

2007

Farm and Weather Summary

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Farm and Weather Summary

Abstract

Includes:

Farm Comments

Crop Season Comments

Weather Comments

Farm Celebrates 50 Years of Research

Disciplines

Agricultural Science | Agriculture

Farm and Weather Summary

L. James Secor, superintendent

Farm Comments

Developments. In anticipation of the 50th anniversary field day, the McNay Research Farm conducted an extensive cleanup and beautification program in 2006.

Field Days and Tours. Five events were held with a total of 750 people attending field days and visiting the farm.

New Projects. Corn planting date, R. Elmore; and Feeding distillers grains by-product, D. Loy.

Livestock. During 2006, 437 lambs and 436 calves were born to the McNay herd and flock. A portion of the McNay fall calving cowherd spent the grazing season at the ISU Rhodes Farm as part of Dr. Jim Russell's riparian grazing research.

Crop Season Comments

Corn planting started April 17 and was completed on May 8. Harvest began October 11 and was completed on November 10, with an average yield of 162 bushels/acre.

Soybean planting started May 9 and was completed on May 17. Harvest began October 4 and was completed on October 18, with an average yield of 55 bushels/acre.

Weather Comments

Winter. Once again we had a warm, dry winter, which allowed grazing for most of the season. A warm February was very favorable for lambing.

Spring. Spring was generally warm and dry. Cool days in late April stressed early-planted crops. The warm and dry season provided a favorable calving season. A warm, dry late May made haymaking easier.

Summer. A warmer and drier than normal summer caused pastures to be short, which eliminated one cutting of hay and stressed the crops. Almost nine inches of rain in early August helped produce good, but not record yields.

Fall. Early planting and dry conditions resulted in an early and easy fall harvest.

Farm Celebrates 50 Years of Research

The McNay Memorial Research and Demonstration Farm began in 1956 when Harry and Winnie McNay made the original 480 acres available to Iowa State University. Through a series of purchases and trades, the farm has grown to the present 1,968 acres.

In addition to expanding in size, the farm has conducted 167 research projects, numerous demonstrations, field days, and other educational activities. With the increase in activities, several facilities were added. During this time, sheep and crop projects were added to better serve the agricultural community. Most recently, a purebred Angus herd was added.

Often the great animal or great crop of the past is remembered. However, great progress has been achieved in the past 50 years. Two demonstrations presented for the 50th anniversary involved four corn varieties and four soybean varieties. On the day of the anniversary celebration, they didn't look much different. But at harvest, the three 1950s varieties of corn yielded 130 bushels/acre and the current varieties yielded 245 bushels/acre. No yields were done on the soybeans but the older varieties lodged and the modern varieties stood.

A field day was held on September 14, 2006, featuring multiple livestock and crops displays,