarding eligible 'Essential Agricultural Uses' as well as a suggested format for filing," said Daniel C. Streckfuss, County Executive Director.

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Door Prize Winners Listed At Jo Ann's

Jo Ann Mahalic, owner of Jo Ann's in Eagle Lake, announces winners of door prizes during her recent grand opening event.

Mrs. Robert Griffith was

the recipient of a \$25 gift certificate; Mrs. Sam Center and Mrs. Marcella McGraw each received a pair of Lady Wranglers blue jeans.

Mrs. Mahalic expressed

appreciation to all for the great interest and patronage shown to her store (formerly Epps) on Commerce Street.

variety which is only 31 inches

tall as compared to 43 inches for Labelle.

Dr. Jim Stansel, Scientist-

in-Charge discussed weather influence on rice growth and development. "Research has shown that weather plays a significant role in the growth, development, yield, and quality of rice. It has found that weather has a pronounced influence on herbicides, fertilizer, and other cultural techniques. Some of these were discussed at other stops. A technique has been developed called the DD50 to predict from temperatures when the plant reaches important development stages."

The tour included viewing

a variety of new rice released this year (1979). It has growth and yield characteristics very similar to Lebonnet. Its main attribute is its outstanding parboiling and cooking quality. Dr. Stansel, Scientist in charge of the Eagle Lake station, described the new varieties as being long grain between LaBelle and Lebonnet varieties.

Energy Producing Industry

Dr. Fred Turner, soil chemist located at the Beaumont Research and Extension Center discussed soil plant nutrition research.

"Fertilizer nitrogen use

efficiency becomes an important as petroleum energy supplies decrease, because large amounts of energy are required to produce the nitrogen fertilizer which is necessary for good rice yields. All factors that influence rice yield affect nitrogen use efficiency," said Dr. Turner.

Research was shown indicating

that first crop yield potential is reduced when planted after April 25. By reducing the nitrogen applied by 15 to 20 pounds per acre and apply the nitrogen in fewer applications can save production costs. The help to reduce lodging and disease hazards which are predominate in late planted rice. Late planted rice tends to produce excessive vegetation which can further reduce yields, added Dr. Turner.

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physicist from Beaumont, is conducting the water management research for rice and soybeans and he discussed his work. A large mobile Lindsay irrigation system was displayed and explained by factory representatives.

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done considerable research concerning foliar fungicides. His findings indicate the best timing for Benlate application to control blast is 7-10 days after P.D. followed by a second application 21 days later. This second application should be about when all the heads in the field are showing. Tests on pre-emergence herbicides, foliar fungicides and studies on cool season forages were also viewed.

Thanks Extended

Dr. Stansel extended thanks to all for their support of the event stating:

"A special thank you is extended to those who make this Field Day possible: the staff of the Beaumont Research and Extension Center, the Western Division Advisory Board, the Texas Rice Improvement Association, and the Colorado County Rice and Soybean



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July 15 Last Day To File For Natural Gas

The Colorado County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) Committee reminds farmers, food processors, food distributors and other agricultural concerns desiring protection against natural gas curtailment to file a written priority request with their supplier no later than July 15, 1979. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

(FERC), originally designated June 15 as the last day for the requirement but extended it by one month.

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Dignitaries Present

Hajdik presided at the introduction of special guests

including State Rep. John Wilson of La Grange; officials from the Texas A&M University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, including resident director Dr. Julian Craigie; officials from Texas A&M University; representatives of the Texas Rice Improvement Association; the Western Division's 21-member Advisory Board; the county rice and soybean sub-committee; county agents from neighboring counties; city officials; the press; personnel at the Eagle Lake Experiment Station; U. S. Department of Agriculture representatives who displayed Texas Agricultural Products; representatives of the Rice Council for Market Development; and others.

During the question and answer period, scientists who took part in explaining the research programs provided a wealth of information on questions of a wide variety of matters relating to rice and soybeans.

Among the most notable was an opinion expressed that late planting is certainly conducive to diseases; water should be kept on first crop rice prior to harvesting as long as possible for best

second-crop yields; and word was given that two semi-dwarf varieties are under research and a decision is expected to be made this spring on which, if either, of the new strains will be released. Dr. Jim Stansel, Scientist in charge of the Eagle Lake station, described the new varieties as being long grain between LaBelle and Lebonnet varieties.

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Tours were taken to view and discuss the research plots underway at the Eagle Lake station, with numerous citizens of the area in farming and in agribusiness serving as guides for the tour. Also assisting as guides and in arrangements for the tour were members of the Colorado County Rice and Soybean Subcommittees; Delmar Krenk, chairman; and the County Extension Agent Leroy Hajdik.

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