

McNay Memorial Research and Demonstration Farm Summary

RFR-A18104

Manager, Crops and Operations Logan Wallace
Manager, Livestock..... Brad Evans

Ag Specialist..... Gary Thompson
Ag Specialist..... Chase Altenhofen
Ag Specialist..... Charles Phillips
Field Lab Technician Steve Goben (retired 5/31/18)

Associate Dean for Operations Mark Honeyman
Farms Manager Tim Goode

103 Curtiss Hall, 513 Farm House Lane
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

Logan Wallace, farm co-manager
Brad Evans, farm co-manager

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 three years ago and will continue over the next several years. A cover crop grazing project continues into a third year.

Field days and tours. Ten events were held with 352 people attending field days and visiting the farm.

Livestock. In 2018, the purebred Angus herd produced 267 calves in the spring and 90 calves in the fall.

Crop Season Comments

Spring started with a cold March and April but warmed up quickly in late April and May. Summer began wet in June and then turned to drought for July and August. Rains returned for fall and delayed harvest and fall work. Corn and soybean planting was completed in a timely fashion. Harvest was delayed but was completed without complications other than some soybean quality issues. The average corn yield was 188 bushels/acre. The average soybean yield was 58 bushels/acre.

Weather Comments

Winter. Winter had milder temperatures with below normal snowfall, making cattle chores less difficult.

Spring. Spring was cold but dry and warmed for late April and May. Corn and soybean had good emergence and went in with little trouble. Haying went well with the drier weather in July.

Summer. A drier-than-normal summer made crop development move along at a more rapid pace until August when cooler weather slowed crop development. Alfalfa yields were reduced at later cuttings. Pasture regrowth was lessened in summer with below average precipitation.

Fall. Fall was extremely wet and extended harvest later in the fall. November was drier, which allowed fieldwork to catch up until we received 13 in. of snow on Thanksgiving.

During the growing season of May through September, 23.05 in. of precipitation fell compared with an average of 22.34 in. However, the rains came mostly early and late in the season. For the year, precipitation was 7.53 in. above the long-term average (6.24 in. for the growing season) (Table 1).

Acknowledgements

The McNay Research Farm thanks the Lucas County Cattlemen.

Table 1. McNay Research and Demonstration Farm, Chariton, IA, monthly rainfall and average temperatures for 2018.

Month	Rainfall (in.)		Temperature (°F)		Days 90°F or above
	2018	Deviation from normal	2018	Deviation from normal	
March	2.02	0.01	37	-1.10	0
April	1.12	-2.30	41	-9.10	0
May	4.71	0.35	67	6.47	5
June	7.31	2.38	74	3.57	8
July	1.62	-2.45	73	2.10	8
August	5.30	1.33	73	0.14	11
September	6.17	2.11	66	0.62	3
October	<u>7.43</u>	<u>4.81</u>	50	-3.83	<u>0</u>
Totals	35.68	6.24			35

Research Farm Projects

<u>Research Project/Demonstration</u>	<u>Project Leader</u>
Alfalfa variety demonstration	R. Vittetoe/J. Michel
Beef cattle breeding project	J. Reecy
Beef cattle pinkeye study	A. O'Connor
Beef cattle weaning/supplementation	K. Lippolis
Date of planting study-corn	M. Licht
Date of planting study-soybean	M. Licht
FACTS Plots	M. Castellano/M. Licht
Fungicide/insecticide study	D. Mueller
Insect traps	E. Hodgson
Long-term N fertilizer	J. Sawyer
Long-term tillage study	M. Al-Kaisi
Milkweed species demonstration	R. Hellmich
Potassium study	A. Mallarino
Rye cover crop grazing study	R. Vittetoe/E. Lundy/D. Loy
STRIPS study	T. Youngquist
Summer annual forage plots	Prairie Creek Seed