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Update: ISU FARM Network

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Update: ISU FARM Network

Abstract

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 on-farm research network was initiated in 2006 and underwent a metamorphosis in 2011 into the Iowa State University Farmer Assisted Research and Management (ISU FARM) network.

Disciplines

Agricultural Science | Agriculture

Update: ISU FARM Network

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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 on-farm research network was initiated in 2006 and underwent a metamorphosis in 2011 into the Iowa State University Farmer Assisted Research and Management (ISU FARM) network.

The original on-farm trials network was started at the ISU Northwest Research Farm, and with ISU FARM, it is expanding to the western, north central, central, southwest, and southeast regions of the state. Future expansion across the remainder of Iowa is planned.

ISU FARM structure allows for expanded networking. The university research farms serve as logistical hubs. Extension field agronomists and campus researchers serve as technical hubs. The ISU FARM specialists are located at the research farms, build networks of farmer cooperators, and help them conduct on-farm trials. Most project ideas will be farmer-driven and some may be researcher-driven, with both working to achieve the stated ISU FARM goal of "a research network to improve soybean and corn production with replicated trials in farmer fields."

Materials and Methods

In 2012, WRF staff 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 were then set up in farmer's fields with producers providing the equipment and land base, and WRF and Extension staff providing trial planning and plot lay-out, data collection and analysis, and assistance in planting and harvesting.

The following is a final list of the participant trials conducted by WRF during the 2012 growing season. There were twelve corn trials and eleven soybean trials completed. Two trials, one in Monona County and one in Crawford County were abandoned due to drought related issues.

Corn seed amendments/treatments

- Amp-D
- SabrEx
- Avicta

Corn Rootworm Control Comparison

- VT3 vs. isoline vs. with or without in-furrow insecticide
- SmartStax vs. isoline vs. with or without in-furrow insecticide

Corn cover crop

- on corn residue
- on soybean residue

Corn sulfur fertilizer

- river bottom
- hill ground

Soybean seed inoculant

- Graph-Ex

Soybean seed treatment

CruiseMax

Soybean plant date comparisonstreated seed
non-treated seed**Soybean foliar fungicide**

treated vs. non-treated

Soybean herbicides

BASF product line

Results and Discussion

Results of the various trials are currently undergoing statistical analysis. Results will be published in a booklet format and will be available in February 2013 at the WRF and county Extension offices. Please stop in for a visit and pick one up.

If you have a crop related production question, or are interested in participating in an ISU FARM 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 FARM participant sign at your plot 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

Advanced Biologicals Marketing, Inc
BASF
Berne Coop
Conklin AgroVantage
Renze Seeds
Syngenta
Calcium Products Incorporated
Western Iowa Coop

Individuals

Dave Anderson
Dennis Boyle
Joel Bubke
Joel DeJong
Dennis Fineran
Preston Grobe
Brad Hanson
Brady Hanson
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Rich Rosner
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