2006

ISU McNay Research Farm Timeline

McNay Memorial Research and Demonstration Farm

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Disciplines
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ISU McNay Research Farm Timeline

1956  Harry and Winnie McNay donated their farm to ISU Alumni Achievement Fund.
1957  Beef cattle crossbreeding project with Hereford and Angus began.
1958  First calves from an ISU research project were born.
1961  Charolais and Brown Swiss bulls were introduced.
1963  Calving 2-year-old heifers was researched and recommended.
1964  Lineville Farm herd was combined with the McNay herd.
1965  Improved pastures of bromegrass, orchardgrass, alfalfa, and birdsfoot trefoil were established.
1967  Albia Farm was closed and the cattle moved to McNay Farm.
1967  West Barn cattle complex was constructed including silos, automated feed bunks, covered pens, and handling facilities.
1967  New cattle breeding study was started combining beef and dairy breeds of Angus, Hereford, Holstein, and Brown Swiss.
1972  Fall calving beef herd was established.
1972  Early weaning (45 days) of calves was documented and researched through 1986.
1973  Corn herbicide plots were established.
1975  Harry McNay died and McNay Farm title was transferred to Iowa State University.
1975  Dennis Maxwell started as beef cattle research manager.
1976  Extensive grazing research trials were started on pastures of reed canarygrass, brome/alfalfa/orchardgrass, or birdsfoot trefoil/tall fescue.
1977  Jim Secor started as superintendent.
1977  Feeding of intact bulls was reported.
1978  Preconditioning of calves was researched.
1981  No-till corn was planted for first time in cornstalks.
1981  Prostaglandin was used to synchronize estrus in beef cows.
1982  Ridge-till corn was planted. Also no-till corn was planted in brome sod.
1982  Large round hay bale research on storage techniques and losses was under way.
1982  Research on bovine respiratory diseases was initiated.
1983  Research on growth of cattle with different frame sizes was published.
1984  Synthetic beef cattle lines were developed using Angus, Jersey, and Simmental breeds.
1985  Forestry research on CRP land was conducted.
1986  Tillage system comparisons for corn was reported.
1986  Large round hay bale density studies was conducted.
1986  Wet corn gluten feed trials were conducted.
1987  Demonstration home garden was started.
1987  Spring calving cowherd was expanded.
1988  Real-time ultrasound was used to evaluate muscling and fatness of live beef cattle.
1988  Herbaceous energy crops were grown for biomass yield research started.
1989  Ewe flock was moved from Beaconsfield Farm to McNay Farm.
1989  New sheep research facility was constructed.
1989  Beef cow enterprise records were compiled for the McNay cowherd.
1989  Automated wood-fired, hot water boiler system project installed.
1989–93  New headquarters building including shop, offices, and restrooms was constructed.
1990   Bovine viral diarrhea (BVD) research was conducted.
1990   Summer annual forages were evaluated for sheep pasture.
1993   Energy plantations (trees) were planted.
1995   Stockpiled winter grazing was reported.
1996   Pasture weaning of beef calves was reported.
1997   Year-round grazing system for beef cows was documented.
1997   Electronic estrus detection experiences were discussed.
1997   New breeding project was started with McNay cows as recipients for Angus embryos.
1999   Organic soybeans were grown on CRP land.
1999–2000   Meeting room was added to headquarters building.
2000   Field days for more than 400 area third-grade students were conducted.
2000   Tile drainage work was installed.
2003   2.35 lambs were weaned per mature ewe with lamb survival from birth to weaning of 87%.
2003   Pinkeye in cattle was researched.
2004   Soybean aphid control studies were conducted.
2004   McNay crossbred cowherd was sold.
2004   Purebred Angus cowherd was moved from Rhodes Farm to McNay farm.
2005   Soybean rust sentinel plot was planted.
2005   Lamb survival rate birth to weaning was 90%.
2006   McNay Research Farm celebrates its 50-year anniversary.