



## Farm and Weather Summary

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### Farm Comments

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

**Field days and tours.** Two events were held with 55 people attending field days and meetings. There were also 20 visitors with other groups at the farm.

**Livestock.** The purebred Angus herd produced 227 calves in the spring and 109 calves in the fall.

### Crop Season Comments

A beautiful April and the first half of May allowed fieldwork to speed along. Corn and most of the soybean were planted on time. The last half of May turned extremely wet and forced the finish of soybean planting into June. Herbicide and fertilizer applications were caught up quickly in June. July was warm and on the wet side until the weather turned dry in August. September remained warm and dry, which helped with an early harvest before October changed over to a wet pattern. Corn averaged 192 bushels per acre and soybean 51 bushels per acre. November and December stayed warm and dry. Fall tillage and fertilizer application were completed before winter.

### Weather Comments

**Winter.** Winter was an average southern Iowa winter. Cattle stayed in above average condition.

**Spring.** March, April, and the first half of May were pleasant. Crops went in timely and calving was uneventful. Late May was extremely wet and set some things back, but replenished needed moisture for pasture and hay.

**Summer.** June was warmer than normal, while July and August had below the long-term normal temperatures. Precipitation was slightly above average in June and July. August received above normal amounts of precipitation totaling 6.3 in. which is 2.4 in. more than usual.

**Fall.** Fall was cool with a wet period in October and allowed harvest to be completed on time. The lack of late summer moisture led to less grazing days later in fall. Calves were weaned on time with few health challenges.

The growing season of March through October had 32.89 in. of precipitation compared with an average of 29.48 in. For the year, precipitation was below average at 3.41 in. below the long-term average (Table 1). Dry weather in August reduced yield potential for soybean.

**Table 1. McNay Memorial Research and Demonstration Farm, Chariton, Iowa, monthly rainfall and average temperatures for 2021.**

Month	Rainfall, inches	Deviation from normal	Temperature °F	Deviation from normal	Days 90°F or above
March	3.85	1.83	45	7.05	0
April	0.98	-2.43	51	1.02	0
May	4.29	-0.12	60	-1.12	0
June	5.11	0.19	74	4.24	9
July	8.27	4.20	75	0.15	5
August	1.49	-2.47	75	2.25	8
September	1.44	-2.62	69	4.51	1
October	7.46	4.83	56	2.54	0
Totals	32.89	3.41			23