

# Missouri Rice Grower Completes Planting *Finished By The First Week Of April*

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**RIVES, MO.**

**M**issouri rice grower Rance Daniels is ahead of schedule in planting rice. The beginning plant date for Missouri rice is April 10th. Daniels started planting rice on March 26th and expects to be finished about a week earlier than the traditional planting start date.

"The soil is much drier than usual. We are usually wet at this time of year. We are probably 2/3 done planting right now and if the weather cooperates, we should finish by Tuesday or Wednesday (April 3-4). This is very much ahead of normal. I have never had my rice planted the first week of April," said Daniels.

Typically Daniels deals with heavy gumbo. "Most of it holds water real good and in the spring it stays extremely wet," he explained. "That is one reason we have tracks on our combine."

Daniels gets soil temperature data from the University of Missouri weather stations. "My average soil temperate is 75 degrees," stated Daniels.

Daniels has planted 1100 acres of RiceTec hybrid rice. "The main reason I like the RiceTec seed is the yield, RiceTec will out yield my regular varieties on average 20 to 25 bushels per acre. Also the hybrid has an excellent disease package. I have never had to treat for disease."

Using a soybean to rice rotation, Daniels says most of his rice is no tilled. "We burn down and then plant. In some areas where we had to work the ground we are field cultivating a couple of times and then pulling a float over the ground to smooth it up." Daniels said his grandparents started the Daniels farm which began growing 80 acres of rice in '94. Currently Daniels farms 3,000 acres.

"My grandfather started leveling ground and irrigating in the 50s so we thought we would try rice. The first year we had 80 acres of rice. The first rice field we had ever been in was our own. We slowly increased our rice acreage, soon landowners started getting interested in rice and we just went from there," said Daniels.

Missouri and Louisiana rice acreage is up from 2011. The Prospective Plantings report for March 2012 from the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service reports 2,561,000 total

acres of rice for 2012, down five percent from 2011. Decreases in rice acreage from 2011 were reported for Arkansas, California, Mississippi and Texas. Increased acreage was reported for Louisiana, up eight percent; and Missouri, up six percent over 2011.

Daniels uses a 40-foot John Deere air seeder to plant. "The RiceTec technical service is great. They will help you calibrate your drill in the spring and in the fall they have provided a weigh wagon to help calibrate my combine yield



**Missouri rice grower Rance Daniels explains the main reason he likes the RiceTec seed is the yield and excellent disease package.**

Photo by John LaRose, Jr.

monitor. Any time I have a question, all I have to do is call."

Daniels has been accepted for the USA Rice Leadership Program. Managed by the USA Rice Federation, this program is sponsored by John Deere Co., RiceTec and the American Commodity Company through a grant to the Rice Foundation. △

*REGINA LAROSE: Associate Editor, MidAmerica Farmer Grower*

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