

The Wallace Foundation for Rural Research and Development and Iowa State University: A 25-year Partnership

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Introduction

This year marks the 25th year of a partnership between Iowa State University and the Wallace Foundation for Rural Research and Development (WFRRD) that has resulted in the Armstrong Memorial Research Farm, Lewis; the Neely-Kinyon Memorial Research Farm, Greenfield; and the Wallace Learning Center, Lewis. After 25 years, the partnership remains strong.

Agriculture changes rapidly and few agricultural endeavors last 25 years. The research farms and the learning center are testament to the power of great ideas and a strong partnership. The research farms and learning center have served the region's rural communities and agricultural industry in a meaningful way since the 1990s.

It is remarkable that during the 1980s Farm Crisis, local agricultural leaders and farmers saw the need and the potential of a partnership with Iowa State University to help them address local issues.

The results are vibrant research farms and a modern learning center. These are a model of local interests and the responsiveness of the state's land-grant university. A dedicated staff has provided leadership to the research and extension efforts.

The cooperation of Iowa State University Agriculture Experiment Station, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and ISU Extension and Outreach remains key to providing site-specific research, demonstration, and extension programs.

The WFRRD organizes local leaders to think regionally about agriculture and their communities. Hundreds of local leaders have been involved in countless events – field days, meetings, task forces, etc. As a result, southwest Iowa has moved forward. The following is a listing of the presidents of WFRRD and the ISU staff at the Armstrong and Neely-Kinyon Research Farms.

WFRRD Presidents

Varel Bailey, Anita, 1988–1990 chair of steering committee
Garry Pellett, Atlantic, 1990–1993
David Williams, Villisca, 1993–1996
Kevin Barker, Lenox, 1996–1999
Rod Backhaus, Westside, 1999–2002
Dan Morgan, Corning, 2002–2005
Tom Pollock, Malvern, 2005–2009
Darrell Stamp, Walnut, 2009–2013
Brent Bierbaum, Griswold, 2013–current

Staff at the ISU Armstrong and Neely-Kinyon Research Farms

Current

Bernie Havlovic (retired 10/15)	Jim Rogers
Dallas Maxwell	Randy Breach
	Dan Schaben

Former

Jeff Butler	Dennis Kent
Bob Burcham	Stephanie Marlay
Brian Buzzell	Brett McArtor
Andy Hitz	Leah Riesselman
Don Hummel	Kirk Schwarte

The summary of data (Table 1) includes for each year the number of projects conducted, the number of events held, and the number of visitors to the research farms (Armstrong, Neely-Kinyon, and L. Christian Swine) and

the Wallace Learning Center in southwest Iowa. These farms and center are owned by WFRRD and operated in collaboration with Iowa State University. Also included is the

number of articles and number of pages in the annual progress report of research in southwest Iowa published annually by Iowa State University.

Table 1. Number of projects, events, visitors per year at farms and learning center affiliated with WFRRD in southwest Iowa, and number of articles and pages per year in the annual progress report.^a

	Year	Research Farms/Learning Center			Progress Report	
		Projects	Events	Visitors	Articles	Pages
1	1993	15	2	550	17	24
2	1994	21	15	1,425	21	35
3	1995	46	12	1,297	17	26
4	1996	39	32	2,340	24	67
5	1997	50	50	2,300	23	48
6	1998	56	42	4,705	25	67
7	1999	55	57	7,816	29	69
8	2000	56	57	4,500	38	78
9	2001	57	50	4,700	30	63
10	2002	50	28	3,098	26	54
11	2003	48	33	3,504	25	55
12	2004	42	33	2,715	27	60
13	2005	43	42	2,756	28	57
14	2006	47	37	2,241	25	63
15	2007	52	41	2,869	26	70
16	2008	52	18	2,975	27	74
17	2009	49	14	2,370	25	72
18	2010	46	10	1,733	17	53
19	2011	45	8	1,510	14	48
20	2012	56	7	1,187	15	46
21	2013	68	8	2,045	15	51
22	2014	71	9	2,290	17	51
23	2015	65	10	2,100	22	64
Total	23	1,129	615	63,026	526	1,280
Average		49	27	2,740	23	56

^aWFRRD = Wallace Foundation for Rural Research and Development, Lewis, IA.