

Farm and Weather Summary

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Farm Comments

Developments. The McNay research farm focuses on beef cattle, forage, and crop research in south-central Iowa. The work continues to expand and is well received. Many soil conservation, cattle water system, and fence improvements were made last year. A pasture improvement project was started five years ago and will continue over the next several years.

Field days and tours. Six events were held with 480 people attending field days and meetings. There also were 45 visitors with other groups at the farm.

Livestock. In 2022, the purebred Angus herd produced 257 calves in the spring and 102 calves in the fall.

Crop Season Comments

The 2022 crop season got off to a good start. Planting was accomplished on time. Summer turned dry and affected both hay and row crops. A good rain or two in late July or August would have been helpful. A dry summer led to a dry fall. Silage was harvested and researchers planted wheat following as an experiment to see how it does in Iowa. Row crops were harvested without any trouble although yields were a little lighter than normal. Corn averaged 160 bushels per acre and beans yielded 50 bushels per acre. Fall tillage was completed and the farm is resting for the winter.

Weather Comments

Winter. Winter was an average southern Iowa winter. Cattle stayed in above-average condition.

Spring. April was cooler than average, which led to a slow green-up of pastures. Crops were planted timely. May and June were wet and slowed down some plant growth, but replenished needed moisture for pastures.

Summer. Summer was dry in July and August with late hay cuttings that were less than average. Crops progressed well through the summer months, even with the lack of moisture.

Fall. Fall was mild with below average precipitation, allowing harvest to be completed on time. The lack of late summer moisture led to less grazing days later in fall.

The growing season of March through October had 23.48 in. of precipitation, compared with an average of 29.51 in. For the year, precipitation was below average at 5.97 in. below the long-term average (Table 1). Dry weather in August reduced yield potential for soybean.

Table 1. Monthly rainfall and average temperatures.

Month	Rainfall, inches	Departure from normal	Temperature °F	Departure from normal	Days +90°F
March	3.70	1.65	38	0.60	0
April	3.21	-0.18	46	-3.49	0
May	3.47	-0.93	63	2.19	0
June	3.84	-1.08	74	3.45	6
July	2.01	-2.08	75	0.28	9
August	1.76	-2.17	75	1.72	7
September	4.07	0.03	67	2.01	3
October	1.42	-1.24	53	-0.68	0
Total	23.48	-6.00			25

Research Projects

Project	Project Lead
Long-term N fertilizer	M. Castellano
Annual forage plots	C. Clark
Beef cattle breeding project	vacant
Beef calf anaplasmosis transmission	M. Hindman/ L. Geoffroy
Beef calf colostrum survey	
Crownrot plots	E. Hodgson
Insect traps	
Conventional soybean variety trial	A. Singh
Corn interseeding covercrop	M. Licht
Long-term tillage	
Fungicide/insecticide	D. Mueller
Corn rootworm	A. Robertson
On farm–soybean population	M. Witt
Soybean date of planting, maturity, fungicide	M. Witt/Iowa Soybean Association
STRIPS study	T. Youngquist