Western Research Farm Summary

Abstract
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Farm Summary

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Western Research Farm Summary

RFR-A9094

Western Iowa Experimental Farm Association, 2009

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Western Research Farm

Wayne Roush ................................................................. Superintendent
Don Hummel ................................................................. Ag Specialist

Mark Honeyman ....................................................... Coordinator, Research Farms
Dennis Shannon ........................................................ Manager, Research Farms

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Ames, IA 50011

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Main Street Tax Service, Mapleton Monona County

Woodbury County
Farm Summary

Wayne Roush, farm superintendent

Farm Comments

Developments. The year 2009 saw some facility improvements and maintenance at the farm. The cattle finishing shed roof was stabilized with the installation of wind anchors and replacement of purlins. Four windows in the shop conference room were enclosed, and interior bulletin boards were installed. The loading dock at the old greenhouse location was removed and re-graded for use as a storage area. Three existing portable buildings were relocated and modified for additional storage areas. Some of the general clean-up items included four loads of scrap iron, removal of various volunteer trees in terraces and fences, light re-wiring and painting of the transport trailer, and some unused fence removal. There were no machinery purchases on the farm in 2009. The farm hosted an Iowa Central Community College student during the summer.

Field days and tours. Seven events were held during the year with a total of 376 people visiting the farm. The events included the Annual Meeting, Manure Applicator Certification Training, PQA and TQA certification training sessions for swine producers, Tractor School for Youth, and a Crop Risk Management Meeting. The farm also assisted the special 4-H Swine Show at the county fair by providing housing for finishing pigs and holding a training session on handling, caring for, and showing swine. The special 4-H Swine Show was designed for those with no previous swine experience.


Livestock. Livestock production continued at the farm with a total of 824 head of swine finished, 112 head of steers finished in confinement, and 28 steers pasture finished. The finished steers were marketed early in the year and were the end of the ethanol co-product feeding trials. Forty-one head of heifers were pastured during the summer and placed into the feedlot for finishing in the fall. The heifers were part of the McNay Research Farm’s cattle breeding trial. Co-product feeding of dried distillers grains with solubles (DDGS) to swine included two groups of 60 pigs in the hoop buildings.

Crop Season Comments

Corn planting started on May 5 and was completed on May 6. Harvest started on November 20 and is still not completed, with an average yield of 211 bushels/acre. Soybeans were planted May 11 and harvest was November 2, with an average yield of 49 bushels/acre. The odd weather patterns of 2009 often made timely fieldwork difficult. There were extended periods of moisture and below normal temperatures. Field work and herbicide spraying operations were often delayed. The excessive rains severely delayed the start of haymaking. As the pattern of frequent rains continued into summer, it also hampered hay curing. The delayed start of haying, coupled with the extended curing times needed, limited hay cuttings to three. The wetter and cooler conditions also slowed crop development throughout the year, ultimately leading to a delayed and wetter-than-normal crop at harvest. Both the soybean and corn harvest was delayed to allow for some field dry down. Corn harvest was halted before final completion due to heavy snows in December. Soybeans and corn both yielded relatively well despite the challenging growing conditions.
Acknowledgements
We would like to thank all members, sustaining members, and donors who support the Western Research and Demonstration Farm through donations of time, money, and products. Their support has made many of this year’s trials possible.

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- LG Seeds
- Ronnie Maack
- Mapleton Press
- Tyson Inc., Denison Plant

Research Farm Projects

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