

2004

Farm and Weather Summary

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Farm and Weather Summary

Abstract

Includes:

Farm Comments

Crop Season Comments

Weather Comments

Disciplines

Agricultural Science | Agriculture

Farm and Weather Summary

David Rueber, farm superintendent

Farm Comments

Field Days and Tours: Four field day events were held. A total of 935 people visited the farm in 2003.

New Projects: K fertilizer rates, Antonio Mallarino; Caged catfish in stream, Joe Morris; Crop rotation, Palle Pedersen; High soil P effect on crops, Antonio Mallarino; Water table monitoring, Tom Fenton.

Crop Season Comments

Corn planting started April 24 and was completed May 20. Harvest began October 6 and was completed October 23 with average yields of 180–220 bushels/acre (highest-ever average for the farm).

Soybean planting started May 17 and was completed May 22. Harvest began September 25 and was completed October 2 with below average yields of 35–45 bushels/acre.

Livestock: High water in the stream during June made catfish feeding difficult. Dry weather lowered the water level in the stream cage in August. Abundant small native fish provided supplementary feed during late August.

Developments: The scale house received new steel siding.

Weather Comments

Winter 2002–2003: Above normal December and January temperatures and normal February snow limited frost penetration in the ground. The ground was frost-free by March 14, which is about normal. The last snowfall occurred on

April 7 when 8 inches accumulated. Two days later (April 9), the last spring frost occurred. Spring 2003: Even though April was below normal in precipitation, the ground water table was still above the tile lines for most of the month. Dry weather during the last half of April allowed corn to be planted. Rains during the first half of May delayed soybean planting until the 17th. Cool temperatures during the same period slowed corn germination. Warmer temperatures in the last half of May allowed late-planted corn and soybeans to germinate quickly. June's cooler temperatures slowed crop growth. Frequent June rains kept tile lines running.

Summer 2003: Warm weather in July and August hastened crop development. Below average rainfall during the same months limited hay regrowth and reduced soybean yields. Numerous potato leafhoppers on alfalfa and soybean aphids on soybeans also reduced hay and soybean yields, respectively. Hay yields ranged from 3.2–4.2 tons/acre. Oats were above average yielding 110–120 bushels/acre. The growing season ended with a killing frost the last day of September.

Fall 2003: Below normal rainfall in September and October facilitated harvesting and fieldwork. Warm October temperatures allowed the corn to field dry to an optimum grain moisture level. November rains moistened the top 22 inches of soil. Below 22 inches, the soil was dry and the ground water table was at the 10 ft level. The top 6 inches of ground was frozen by November 24, ending fieldwork for the year.

Acknowledgments: Farm Credit Services, North Central Co-op, NC+ Hybrids, and Wayne Rietema.

Table 1. Northern Research and Demonstration Farm, Kanawha, IA, monthly rainfall and average temperatures for 2003.

Month	Rainfall (inches)		Temperature (°F)		Days 90° or above
	2003	Deviation from normal	2003	Deviation from normal	
March	1.45	-.54	34.7	.4	0
April	2.68	-.56	51.5	3.5	1
May	4.88	1.05	59.1	-1.4	0
June	5.68	.87	69.1	-.8	2
July	2.92	-1.03	73.6	.7	5
August	2.39	-1.61	73.8	3.3	6
September	1.63	-1.57	62.6	-.2	2
October	<u>.8</u>	<u>-1.4</u>	52.4	1.8	<u>0</u>
Totals	22.43	-4.79			16