Farm and Weather Summary

David Rueber
Iowa State University, drueber@iastate.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/farms_reports
Part of the Agricultural Science Commons, and the Agriculture Commons

Recommended Citation
Rueber, David, "Farm and Weather Summary" (2004). Iowa State Research Farm Progress Reports. 1403.
http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/farms_reports/1403

This report is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Iowa State Research Farm Progress Reports by an authorized administrator of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.
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.

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