

## Update: ISU FARM Network

### RFR-A1360

Wayne Roush, farm superintendent

#### Introduction

Since its inception in 1946, Iowa State University (ISU) Western Research Farm (WRF) has fulfilled its original stated objective of “careful research giving definite answers to specific problems.” In continuing with that tradition, the WRF joined the ISU Farmer Assistant Research and Management (FARM) and started conducting on-farm trials with participating local producers during the 2010 growing season.

The original on-farm trials network was started at the ISU Northwest Research Farm, and with ISU FARM, it has expanded to several regions of the state. Future expansion across the rest of Iowa is planned.

ISU FARM structure allows for expanded networking. The university research farms serve as logistical hubs for the ISU FARM ag specialists. Extension field agronomists and campus researchers serve as “technical hubs.” Most project ideas are farmer-driven and some may be researcher-driven, with both working to achieve the stated ISU FARM goal of “a research network to improve soybean and corn production with replicated trials in farmer fields.”

#### Materials and Methods

In 2013, the WRF coordinated with ag business partners, ISU Extension field agronomists, and local producers to help identify specific local, crop-based research needs, and to identify local producers willing to participate in on-farm trials. Research trials then were set up in farmer’s fields with producers providing the equipment and land base, and WRF and Extension staff providing

trial planning and plot lay-out, data collection and analysis, and assistance in planting and harvesting.

The following is a final list of the participant trials conducted by WRF during the 2013 growing season. There were 11 corn trials and 12 soybean trials completed. Three trials were abandoned due to drought, weed control, or poor stand related issues.

Corn seed amendments/inoculant  
SabrEx

Corn Rootworm Control Comparison  
CRW trait hybrid vs. isoline vs. with  
or without in-furrow insecticide

Corn, drought resistant hybrid comparison

Corn starter fertilizer

Corn sulfur fertilizer  
river bottom  
hill ground

Soybean sulfur fertilizer  
hill ground

Soybean seed amendments/inoculant  
Graph-Ex

Soybean seed treatment  
CruiserMaxx

Soybean plant date comparisons  
treated seed  
non-treated seed

Soybean foliar micronutrients  
treated vs. non-treated

Soybean foliar fungicide  
treated vs. non-treated

Soybean row spacing  
15 vs. 30-in. rows

### **Results and Discussion**

Results of the various trials were analyzed and were published in a booklet format. The results were available in January 2013 at the WRF and county Extension offices. Please stop in for a visit and pick one up.

If you have a crop related production question, or are interested in participating in an ISU FARM trial, please stop in or call the WRF at 712-885-2802. We will assist you with the plot and display an official ISU FARM participant sign at your plot location (optional).

### **Acknowledgements**

Thank you to all the companies, producers, and other individuals who helped make this year's trials possible through their participation or donations of time, money, product, equipment, and land.

#### **ISU FARM Trials Sponsors**

##### Companies

Advanced Biologicals Marketing, Inc.  
Berne Coop  
Calcium Products Incorporated  
Goshorn Seed & Ag Supply  
Renze Seeds

##### Individuals

Dennis Boyle  
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