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# Western Research Farm Summary

Wayne B. Roush

*Iowa State University*, [wroush@iastate.edu](mailto:wroush@iastate.edu)

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## **Abstract**

Includes:

Farm Summary

## **Disciplines**

Agricultural Science | Agriculture

# Western Research Farm Summary

RFR-A9094

Western Iowa Experimental Farm Association, 2009

## Officers

Chairperson..... Kyle Bohnker, Charter Oak  
 Vice Chairperson ..... Brian Sadler, Correctionville  
 Secretary-Treasurer.....Cheri Hardison, Onawa

## Directors

Aaron Gress ..... Crawford County  
 Kyle Bohnker ..... Crawford County  
 Linda Herman ..... Harrison County  
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 Barry Erickson ..... Monona County  
 James Else..... Monona County  
 Lloyd Henderson..... Woodbury County  
 James Brown..... Woodbury County  
 Keith Zediker ..... At large

## Western Research Farm

Wayne Roush..... Superintendent  
 Don Hummel..... Ag Specialist

Mark Honeyman .....Coordinator, Research Farms  
 Dennis Shannon .....Manager, Research Farms  
 32 Curtiss Hall, ISU  
 Ames, IA 50011

## Sustaining Members

Community Bank, Dunlap	US Bank, Onawa
Farm Bureau, Monona County	Valley Bank and Trust, Mapleton
First State Bank, Mapleton	Western Iowa Coop, Hornick
Iowa/Nebraska State Bank, Onawa	Western Iowa Power Coop, Denison
Moorhead State Bank, Moorhead	Soil and Water Conservation Districts of:
Sloan State Bank, Sloan	Crawford County
Berne Coop, Ute	Harrison County
Main Street Tax Service, Mapleton	Monona County
	Woodbury County

## Farm Summary

Wayne Roush, farm superintendent

### Farm Comments

*Developments.* The year 2009 saw some facility improvements and maintenance at the farm. The cattle finishing shed roof was stabilized with the installation of wind anchors and replacement of purlins. Four windows in the shop conference room were enclosed, and interior bulletin boards were installed. The loading dock at the old greenhouse location was removed and re-graded for use as a storage area. Three existing portable buildings were relocated and modified for additional storage areas. Some of the general clean-up items included four loads of scrap iron, removal of various volunteer trees in terraces and fences, light re-wiring and painting of the transport trailer, and some unused fence removal. There were no machinery purchases on the farm in 2009. The farm hosted an Iowa Central Community College student during the summer.

*Field days and tours.* Seven events were held during the year with a total of 376 people visiting the farm. The events included the Annual Meeting, Manure Applicator Certification Training, PQA and TQA certification training sessions for swine producers, Tractor School for Youth, and a Crop Risk Management Meeting. The farm also assisted the special 4-H Swine Show at the county fair by providing housing for finishing pigs and holding a training session on handling, caring for, and showing swine. The special 4-H Swine Show was designed for those with no previous swine experience.

*New projects.* No new projects in 2009.

*Livestock.* Livestock production continued at the farm with a total of 824 head of swine finished, 112 head of steers finished in

confinement, and 28 steers pasture finished. The finished steers were marketed early in the year and were the end of the ethanol co-product feeding trials. Forty-one head of heifers were pastured during the summer and placed into the feedlot for finishing in the fall. The heifers were part of the McNay Research Farm's cattle breeding trial. Co-product feeding of dried distillers grains with solubles (DDGS) to swine included two groups of 60 pigs in the hoop buildings.

### Crop Season Comments

Corn planting started on May 5 and was completed on May 6. Harvest started on November 20 and is still not completed, with an average yield of 211 bushels/acre. Soybeans were planted May 11 and harvest was November 2, with an average yield of 49 bushels/acre. The odd weather patterns of 2009 often made timely fieldwork difficult. There were extended periods of moisture and below normal temperatures. Field work and herbicide spraying operations were often delayed. The excessive rains severely delayed the start of haymaking. As the pattern of frequent rains continued into summer, it also hampered hay curing. The delayed start of haying, coupled with the extended curing times needed, limited hay cuttings to three. The wetter and cooler conditions also slowed crop development throughout the year, ultimately leading to a delayed and wetter-than-normal crop at harvest. Both the soybean and corn harvest was delayed to allow for some field dry down. Corn harvest was halted before final completion due to heavy snows in December. Soybeans and corn both yielded relatively well despite the challenging growing conditions.

### Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all members, sustaining members, and donors who support the Western Research and Demonstration Farm through donations of time, money, and products. Their support has made many of this year's trials possible.

Berne Coop	LG Seeds
Bomgaars, Mapleton	Ronnie Maack
Brad Hanson Farms	Mapleton Press
Iowa Renewable Fuels Association	Tyson Inc., Denison Plant
Galva Holstein Ag Inc., Rick Heaton	

### Research Farm Projects

<u>Project</u>	<u>Project Leader</u>
Asian soybean rust sentinel plots	D. Mueller
Insect monitoring traps for the black cutworm moth	M. Licht
Defining feeding rates of condensed corn distillers solubles (CCDS) in feedlot and pasture	P. Hoffman
Cattle breeding project	J. Tait
Defining feeding rates of DDGS for market pigs in deep-bedded hoop barns	M. Honeyman/D. Stender
Feeding strategies for swine finishing during periods of high feed costs	D. Stender
Dominant grass effects on diversity and functioning of restored grasslands	B. Wilsey
National phenology network study	M. Schwartz
Native cover crops: effects on prairie establishment and weed invasion	B. Wilsey
Optimizing corn populations in western Iowa	M. Licht
Optimizing soybean populations and planting dates in Western Iowa	M. Licht
Plant species effects on diversity and weed invasion resistance in restored grasslands	B. Wilsey
Soil quality effects of corn stover removal	M. Al-Kaisi
Summer cattle finishing facilities alternatives	G. Dahlke
Synergistic effects of ungulate grazing in a tall grass prairie	B. Wilsey/F. Isbell
U.S. Weather Service weather station	
Air temps; hi, lo, current	
Soil temps; 1, 2, 8, 20, 40 inch	
Evaporation dish	
Daily precipitation	
Severe weather spotter	