

Take Advantage Of Rotation Opportunities On Your Farm

DR. BRIAN OTTIS



ALVIN, TEXAS

Rice acres in 2011 made a dramatic decline from 2010 due mainly to higher prices in other commodities and record flooding in many parts of the Midsouth. Since there are so many historical rice acres

planted to alternative crops this year, consider planting those same acres into a conventional hybrid next year.

As part of proper stewardship and resistance management, take advantage of the opportunity now to get your farm into a good, three-way crop rotation. Our recommendation at RiceTec is to plant conventional hybrid followed by CLEARFIELD hybrid followed by soybeans or corn. This rotation allows for the use of three different herbicide programs with distinctly different modes of action. Not only does this rotation mitigate development of ALS-resistant red rice, it also helps defer, or manage, glyphosate-resistant weeds that may have developed in your soybeans.

Weed resistance is almost a constant topic these days in farm publications. As I tour

through parts of the Midsouth each year, it becomes more and more apparent the effects of continuous rice and glyphosate-resistant crops are having on the weed population. Interestingly enough, weed resistance is not nearly the issue along the Gulf Coast as it is in the Delta, primarily because of crop rotation, or crop limitations. In most parts of the Gulf Coast, lack of irrigation water and heat prohibit production of soybeans and corn in the rice production areas. A typical rotation in these areas is rice followed by cows or fallow. Realizing this isn't a possibility for many folks in the Midsouth, it does point very plainly to the benefits of rotation in weed resistance management.

If you have a long history of producing CLEARFIELD rice on a farm and you are producing soybeans or corn on that farm this year, consider rotating to a conventional hybrid next year. Red rice is very likely to still exist in the soil seedbank; however, taking proper precautions such as using fall tillage or no till, planting into a stale seedbed, and utilizing a good burndown program can all help in minimizing the impact of red rice in your conventional hybrid rice crop. ^Δ

DR. BRIAN OTTIS: Marketing and Client Support Manager, RiceTec, Inc.