

2012

McNay Memorial Research and Demonstration Farm Summary

Nicholas Piekema

Iowa State University, npiekema@iastate.edu

Kevin Maher

Iowa State University

Follow this and additional works at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/farms_reports



Part of the [Agriculture Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Piekema, Nicholas and Maher, Kevin, "McNay Memorial Research and Demonstration Farm Summary" (2012). *Iowa State Research Farm Progress Reports*. 72.

http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/farms_reports/72

This report is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Iowa State Research Farm Progress Reports by an authorized administrator of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.

McNay Memorial Research and Demonstration Farm Summary

Abstract

Includes Farm and Weather Summary and Research Farm Projects.

Keywords

RFRA11141

Disciplines

Agriculture

McNay Memorial Research and Demonstration Farm Summary

RFR-A11141

Manager, Crops and OperationsNicholas Piekema
Manager, Crops and Livestock Kevin Maher

Animal CaretakerSam Ruble

Field Lab TechnicianSteve Goben

Research Farms Coordinator..... Mark Honeyman
Farms Manager Dennis Shannon
32 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, ag specialist

Kevin Maher, ag specialist

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. The acre tract that earlier had a one-room school house was purchased from Lucas County and will now be part of the ISU McNay Farm. A garage and small barn were relocated. A small barn was moved and will be part of a new cattle handling facility on the east side of the farm.

Field Days and Tours. Six events were held with a total of 587 people attending field days and visiting the farm.

New Projects. Soybean insecticide plots, E. Hodgson.

Livestock. In 2011, there were 216 calves born from the spring cows and 109 calves from the fall cows of the purebred Angus herd at the farm.

Crop Season Comments

Corn planting started May 2 and was completed on May 6. Spring started off well, then dry weather began in early July. Harvest began October 5 and was completed on October 27, with an average yield of 116 bushels/acre.

Soybean planting started May 10 and was completed on May 19. Harvest began October 4 and was completed on October 20, with an average yield of 56 bushels/acre.

Weather Comments

Winter. Winter had normal temperatures with above normal snow fall, making cattle chores more difficult.

Spring. Spring went well. Emergence on both corn and soybeans was good. Alfalfa did well but first cutting was difficult to get cut and dried due to wet weather. Calving went well except that the excess snow caused less than ideal conditions.

Summer. A cool, wet early summer slowed early crop development and may have had a negative effect on pollination. Hay yields were good, but regrowth for grazing was slow.

Fall. Harvest was early due to warm, dry fall weather. Harvest conditions were ideal. The crops came out of the fields with low moisture and low yields. Dry conditions allowed time to get fall tillage completed.

Acknowledgements

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

Table 1. McNay Research and Demonstration Farm, Chariton, IA, monthly rainfall and average temperatures for 2011.

Month	Rainfall (in.)		Temperature (°F)		Days 90°F or above
	2011	Deviation from normal	2011	Deviation from normal	
March	1.17	-1.12	36	-2	0
April	2.49	-1.12	52	1	0
May	5.39	0.83	62	1	1
June	8.70	3.71	72	2	6
July	1.17	-3.30	82	7	16
August	3.88	-0.29	74	1	6
September	1.01	-3.10	62	-2	0
October	<u>0.57</u>	<u>-2.11</u>	56	3	<u>0</u>
Totals	24.38	-6.50			29

Research Farm Projects

<u>Research Project/Demonstration</u>	<u>Project Leader</u>
Acid rain	USGS
Beef cattle breeding project	J. Reecy/D. Garrick/J. Tait
Cattle behavior study	J. Russell
Exit velocity study	D. Garrick
Fall calf feeding trial	S. Hansen
Genetic link to respiratory disease	J. Reecy
Genetic resistance to pinkeye	J. Reecy
Long-term N fertilizer	J. Sawyer
Long-term tillage study	M. Al-Kaisi
Mob grazing study	J. Russell
Pinkeye strains	A. O'Conner/T. Engelken
Pinkeye vaccine trial	A. O'Conner/T. Engelken
Potassium study	A. Mallarino
Riparian grazing study	J. Russell
Soybean aphid trap	M. O'Neal
Soybean insect trials	E. Hodgson
Vaccine immunity study	J. Reecy/J. Tait
Vet student beef cattle reproductive experience	T. Engelken