

McNay Memorial Research and Demonstration Farm Summary

RFR-A14107

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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.

Field days and tours. Ten events were held with a total of 360 people attending field days and visiting the farm.

New projects. Date of planting study, M. Licht; Cover crop study, E. Juchems; and STRIPS, T. Youngquist.

Livestock. In 2014, there were 236 calves born from the spring cows and 102 calves from the fall cows of the purebred Angus herd.

Crop Season Comments

Corn planting started May 8 and was completed May 22. Spring started off wet, which held planting off until early May, then we had a cooler than normal summer. Harvest began November 5 and was completed November 14, with an average yield of 140 bushels/acre.

Soybean planting started May 8 and was completed on May 24. Harvest began September 22 and was completed October 4, with an average yield of 55 bushels/acre.

Weather Comments

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

Spring. Spring went well. Emergence on both corn and soybeans was good. Alfalfa did well, but first cutting was late due to wet conditions. Only two cuttings were harvested for the year. Calving was difficult due to wet conditions.

Summer. A cooler, wet summer slowed crop development, but seemed to have a positive effect on pollination. Hay yields were high per cutting but we were only able to harvest twice, leaving overall yields lower. Growth on pasture was good due to the cool, wet weather.

Fall. Harvest was late due to late maturing condition of the corn and soybeans. Harvest conditions were ideal. The crops came out of the fields with high 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.

Table 1. McNay Research and Demonstration Farm, Chariton, IA, monthly rainfall and average temperatures for 2014.

Month	Rainfall (in.)		Temperature (°F)		Days 90°F or above
	2014	Deviation from normal	2014	Deviation from normal	
March	0.53	-1.73	31	-7	0
April	6.69	2.95	48	-2	0
May	6.83	2.18	61	0	0
June	6.42	1.43	72	2	2
July	1.67	-2.74	71	-4	2
August	12.24	7.99	73	1	4
September	5.33	1.28	63	-1	1
October	<u>2.88</u>	<u>0.19</u>	53	0	<u>0</u>
Totals	42.59	11.55			9

Research Farm Projects

<u>Research Project/Demonstration</u>	<u>Project Leader</u>
Acid rain	USGS
Alfalfa variety test	M. Carlton
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
Foliar feeding study	A. Mallarino
Fungicide/insecticide study	D. Mueller
Greenhouse gas collection of grazing cows	J. Russell
Long-term N fertilizer	J. Sawyer
Long-term tillage study	M. Al-Kaisi
Micro nutrient study	A. Mallarino
Overall reproductive consultation	P. Gunn
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
STRIPS study	T. Youngquist
Vaccine immunity study	J. Reecy
Vet student beef cattle reproductive experience	T. Engelken