2001

2000 Year at McNay Research Farm

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Abstract
The weather in early 2000 was some of the warmest and driest on record. Mild dry weather in March allowed early oat planting in excellent seed beds. Continued warm dry weather allowed corn and soybean planting to be completed the earliest in my 23 years at McNay. The dry weather ended in June. Hay not cut in May was very difficult to get mowed and dried, without being rained on at least once. Rainfall and weather patterns produced conditions ideal for insects and some fungal diseases. With these challenges, corn yields were variable (90-160 bu/acre) but averaged 127.5 bu/acre. Early planted soybeans yielded better than later plantings. Our average soybean yield was 42 bu/acre. Last year I thought the dry corn coming out of the field was a once in lifetime thing, but with early planting and a warm dry fall, dry corn was harvested again in 2000.

Disciplines
Agricultural Science | Agriculture

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L. J. Secor, superintendent

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This year brought one new research project to McNay, a tiling/tillage experiment. Traditional wisdom says that tile in the Haig and Edina soils doesn't work. However, recently tilers are installing tile in these soils. We started a long-term experiment to study short and long-term effects. In fall 2001, a deep tillage treatment will also be added to the experiment. The long-term nitrogen, corn row-width and population, and soybean row-width and population studies are continuing. One of our big successes was the third grade farm experience, with 400 third graders visiting the farm over five days in September. This program will continue in 2001.

The long-term organic rotation study started off with success. We had corn yields of 200+ bu/acre and bean yields of 55 bu/acre. I had some new experiences with this study. I had seen pictures of flame cultivators, but had never used one. I have now used and experimented with one. The flame cultivation is part of the study, so we will be using it again.

In closing, a few changes have taken place at McNay. Because of budget cuts, the McNay staff was reduced, and we will no longer feed the calves from our spring cows. They will be moved to another farm to be fed, but will be kept in the outlying farm system so that we will be able to get carcass data from these animals.