



Central Iowa Farm Summary

Kent Berns—farm superintendent

Farm Comments

The Central Iowa Farms consist of farmland in Story and Boone counties. There were 2,376 crop acres under Central Farms management in 2021, with 445 acres devoted to intensive plot research. The additional acres were used for large-scale research, equipment testing, silage production, and manure application. The student-managed Ag 450 Farm rented approximately 185 acres and sharecropped another 20 acres. The Ag 450 Farm also was hired to perform custom farm work on a portion of the Central Iowa Farms. Central Iowa Farms purchased a class seven combine to be used in large field harvest. CaseIH gifted a Tigermate 255 Field Cultivator equipped with AFS Soil Command.

New Projects. Various machinery studies were initiated in 2021. Construction continues on the Kent Feed Mill and Grain Science Complex.

Tile and waterway repairs and improvements will continue. Cereal rye was broadcast spread on no-till acres after harvest. Oats were used as a cover crop on acres harvested for corn silage. The irrigator at the ISU Curtiss Farm was operated 2-3 times during the season. The east field at the Bilsland Farm was used for sprayer development.

Crop Season Comments

The 2021 planting season was normal. Corn planting began April 21. Bulk soybean was planted in early May. The summer was dry and the crop progressed at a pace slightly ahead of normal. Disease pressures were minor. Corn rootworm pressure seemed more than recent years.

Brown midrib corn was planted on the dairy farm to be used for silage. Corn silage yields averaged 24 tons/acre at a 12-in. cut height with 65% moisture. A total of 301 corn acres were harvested for silage. Those acres were tilled and seeded to a cover crop. Bulk corn grain yields averaged 199 bushels/acre and harvest was completed mid-November.

Large field soybean planting began May 1 and was completed May 12. E3 soybeans were planted on the majority of acres. Fall harvesting of corn began September 22 at 18% moisture. Corn harvest was completed in mid-November. Soybean began late September and was completed in mid-October.

Weather Comments

The Agricultural Engineering/Agronomy Farm weather summary represents the weather data for all of the farms in central Iowa covered by this report.