

2013

# McNay Memorial Research and Demonstration Farm Summary

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## **Abstract**

Contents: Farm and Weather Summary; Research Farm Projects

## **Keywords**

RFRA12121

## **Disciplines**

Agricultural Science | Agriculture

# McNay Memorial Research and Demonstration Farm Summary

RFR-A12121

Manager, Crops and Operations .....Nicholas Piekema  
Manager, Crops and Livestock ..... Kevin Maher

Animal Caretaker ..... Sam Ruble (through October 2012)

Field Lab Technician ..... Steve Goben

Research Farms Coordinator..... Mark Honeyman

Farms Manager .....Dennis Shannon (retired 12/31/2012)  
103 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. A logging project was started this year on the Chariton River bottom and should be completed in 2013.

*Field Days and Tours.* Ten events were held with a total of 641 people attending field days and visiting the farm.

*New Projects.* Post nitrogen study, J. Sawyer; Micro pre-plant study, A. Mallarino; Foliar feeding, A. Mallarino; Fungicide/insecticide study, D. Mueller; Iowa soybean study, Iowa Soybean Association and A. Lenssen; Insect study, C. Kuntz; Alfalfa yield study, M. Carlton; and Cover crop study, A. Lenssen.

*Livestock.* In 2012, there were 246 calves born from the spring cows and 179 calves from the fall cows of the purebred Angus herd at the farm.

### Crop Season Comments

Corn planting started May 10 and was completed on May 14. Spring started off well, then dry weather began in early July. Harvest began September 24 and was completed on October 6, with an average yield of 95 bushels/acre.

Soybean planting started May 12 and was completed on May 16. Harvest began September 24 and was completed on October 1, with an average yield of 40 bushels/acre.

### Weather Comments

*Winter.* Winter had mild 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 low on yielding. Calving went well due to mild and dry conditions.

*Summer.* A hot, dry early summer slowed early crop development and may have had a negative effect on pollination. Hay yields were low, and 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. Due to dry conditions no fall tillage was completed.

### Acknowledgements

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

**Table 1. McNay Research and Demonstration Farm, Chariton, IA, monthly rainfall and average temperatures for 2012.**

Month	Rainfall (in.)		Temperature (°F)		Days 90°F or above
	2012	Deviation from normal	2012	Deviation from normal	
March	1.85	-0.44	54	16	0
April	4.77	1.84	55	4	0
May	3.18	-1.38	66	5	0
June	2.87	-2.12	73	3	7
July	0.52	-3.95	81	6	22
August	2.96	-1.21	74	1	13
September	0.46	-3.65	66	2	5
October	<u>3.93</u>	<u>1.25</u>	54	1	<u>0</u>
Totals	20.54	-9.66			47

### Research Farm Projects

<u>Research Project/Demonstration</u>	<u>Project Leader</u>
Acid rain	USGS
Alfalfa variety test	M. Carlton
Beef cattle breeding project	J. Reecy/D. Garrick/JR Tait
Cover crops study	A. Lenssen
Exit velocity study	D. Garrick
Foliar feeding study	A. Mallarino
Fungicide/insecticide study	D. Mueller
Genetic link to respiratory disease	J. Reecy
Genetic resistance to pinkeye	J. Reecy
Greenhouse gas collection of grazing cows	J. Russell
Insect study	C. Kuntz
Long-term N fertilizer	J. Sawyer
Long-term tillage study	M. Al-Kaisi
Micro nutrient study	A. Mallarino
Mob grazing study	J. Russell
Pinkeye strains	A. O'Conner/S. Gould
Pinkeye vaccine trial	A. O'Conner/S. Gould
Potassium study	A. Mallarino
Riparian grazing study	J. Russell
Southern Iowa timber management	J. Randall
Soybean aphid trap	M. O'Neal
Soybean study	A. Lenssen
Vaccine immunity study	J. Reecy/JR Tait
Vet student beef cattle reproductive experience	T. Engelken