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McNay Memorial Research and Demonstration Farm Summary

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McNay Memorial Research and Demonstration Farm Summary

RFR-A16131

Manager, Crops and OperationsNicholas Piekema
Manager, Livestock..... Kevin Maher

Ag Specialist Logan Wallace
Ag Specialist Brad Evans
Field Lab Technician Steve Goben

Research Farms Coordinator..... Mark Honeyman
Farms Manager Tim Goode

103 Curtiss Hall, 513 Farm House Lane
Iowa State University

McNay Memorial Research and Demonstration Farm
45249 170th Avenue
Chariton, IA 50049
(641) 766-6465 (phone and FAX)

Location: From the intersection of highways 65 and 34
go 4 miles south, 2½ miles east, and ¼ mile north.

Farm and Weather Summary

Nick Piekema, farm co-manager
Kevin Maher, farm co-manager

Farm Comments

Developments. The McNay Research Farm focuses on beef cattle, forage, and crop research in south-central Iowa. The work continues to expand and is well received. Many soil conservation, cattle water system, and fence improvements were made last year. A pasture improvement project was started two years ago and will continue over the next several years. A cover crop grazing project continues into a second year.

Field days and tours. Eight events were held with a total of 512 people attending field days and visiting the farm.

Livestock. In 2015 there were 297 calves in the spring and 82 calves in the fall produced by the purebred Angus herd.

Crop Season Comments

Spring started off with a normal April and May and continued to remain dry during the summer and fall. Corn planting started April 15 and was completed April 17. Harvest began October 7 and was completed October 14. The average corn yield was 172 bushels/acre.

Soybean planting started May 10 and was completed May 18. Harvest began October 17 and was completed October 24. The average soybean yield was 61 bushels/acre.

Weather Comments

Winter. Winter had milder temperatures with below normal snowfall, making cattle chores less difficult.

Spring. Spring went well for planting and calving. Corn and soybeans had good emergence. Haying went well with the drier weather, and three cuttings of alfalfa were put up in ideal conditions.

Summer. A dryer-than-normal summer made crop development move along at a more rapid pace. Hay yields were down, but the quality was better. The pasture growth was fair.

Fall. Due to dry weather and low moisture, crop harvest and storage was better than normal. All plot tillage was completed with the dry conditions.

Acknowledgements

The McNay Research Farm thanks the Lucas County Cattlemen.

Table 1. McNay Research and Demonstration Farm, Chariton, IA, monthly rainfall and average temperatures for 2016.

Month	<u>Rainfall (in.)</u>		<u>Temperature (°F)</u>		Days 90°F or above
	2016	Deviation from normal	2016	Deviation from normal	
March	1.30	-0.92	43	5.39	0
April	3.85	0.12	50	-0.47	0
May	3.55	-1.06	58	2.88	0
June	1.45	-3.52	73	-1.00	9
July	6.64	2.10	73	-1.65	6
August	4.19	-0.03	72	-0.68	5
September	3.42	-0.62	68	3.66	2
October	<u>2.33</u>	<u>-0.36</u>	56	3.01	<u>0</u>
Totals	26.73	-4.29			22

Research Farm Projects

<u>Research Project/Demonstration</u>	<u>Project Leader</u>
Acid rain	USGS
Annual forage grazing demonstration	J. Sellers
Beef cattle breeding project	J. Reecy
Cover crop study	E. Juchems
Date of planting study-corn	M. Licht
Date of planting study-soybean	M. Licht
Fungicide/insecticide on soybean study	D. Mueller
Grazing study	J. Russell
Long-term N fertilizer	J. Sawyer
Long-term tillage study	M. Al-Kaisi
Overall beef cattle reproduction	P. Gunn
Potassium study	A. Mallarino
Rye cover crop grazing study	R. Vittetoe/E. Lundy/D. Loy
Southern Iowa timber management	J. Randall
STRIPS study	T. Youngquist
Windbreak for cattle demonstration	J. Randall