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INTRODUCTION

The majority of this year's crop has been planted and emerged. We have been somewhat fortunate this spring given the dry planting windows which have allowed producers to get fields prepped, planted, sprayed, and fertilized.

Recent low temperatures have delayed cotton planting and reduced corn and soybean growth throughout the Delta while wet conditions over the past two weeks have prevented field work in most areas. While we have been experiencing cooler temperatures and ample rainfall, most of our row crops are in good condition as we move into late Spring.

As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to pick up the phone or stop by the office.

MAY 2021 LENDING RATES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

Washington, May 3, 2021 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced loan interest rates for May 2021, which are effective May 3. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) loans provide important access to capital to help agricultural producers start or expand their farming operation, purchase equipment and storage structures, or meet cash flow needs.

Producers can explore available options on all FSA loan options at fsa.usda.gov or by contacting your [local USDA Service Center](#).

IRRIGATION SEASON APPROACHING



By: Dr. Drew Gholson, Irrigation Specialist
& Dan Roach, Ext. Associate

May 7, 2021

The Row-Crop Irrigation Science and Extension Research (RISER) was developed as a science-based approach to evaluating irrigation Best Management Practices (BMPs) here in the Delta. The RISER program is designed to assist producers in reducing water use while maintaining yield and profitability. Growers participating in the RISER program agree to allow the MSU researcher to manage the irrigation decisions on one field while the producer manages the control.

Since 2013, the RISER program encompassed over forty producer fields covering all major soil types here in the Delta. While maintaining yield, the Riser program participants reduced their water use by 25% over the controls. These results demonstrate the potential for computerized hole selection (PHAUCET or Pipe Planner), surge irrigation, and soil moisture sensors to

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improve water use efficiency and producer profitability.

With observations from twenty locations, the RISER soybean trials yields were equivalent to the fields managed by the producer. Water use was reduced by 21% and water use efficiency improved by 36%. Producer profitability was increased by \$13 per acre.

Similarly, the RISER corn trials consisted of sixteen locations. Results from RISER corn trials demonstrate the utility of irrigation timing tools such as moisture sensors. Utilizing moisture sensors to trigger irrigation allowed the MSU researcher to reduce water use by 3.9-acre inches, a 41% reduction in comparison to the producer. Corn yields were increased by 7 bushels and overall profitability was increased by \$27 per acre.

Dr. Drew Golson, Extension Irrigation Specialist, is requesting growers interested in taking a look at the benefits of the RISER program on their farm or any irrigation questions contact him at (979) 255-7018.

CORONAVIRUS FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

USDA is implementing updates to the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) for producers of agricultural commodities marketed in 2020 who faced market disruptions due to COVID-19. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) reopened sign-up for CFAP 2 for at least **60** days beginning on **April 5, 2021**. CFAP updates also include:

- An increase in CFAP 1 payment rates for cattle

- Additional CFAP 2 assistance of \$20 per acre for producers of eligible flat-rate or price-trigger crops
- Processing of eligible payments for CFAP Additional Assistance

Visit farmers.gov/cfap for more information on the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, including eligible commodities, producer eligibility, payment limitations and structure, and options to apply.

MISSISSIPPI CROPS WEBSITE

For frequent updates and articles on the state crop situation check out:

<https://www.mississippi-crops.com/>

This is a great tool put together by Mississippi State University Extension Specialists to provide timely, relevant information on the current situation of Mississippi agriculture.



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