

**OFFICE MEMO**

<b>TO:</b> Ed Morris Jason Harbaugh	<b>DATE:</b> 06 August 2009
	<b>SUBJECT:</b> Webb Tract visit - July 30, 2009
<b>FROM:</b> Kim Rosmaier	

**Introduction**

Jason and I performed the Webb Tract monitoring survey on July 30, 2009.

Dave Forkel met us on the island and asked about the June report that was to come from DWR. Since this was the first I heard that DWR was to provide a report (NCRO staff did not receive a copy of the contract until July 28 2009) I told him I didn't know. He also asked about the PRC Byron transfer. I told him I thought it was still under discussion, again not knowing the final decision on that transfer.

**Observations**

– The permanent SR station, SR1, is located in Field 23. The field continues to have slow growth of vegetation.



SR1 looking west 7/30/09

The roving SR station, SR2, is located in a field of Johnson grass. There is considerable growth of Johnson grass. The average height of the grass is 4 feet. Infill of open space has continued and canopy coverage is 90-100%. The station is to be moved on July 31<sup>st</sup>.



SR2 looking south 07/30/09

Although there is no irrigation taking place on the island, water does seep into the deeper ditches. Unfortunately, I was not able to measure the depth of water, but the following photo shows water in the ditch west of Field 23 looking south.



Fields 16 thru 20 in the north are being disced.



The fallow fields show evidence of being disced but have considerable vegetation remaining. This field shows the discing but also has vegetation.



Field 5 designated as F-F, fallow field

**OFFICE MEMO**

<b>TO:</b> Ed Morris Jason Harbaugh	<b>DATE:</b> 10 August 2009
	<b>SUBJECT:</b> Webb Tract visit - Aug 5, 2009
<b>FROM:</b> Kim Rosmaier	

**Introduction**

Jason and I performed the Webb Tract monitoring survey on Aug 5, 2009.

We experienced difficulty with the GPS unit but persevered and the GPS stopped being obstinate and came online. ☺

No discing activity was occurring during this visit.

**Observations**

– The permanent SR station, SR1, is located in Field 23. The field continues to have slow growth of vegetation. It is this observer's opinion that Field 23 is not representative of all the fields on Webb due to the slow growth of vegetation. I need to get an accurate timeline of the discing that has taken place. The growth is slow and primarily of pigweed. Many of the fields have considerable vegetation of varying species, including pigweed but also a variety of grasses.



SR1 looking west 08/05/09

On Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, the roving station, SR2, was relocated to the northeast corner of field 66. This field has remained relatively vegetation free during our surveys.



New location of SR2 looking south.

Field 101, located in multiple places in the southwest portion of the tract, has consistently had vegetation on it. I'm not sure when this was last disced but the vegetation is 100% canopy coverage and 2-3 feet tall. This field is attributed at native vegetation.



The following two fields have been attributed as fallow field (F-F) due to the evidence of discing. There is, however, some vegetation and in a non-Delta survey this might be considered Idle.



Field 54, located on east side of tract.



Field 36, located on south side of tract.



**OFFICE MEMO**

<b>TO:</b> Ed Morris Jason Harbaugh	<b>DATE:</b> 17 August 2009
	<b>SUBJECT:</b> Webb Tract visit - Aug 12, 2009
<b>FROM:</b> Kim Rosmaier	

**Introduction**

Jason and I performed the Webb Tract monitoring survey on Aug 12, 2009.

Discing was occurring in the north part of the island, fields 24 thru 30. Jason and I noted the discing was not as clean as had been previously. We thought maybe the discing was shallower. There seemed to be considerable amount of residue remaining on the ground and large areas where the vegetation was not cut at all.

When we waited at the ferry to leave Webb, we met Jaime and Dave Forkel. Jaime is and has been the farm manager for Bouldin Farming Company for thirty years. Jaime provided us with a wealth of information.

Regarding the discing, due to the height, volume, and bulk of the vegetation, the discing blade cannot move through the soil as easily and tends to drag the vegetation as opposed to cutting it, thus creating the residue and spots of standing vegetation. Areas that remain uncut are so because the accumulation of weeds being pulled requires the disc blade to be cleared by raising it while moving through the field. This leaves that area "undiscd" (i.e. no vegetation is pulled). Webb will be undergoing another discing beginning next Tuesday or Wednesday (Aug 18 or 19). Jaime plans to operate at least three, and possibly four, tractors. Jaime has indicated Webb Tract needs to be disced more to remain weed-free.

I told Jaime we noticed water in some ditches but had no equipment that would allow us to measure the depth of water. Jaime indicated the ditches were generally dredged to a depth of six feet; however they were not dredged this year. If the ditches were six feet, I would estimate some ditches had 2 to 3 feet of water in them, judging from the exposed bank.

According to Jaime, the rooting depth of pigweed is two feet and pigweed prefers the wetter soil. The depth to water in some areas is two feet, which is why there is so much pigweed on the island. The rooting depth of Johnson grass is three feet and JG prefers dryer soil, thus it grows in the dryer fields of the island. If JG roots are saturated, they will rot and the plant will die. The location of the stationary surface renewal station is in a field which has primarily pigweed.

As far as cropping next year, in order to prevent weed growth, the fields will be disced 2 or more times and then plowed to bury the residue. After the corn is planted and the weeds are about 3 inches, the land will be sprayed with round-up, to which corn is resistant. The land will then be cultivated, which will bury the weeds.

**Observations**

As stated previously, fields in the northeast are being disced. The following photos provide a look at a field at the transition point of the discing. The height of the weeds is approximately 3 feet and the residue is apparent.



As stated in the introduction, the discing is not being very effective. For this reason, I have introduced a new attribute, nF-F+nC. This attribute will indicate the field is currently or was recently disced (nF-F) but the discing is inefficient and there remains standing vegetation, hence the field is not cleared (nC) of vegetation.



The vegetation in Field 23, the location of SR1, appears to have accelerated in growth. In the two photos below, the top was taken on 08/05/09 and the bottom was taken on 08/12/09.



The field in which SR2 is currently has undergone some weed growth but was still relatively fallow.



In Field 49 South there is a volunteer growth of watermelon. This field has been attributed as T9/I1, mix of watermelon and idle. Although the growth is widespread and there is considerable fruit growing, the vegetation is not robust nor is the fruit growing quickly.



There is variability within a field and not all weeds are as apparent the tall pigweed and Johnson grass. Field 75 has both pigweed and low-lying grass.

