

Update: ISU FARM Network

RFR-A1438

Wayne Roush, farm superintendent

Introduction

Since its inception in 1946, Iowa State University's (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 On-farm Research Network of the ISU Corn and Soybean Initiative (CSI) and started conducting on-farm trials with participating local producers during the 2010 growing season.

The CSI network was initiated in 2006 and underwent a metamorphosis in 2011 and 2014 and is now known as: Farmer Cooperator Trials.

The original farmer trials network was started at the ISU Northwest Research Farm, and as Farmer Cooperator Trials, it has expanded to the western, north central, central, southwest, and southeast regions of the state. Future expansion across the remainder of Iowa is possible.

The Farmer Cooperator Trials structure allows for expanded networking. The university research farms serve as logistical hubs and ISU 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 goal of "a research network to improve soybean and corn production with replicated trials in farmer fields."

Materials and Methods

In 2014, 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 layout, data collection and analysis, and assistance in planting and harvesting.

There were 12 corn trials and two soybean trials completed in 2014. Another 10 trials were abandoned during the growing season due to wet weather induced poor field conditions. The following is a final list of the participant trials conducted by WRF during the 2014 growing season.

- Corn Rootworm Control Comparison (2)
CRW traited hybrid vs. isoline
- Corn drought resistant hybrid comparison
- Corn sulfur fertilizer
hill ground
- Corn cover crop
- Corn foliar fertilizer
- Corn population trials (5)
- Corn mechanical injury at VT applications
- Soybean seed treatment
CruiserMaxx
- Soybean foliar fungicide
treated vs. non-treated

Results and Discussion

Results of the various trials undergo statistical analysis and are published in the research farm's progress reports.

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

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

Berne Coop, Ute
Calcium Products Incorporated, Ft. Dodge
Goshorn Seed & Ag Supply, Harlan
Renze Seeds, Templeton
Wyfells Seeds, Ute

Individuals

Dennis Boyle
Joel Bubke
Joel De Jong
Brad Hanson
Harvey Hanson
Harry Riesberg
Rich Rosner
Brian Stueve
Jerry Thies
Chris Theilan
Marc Clemon