

2003

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: Three field day events were held. A total of 1,044 people visited the farm in 2002.

New Projects: Eggshells as liming material, John Holmes; Reduced rates of rootworm insecticide, Jim Oleson; Polymer coated urea, Randy Killorn; Soybean seed treatment and Sowfast seed inoculant, and Timing of wheel traffic on drilled soybeans, Dave Rueber.

Crop Season Comments

Corn planting started April 23 and was completed May 6. Harvest began October 7 and was completed October 23 with average yields of 170-190 bushels/acre (above average by 30 bu/a).

Soybean planting started May 7 and was completed May 10. Harvest began September 28 and was completed October 10 with average yields of 50-55 bushels/acre.

Weather Comments

Winter 2001-2002: January 2002 was the second warmest on record at the farm. The continued warm weather in February allowed the ground to thaw. The mild winter aided in the

survival of overwintering insects, especially bean leaf beetles.

Spring 2002: The last snowfall was on April 22, and the last killing frost was April 26. A cooler than normal May got the crops off to a slow start.

Summer 2002: Warm weather in June and July helped make up for the cool spring. The low moisture supplies had the corn leaves rolling by noon. Rains at corn tasseling time helped the corn pollinate well. Plentiful rains with cooler than normal temperatures made August the second wettest on record, and the corn and alfalfa productive. August hay cuttings were larger than July cuttings.

Fall 2002: The first killing frost was October 7, but plenty of rain replenished the soil moisture levels. Oat yields were approximately 100 bushels/acre. Hay yields were 3.5 to 5 tons/acre. Unseasonably warm weather in November and December allowed light disking to be done until December 12 and soil sampling to be done on December 28. The year ended with the ground frozen to a depth of only 6 inches with no snow cover.

Acknowledgments: Asgrow Seed Co., Ronald Christians, Credit Services, North Central Co-op, NC+ Hybrids, Wayne Rietema, J.W. Jung Seed Co., Thompson Seeds, Loveland Industries, Inc.

Table 1. Northern Research and Demonstration Farm, Kanawha, IA, monthly rainfall and average temperatures for 2002.

Month	Rainfall (inches)		Temperature (°F)		Days 90° or above
	2002	Deviation from normal	2002	Deviation from normal	
March	0.88	-0.89	29.6	-4.9	0
April	2.80	-0.11	49.3	1.5	0
May	2.88	-0.79	58.7	-1.4	2
June	2.48	-2.08	72.3	2.9	11
July	3.73	-0.46	75.7	3.3	21
August	9.60	5.42	68.8	-.9	1
September	0.86	-2.78	64.6	2.6	4
October	<u>4.60</u>	<u>2.41</u>	46.3	4.0	<u>0</u>
Totals	27.83	0.72			39