

McNay Memorial Research and Demonstration Farm Summary

RFR-A15105

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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

Nick Piekema, farm co-manager
Kevin Maher, farm co-manager

Farm Comments

Developments. The McNay Research Farm focuses on beef cattle, forages, and crops research in south-central Iowa. The work continues to expand and is well received. Many soil conservation, cattle water systems, and fence improvements were made last year. A pasture improvement project was started this year and will continue over the next several years. Also a cover crop grazing project started this year.

Field days and tours. Ten events were held with a total of 510 people attending field days and visiting the farm.

New projects. Cover crop study, Rebecca (Ahlers) Vittetoe; Wind break demonstration, Jesse Randall.

Livestock. In 2015, there were 269 calves born from the spring cows and 106 calves from the fall cows of the purebred Angus herd.

Crop Season Comments

Spring started off dry, then turned wet in May, then a cooler-than-normal summer. Corn planting started April 27 and was completed April 30. Harvest began October 8 and was completed October 25, with an average yield of 184 bushels/acre.

Soybean planting started June 4 and was completed on June 29. Harvest began October 25 and was completed November 4, with an average yield of 43 bushels/acre.

Weather Comments

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

Spring. Spring went well early, then turned wet. Emergence on both corn and soybeans was good, but soybeans were late. Alfalfa did well, but first cutting was late due to wet conditions. All three cuttings were harvested for the year. Calving was less difficult due to dry conditions.

Summer. A cooler, wet summer slowed crop development, but seemed to have a positive effect on corn pollination. June had 8.1 in. and July had 10.37 in. of rain, which was much above normal (Table 1). Hay yields were good per cutting but it was hard to get it baled with no rain on it, leaving overall quality lower. Growth on pasture was good due to the cool, wet weather.

Fall. Harvest was normal due to good maturing condition of the corn and soybeans. Harvest conditions were ideal. The crops came out of the fields with normal moisture and good yields. Due to dry fall conditions, all fall tillage on plots was completed.

Acknowledgements

The McNay Research Farm thanks the Lucas County Cattlemen and Barenburg Seed.

Table 1. McNay Research and Demonstration Farm, Chariton, IA, monthly rainfall and average temperatures for 2015.

Month	Rainfall (in.)		Temperature (°F)		Days 90°F or above
	2015	Deviation from normal	2015	Deviation from normal	
March	0.42	-1.81	37	0	0
April	3.39	-0.34	51	1	0
May	5.18	0.55	60	0	0
June	8.10	3.08	69	-1	2
July	10.37	5.86	72	-2	6
August	3.30	-0.92	70	0	2
September	4.89	0.83	69	5	3
October	<u>1.52</u>	<u>-1.16</u>	54	2	<u>0</u>
Totals	37.17	6.09			13

Research Farm Projects

<u>Research Project/Demonstration</u>	<u>Project Leader</u>
Acid rain	USGS
Alfalfa variety test	R. (Ahlers) Vittetoe
Annual forage grazing demonstration	J. Sellers
Beef cattle breeding project	J. Reecy/D. Garrick
Cover crop study	E. Juchems
Date of planting study	M. Licht
Fungicide/insecticide study	D. Mueller
Grazing study	J. Russell
N timing study	J. Sawyer
Long-term N fertilizer	J. Sawyer
Long-term tillage study	M. Al-Kaisi
Overall beef cattle reproduction	P. Gunn
Potassium study	A. Mallarino
Southern Iowa timber management	J. Randall
Soybean aphid trap	M. O'Neal
STRIPS study	T. Youngquist
Vaccine immunity study	J. Reecy
Windbreak for cattle demonstration	J. Randall