

McNay Memorial Research and Demonstration Farm Summary

RFR-A17112

Manager, Crops and Operations Logan Wallace
 Manager, Livestock..... Brad Evans
 Ag Specialist Gary Thompson
 Field Lab Technician Steve Goben

Manager, Crops and Operations Nicholas Piekema (retired 1/2018)
 Manager, Livestock..... Kevin Maher (retired 10/2017)

Associate Dean for Operations Mark Honeyman
 Manager, Research and Demonstration Farms Tim Goode
 103 Curtiss Hall, 513 Farm House Lane, ISU

McNay Memorial Research and Demonstration Farm
 45249 170th Avenue
 Chariton, IA 50049
 (641) 766-6465 (phone and FAX)

Location: From the intersection of highways 65 and 34
 go 4 miles south, 2½ miles east, and ¼ mile north.

Farm and Weather Summary

Logan Wallace, farm co-manager
Brad Evans, farm co-manager

Farm Comments

Developments. The McNay Research Farm focuses on beef cattle, forage, and crop research in south-central Iowa. The work continues to expand and is well received. Several soil conservation, cattle water system, and fence improvements were made last year. A pasture improvement project was started three years ago and will continue over the next several years. A cover crop grazing project will continue for a third year.

Field days and tours. Nine events were held with a total of 427 people attending field days and visiting the farm.

Livestock. In 2017, the purebred Angus herd produced 255 calves in the spring and 115 calves in the fall.

Crop Season Comments

Spring started off with a wet March and April, but became quite dry during summer and fall. Corn and soybean planting was delayed beyond optimal planting dates. Harvest was delayed but was completed in a dry November without complications. The average corn yield was 155 bushels/acre. The average soybean yield was 50 bushels/acre.

Weather Comments

Winter. Winter had milder temperatures with below normal snowfall, making cattle chores less difficult.

Spring. Spring was wet for planting and calving. Corn and soybeans had good emergence. Haying went well with the drier weather in June.

Summer. A drier-than-normal summer made crop development move along at a more rapid pace until August when cooler weather slowed crop development. Alfalfa yields were lower for the later cuttings. Pasture regrowth was lessened in late summer with below-average precipitation.

Fall. Fall started out dry, but a wet October delayed maturity and extended harvest to late fall. November was dry, which allowed field work to catch up.

Only 11.57 in. precipitation fell during the growing season of May through September, compared with an average of 22.34 in. For the year, precipitation was 0.09 in. above the long-term average.

Acknowledgements

The McNay Research Farm thanks the Lucas County Cattlemen.

Table 1. McNay Research and Demonstration Farm, Chariton, IA, monthly rainfall and average temperatures for 2017.

Month	Rainfall (in.)		Temperature (°F)		Days 90°F or above
	2017	Deviation from normal	2017	Deviation from normal	
March	2.53	0.20	41	3.38	0
April	7.92	4.12	54	3.41	0
May	3.63	-0.99	61	0.33	0
June	1.43	-3.51	73	3.33	9
July	0.65	-0.65	79	4.00	18
August	3.65	-0.58	71	-1.82	3
September	2.21	-1.86	69	5.36	3
October	<u>6.09</u>	<u>3.36</u>	55	2.06	<u>0</u>
Totals	28.11	0.09			33

Research Farm Projects

Research Project/Demonstration

Acid rain
 Beef cattle breeding project
 Beef cattle pinkeye study
 Beef cow supplementation
 Corn seedling disease study
 Cover crop study
 Date of planting study-corn
 Date of planting study-soybean
 FACTS plots
 Fungicide/insecticide study
 Grazing study
 Insect traps
 Long-term N fertilizer
 Long-term tillage study
 Milkweed species demonstration
 Potassium study
 Rye cover crop grazing study
 STRIPS study
 Windbreak for cattle demonstration

Project Leader

USGS
 J. Reecy
 A. O'Connor
 P. Gunn
 A. Robertson
 E. Juchems
 M. Licht
 M. Licht
 M. Castellano/M. Licht
 D. Mueller
 J. Russell
 E. Hodgson
 J. Sawyer
 M. Al-Kaisi
 R. Hellmich
 A. Mallarino
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