

# CL151 Shows Promise

*Excitement Abounds At Horizon Ag Over Newest Introduction For 2009*

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The much-anticipated new CLEARFIELD® rice variety, CL151, was showcased at the recent Horizon Ag Field Day held here at the Bobby Soileau Farm. The farm is operated by Raymond Fruge, father of Michael Fruge, southern district sales manager for Horizon Ag.

Randy Ouzts, General Manager, opened the event, expressing his appreciation for farmers' patronage, especially through the difficult time last year when seed supply of CL131 was unavailable.

Despite that, Horizon Ag has had its best sales year in the history of the company in 2008, ac-

hybrids due to its superior herbicide tolerance, emergence and vigor. CLEARFIELD hybrid growers will quickly see the value of higher imi tolerance and vigor in CL151 and they can avoid the problems being seen lately with herbicide response, especially where draining and additional fertilizer applications have been required to nurse a crop back to health. This factor has become very cost intensive and we think growers will be looking for alternatives to avoid this next season. CL151 is the logical answer here and we are very excited about competing in this market segment."

Dr. Steve Linscombe of LSU developed the line and some of the inputs and fertility recommendations are still being studied but are not sig-

**Attendees get an opportunity to see and learn about the varieties Horizon Ag has to offer.**

Photos by John LaRose



ording to Ouzts.

"Many of the folks here today made that possible and farmers are showing a preference for our CLEARFIELD rice varieties," he said. "So we do appreciate your business. What is interesting for me is driving across this countryside and seeing how clean the fields are. Six or seven years ago when I used to come here it looked totally different, so we hope that our varieties offer value to your farming operations."

Horizon is very excited about the new CL151. Ouzts called it "the highest yielding CLEARFIELD variety available to date."

"People ask us a lot of questions about it, like how good it is," he recalled. "We don't know quite yet how good it is in terms of yield, but it looks to be at least comparable to Cocodrie and Cheniere, and when you add the fact that it is a CLEARFIELD variety that makes this product very exciting."

Ouzts said the company is still getting a lot of questions about CL131, which was temporarily taken off the market last year. He reported this variety will be available in 2009 with plenty of seed stocks in the market.

Michael Fruge organized the field day, which drew a large turnout. The event was planned to introduce CL151 as well as to update local growers on Horizon's product line for the 2009 season.

"CL151 has really good yield potential, looks really great in the field, and we wanted the farmers to see it before we release it commercially next year," he said.

Fruge said the company has a substantial seed increase effort for CL151 this season. If the seed production yields go as planned Horizon's CLEARFIELD seed processors should have enough certified CL151 planting seed for around 400,000 acres for next year. Louisiana will have a significant amount of this certified seed production but growers should still book their needs early to make sure they have access to the new variety.

"CL151 is another LSU release," Fruge said. "The maturity is about the same as Cocodrie and it's a little earlier than CL161. Height-wise it's maybe an inch or two shorter than CL161, but it's going to stand up a lot better. It has a much better plant, bigger stalk, and the standability is really good. CL151's disease package also looks to be a quite a bit better than CL161. It looks to be comparable to Cheniere with the disease data we have so far. Milling quality looks really good and the yield potential looks to be phenomenal. I think this may be the CLEARFIELD variety that is going to compete with many of the conventional varieties such as, Cocodrie, Cheniere, Trenase and possibly even Wells in Arkansas.

"It will also consistently yield at levels that should attract anyone growing CLEARFIELD

nificantly different than most currently grown varieties.

"I think this is a variety you could push with a fertilizer to get the maximum yield performance," Fruge said. "In the past a lot of people tended to be a little shy on pushing the CL161 because of its susceptibility to disease and lodging. I don't think you'll have to worry about

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that with CL151. You'll be able to apply the maximum amount of fertilizer to get optimum yields and not have to worry so much about lodging and disease pressure."

Fruge said this is the largest commercial seed production year for CL151.

The addition of CL151 gives Horizon Ag a portfolio of four CLEARFIELD variety choices for the coming year. Both CL151 and CL171-AR will be commercially available. Those two, along with proven varieties CL161 and CL131 will round out the portfolio for Horizon Ag next season.

"I think CL161 still has its place for the milling qualities it has," Fruge said. "Package quality and superior milling is a recognized standard for CL161, and the CL171-AR fits in the Arkansas market with Wells from what we are learning this season. It's going to stick around for several years for those growers that prefer that type of variety with the addition of the herbicide tolerance.

Fruge said that LSU researchers also continue to work on new CLEARFIELD varieties.

"We should actually see a Clearfield medium-grain in the near future as they're working on one now and it looks very good," he said.

Along with the introduction of CL151, the field day gave DuPont the opportunity to showcase its Dermacor™ X-100 seed treatment that provides reliable and consistent control of rice water weevil larvae in rice.

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