

Central Iowa Research and Demonstration Farms Summary

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Farm Comments

The Iowa State University Central Iowa Farms (CIF) consist of farmland in Story and Boone counties. There were 2,326 crop acres under CIF management in 2021, with 415 acres devoted to intensive plot research. The additional acres were used for large-scale research, equipment testing, silage production, and manure application. The student-managed Ag 450 Farm rented approximately 185 acres through CIF. The Ag 450 Farm also was hired to perform custom farm work on a portion of the Central Iowa Farms. Central Iowa Farms purchased a larger tractor, larger field cultivator, and larger grain cart to assist bulk farming operations.

New projects. Tile repairs and improvements were conducted on the Accola and Dairy Farms. Construction continues on the Kent Feed Grain Mill.

Cereal rye was broadcast spread on no-till acres after harvest. Oats were used as a cover crop on acres harvested for corn silage. The irrigator at the Iowa State Curtiss Farm was operated two times during the season. The east field at the Bilsland Memorial Farm was used for sprayer development. Numerous fields were used for planter testing.

Crop Season Comments

The 2022 planting season was abnormal. Corn planting began May 10 in wet soils. Bulk soybean was planted late May/early June. The summer was extremely dry during July, August, and September. The crop progressed at a pace slightly ahead of normal. Corn fields showed low to moderate levels of tar spot.

Brown midrib corn was planted on the dairy to be used for silage. Corn silage yields averaged 21 tons/acre at 65% moisture with a 12 in. cut height. A total of 445 corn acres were harvested for silage. Those acres were tilled and seeded to a cover crop; however, germination was poor due to dry conditions. Bulk corn grain yields averaged 194 bushels/acre and harvest was completed mid-November.

Fall harvesting of corn began October 18 at 18% moisture. Corn harvest was completed in mid-November. Soybean harvest began October 3 and was completed in mid/late October.

Weather Comments

The Agricultural Engineering and Agronomy Farm weather summary represents the weather data for all of the farms in central Iowa covered by this report.

