2004

Rhodes, Farm and Weather Summary

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Abstract
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Disciplines
Agricultural Science | Agriculture

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Rhodes Research and Demonstration Farm

Farm Comments

Developments: On-going operations at the Rhodes Research and Demonstration Farm will end late in 2004. Farm staff, beef cattle, and most projects will be transferred to other farms in the research farms system.

The beef cattle breeding project is the primary project at the Rhodes Farm. It is a herd of 400 spring calving purebred Angus cows. This project is responsible for producing some of the top ranking bulls and females in the intramuscular fat category of the Angus breed. Three hundred of these spring calving cows will be transferred to the McNay Memorial Research Farm, Chariton, IA. The balance of the Angus cows will be used to establish a fall-calving herd at the McNay Farm.

Two existing projects will continue at the Rhodes Farm. They are a phosphorus runoff project and a grass buffer strip project.

Field Days and Tours: One field day was held. A total of 120 people attended the event and various tours.

New Projects: One new project is being established—Use of Grazing Management to Limit Sediment and Phosphorus Pollution of Pasture Streams from Stream Bank Erosion and Manure Deposition by Jim Russell, animal science. Cattle will be moved from the McNay Farm to graze the ongoing projects as needed during the grazing season.

Crop Season Comments

Corn planting began April 15 and was completed April 29. Harvest began September 18 and was completed October 8 with an average corn yield of 150 bushels/acre and 21.5 tons/acre of corn silage.

Soybean planting began May 7 and was completed May 8. Harvest began October 6 and was completed October 7 with average yields of 30.4 bushels/acre.

Weather Comments

Winter 2003: January began unseasonably mild. Cold weather later in the winter and several major snow events caused difficulty with calving.
Spring: Adequate rainfall with extended dry periods promoted a timely planting season. Cool season pasture grasses got off to a strong start.
Summer: Very hot and dry weather late in the summer suppressed soybean yields and pasture re-growth. Cattle pastures were supplemented with baled hay in late August and early September.
Fall: Harvest was completed in a timely manner. A cold and dry early winter aided in keeping cattle in good condition.

Table 1. Rhodes Research and Demonstration Farm, Rhodes, monthly rainfall and average temperatures for 2003.

	Rainfall (inches)		Temperature (°F)		Days
Month	2003	Deviation from normal	2003	Deviation from normal	90° or above
March	0	-2.00	36	1	
April	4.85	1.38	51	1	
May	5.32	0.88	59	-2	1
June	4.55	-0.47	68	-2	1
July	4.25	0.21	73	-1	3
August	1.25	-2.85	74	2	9
September	4.76	1.59	61	-3	
October	1.33	-1.05	53	1	
Totals	26.31	-2.31		-3	