

# McNay Memorial Research and Demonstration Farm Summary

**RFR-A13121**

Manager, Crops and Operations .....Nicholas Piekema  
Manager, Crops and Livestock ..... Kevin Maher

Ag Specialist ..... Kirk Schwarte  
Ag Specialist ..... Brad Evans  
Field Lab Technician ..... Steve Goben

Research Farms Coordinator..... Mark Honeyman  
Farms Manager ..... Tim Goode  
103 Curtiss Hall  
Iowa State University

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 and fence improvements were made last year. A logging project on the Chariton River bottom was completed this year and pasture improvement is being started this year.

*Field Days and Tours.* Nine events were held with a total of 568 people attending field days and visiting the farm.

*New Projects.* Alfalfa yield study, M. Carlton; Cover crop demo, M. Carlton; and Pasturella vaccine trial, T. Engelken.

*Livestock.* In 2013, there were 189 calves born from the spring cows and 117 calves from the fall cows of the purebred Angus herd.

### Crop Season Comments

Corn planting started May 14 and was completed on June 20. Spring started off wet, then dry weather began in early July. Harvest began October 14 and was completed on November 28, with an average yield of 140 bushels/acre.

Soybean planting started May 14 and was completed on July 1. Harvest began October 13 and was completed on November 11, with an average yield of 44 bushels/acre.

### Weather Comments

*Winter.* Winter had cold temperatures with above normal snowfall, making cattle chores more difficult.

*Spring.* Spring started wet. Emergence on both corn and soybeans was good but late. Alfalfa did well with the first cutting producing a normal yield, but second and third cuttings were low due to dry weather. Calving was difficult due to a wet and cold spring.

*Summer.* A hot, dry summer slowed early crop development and may have had a negative effect on pollination. Hay yields were low, and regrowth for grazing was slow.

*Fall.* Harvest was late due to late planting. Harvest conditions were not ideal. The crops came out of the fields with high moisture and average yields. Due to late harvest, no fall tillage was completed.

### Acknowledgements

The McNay Research Farm thanks the Lucas County Cattlemen and Fort Dodge Animal Health for their support.

**Table 1. McNay Research and Demonstration Farm, Chariton, IA, monthly rainfall and average temperatures for 2013.**

Month	Rainfall (in.)		Temperature (°F)		Days 90°F or above
	2013	Deviation from normal	2013	Deviation from normal	
March	2.52	0.23	30	-8	0
April	6.61	2.92	44	-7	0
May	8.78	4.17	60	-1	1
June	2.81	-2.14	70	0	5
July	2.26	-2.14	73	-2	9
August	0.52	-3.59	74	1	5
September	2.70	-1.33	68	4	0
October	<u>2.57</u>	<u>-0.12</u>	52	-1	<u>0</u>
Totals	28.77	-2.00			20

### Research Farm Projects

<u>Research Project/Demonstration</u>	<u>Project Leader</u>
Acid rain	USGS
Alfalfa variety test	M. Carlton
Beef cattle breeding project	J. Reecy/D. Garrick
Exit velocity study	D. Garrick
Foliar feeding study	A. Mallarino
Fungicide/insecticide study	D. Mueller
Genetic link to respiratory disease	J. Reecy
Genetic resistance to pinkeye	J. Reecy
Greenhouse gas collection of grazing cows	J. Russell
Insect study	C. Kuntz
Long-term N fertilizer	J. Sawyer
Long-term tillage study	M. Al-Kaisi
Micro nutrient study	A. Mallarino
Mob grazing study	J. Russell
Pasturella vaccine trial	T. Engelken
Pinkeye injectable mineral trial	S. Hansen
Potassium study	A. Mallarino
Riparian grazing study	J. Russell
Southern Iowa timber management	J. Randall
Soybean aphid trap	M. O'Neal
Vaccine immunity study	J. Reecy
Vet student beef cattle reproductive experience	T. Engelken