2012

ISU Southeast Research Farm Highlights, 1982–2011

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ISU Southeast Research Farm Highlights
1982–2011

RFR-A1187

Mark Honeyman, coordinator, ISU Research Farms
“The vision for the research farm is clear. It will become the major hub for agricultural research, demonstration, and development in southeast Iowa.” M. Honeyman, 1989.

Following are highlights selected from annual progress reports.

1982  Area farmers, agribusiness people, and extension staff meet and elect a temporary board to start a research farm for southeast Iowa.

1983  Southeast Iowa Agricultural Research Association formed.
      Drought postponed fundraising.

1984  Fund drive for new farm conducted.
      700 members enrolled.

      SEIARAA presses on to raise funds to buy a research farm.

1987  Site selection committee named.
      Several sites evaluated.
      On November 1, a 198-acre farm southeast of Crawfordsville in Washington County was purchased for $290,000.
      Bernie Havlovic named first superintendent.

1988  Three field days held with 1,000 people attending.
      SEIARAA has 2,000 members in 21 county area of southeast Iowa.
      New waterways (7,500 ft) installed.
      Several farm buildings dismantled.
      Soil mapping of farm occurs.
      Richard Stortz is field lab technician.
      Research starts at research farm. Topics include: corn breeding, nitrogen management, herbicides for corn and soybeans, corn planting dates and rates, corn rootworms, corn diseases, cutworms, oat/barley/wheat/rapeseed trials, water quality, weather station, and demonstration garden/orchard.

1989  New headquarters (shop) building constructed.
      Number of field projects doubles in 1989 compared with 1988.
      Nut tree demonstration planted.
      Old residence dismantled and new well (250 ft deep) dug.
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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| 1990 | New office building (32 x 48 ft) constructed.  
      | New windbreak (450 ft) planted.  
      | ISU Chinese pigs visit farm.  
      | More than 300 people attend June field day.  
      | Warm-season grass demonstration seeded.  
      | Long-term rotation/tillage study started. |
| 1991 | More than 5,000 ft of field tile installed.  
      | More than 800 people visited the research farm. |
| 1993 | Kevin Van Dee is named new farm superintendent.  
      | Pete Ruff is field lab technician. |
| 1994 | Matthew Hunt is field lab technician.  
      | Thirty-five experiments conducted at research farm.  
      | Title of research farm transferred from ISU Ag Foundation to Southeast Iowa Agricultural Research Association. |
| 1995 | Concrete stave silo removed.  
      | Barn renovated.  
      | More than 7,000 ft of drainage tile installed. |
| 1996 | Name changed from ISU Southeast Research Center to ISU Southeast Research and Demonstration Farm. |
| 1997 | Thirty-nine field experiments conducted on the research farm.  
      | More than 5,000 ft of field drainage tile installed.  
      | New weather station installed. |
| 1998 | More than 1,200 people visit the research farm. |
| 1999 | Long-term tile drainage study installed in cooperation with NRCS.  
      | Almost 1,500 people visit the research farm. |
| 2000 | Six scheduled field days held at the farm focusing on corn, soybeans,  
      | organic crop production, buffer strips, native grasses, noxious weeds, and demonstration home garden. |
| 2001 | Free-range chickens reared in “chicken tractor” as a demonstration. |
| 2002 | SEIARA purchased 76 acres adjacent to farm located in Louisa County.  
      | New land is rented to area farmer. |
| 2003 | Grape variety trials planted.  
      | Jared Anderson is ag specialist. |
2004  Myron Rees hired as ag specialist. New projects include manure injection, field peas, low linolenic soybeans, and vertical tillage.

2005  Organic flax and soybean rust sentinel plots planted. Annual research report is 52 pages.

2006  Tile drainage study installed on new land. Forty field trials conducted on the research farm.

2007  John Deere 9410 combine acquired.

2008  Farm operates new land, 76-acre tract for research for first time. Sugar beets for biofuels grown. Harvestore silo and cattle shed removed. New hoop barn (50 × 120 ft) erected.

2009  Combine fitted with automatic grain weighing and sampling system. Research farm serves 23 project leaders.


2011  More than 25,000 ft of tile installed on the new land—will serve multiple studies for many years.

2012  25th year of corn, soybean, and soils research conducted. 25th anniversary of the farm will be celebrated at a June field day.

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**Southeast Iowa Agricultural Research Association Presidents 1982–2011**

1982–87  Don Sheetz, Washington County
1988  Don Roehlk, Scott County
1989–90  Tom Dunn, Louisa County
1991–92  Oscar Steele, Washington County
1993–95  Don Keiper, Linn County
1996–99  Paul Hemingway, Johnson County
2000–2001  Bill Lefebure, Linn County
2002–2003  Jim Campbell, Wapello County
2004–2005  David Vandenburg, Lee County
2006  James Gevock, Jefferson County
2007  Peter Shaff, Clinton County
2008  Jim Dane, Johnson County
2009–2011  Jared Schultz, Jefferson County