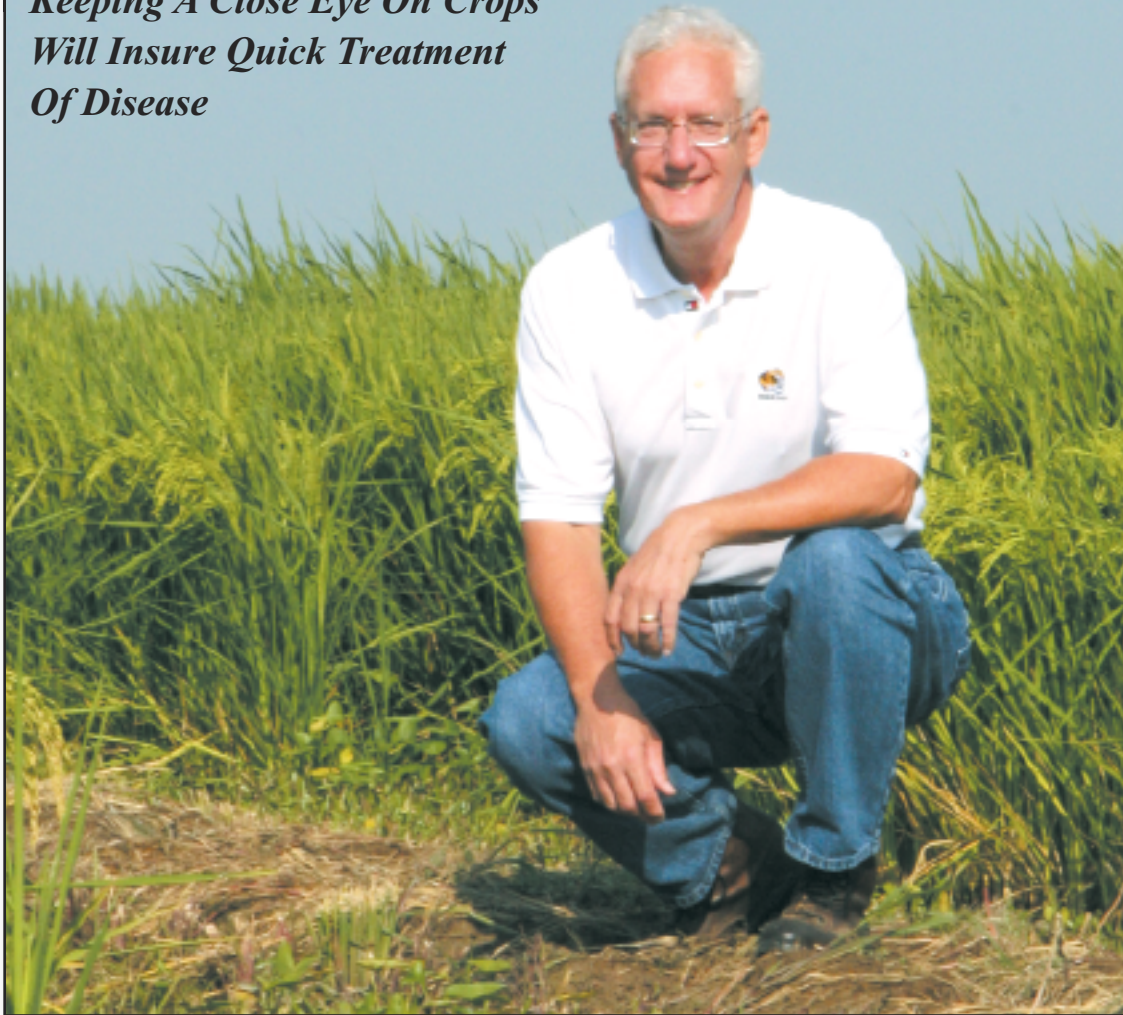


Key Is To Scout

*Keeping A Close Eye On Crops
Will Insure Quick Treatment
Of Disease*



Dr. Allen Wrather, Professor at the MU Delta Center, says the key to disease management is to scout the crop. Photo by John LaRose

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Disease management was a topic discussed recently by Dr. Allen Wrather, University of Missouri professor located at the Delta Center. Wrather touched on disease in rice and ways to manage soybean rust.

"We still have some wonderful tools to protect the rice crop from diseases; nothing new, but we still have great fungicides," he said. "We do still strongly suggest the farmers hire a scout to look at their crop to tell them what's out there. I know many of them want to do that themselves, but it's difficult because they also should be irrigating the other crops and flying fertilizers and insecticides, and time is limited."

While there's no new products to control disease, Wrather said the strobilurins and products like Quadris that are combination products

work great.

"The key is to scout the crop, determine what's there, then next year, select varieties wisely depending on what's been a problem in the past; rotate the crop if possible; plant high quality seed at the population designed for that variety; fertilize it as it should be, and if diseases develop, apply control products," he said.

Wrather said the diseases last year were pretty typical.

"We had some sheath blight in some spots and not others," he reported. "The unusual thing about sheath blight is, if it develops in a field it probably will develop in that same spot in subsequent years."

Farmers who found sheath blight would do well to watch for it in the same area next year, he said. △

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