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Farm and Weather Summary, Central Iowa Farms

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Farm and Weather Summary, Central Iowa Farms

Abstract

Includes:

Farm Comments

Crop Season Comments

Weather Comments

Disciplines

Agricultural Science | Agriculture

Farm and Weather Summary, Central Iowa Farms

Kent Berns, superintendent

Farm Comments

The Central Iowa Farms consist of farmland in Story, Boone, Marshall, and Polk counties. There were 2,500 crop acres farmed by local farmers as custom operators. These acres were used for large-scale research, equipment testing, silage production, and manure application. Small-scale plots covered 185 acres. The student-managed Ag 450 Farm rented 285 acres, of which 103 acres were 50/50 sharecropped. The Student Organic Farm was relocated to the Horticulture Station.

The ISU Ankeny Farm was sold, and the university is temporarily renting a portion of the farm until the dairy is relocated. The university purchased approximately 887 acres of land in Story County as the new location for the dairy farm. Construction of the new dairy farm began in 2006, and the cows are scheduled to move into the new facilities in the fall of 2007. Preliminary plans are being made for an improved tile drainage system of the cropland. The Central Iowa Farms have assumed management of the ISU Rhodes Farm. The majority of the Rhodes Farm has been rented, but the university has retained a portion of the farm for grazing research projects.

No-till soybeans were planted as part of a renovation on eight acres of pasture at the Animal Science Sheep Teaching Farm. A large remote sensing project was started on 177 acres of the Been Farm.

Crop Season Comments

Oats were seeded at the Ankeny location on March 23 and yielded 108 bushels/acre. Corn planting began on April 12 and was completed on May 5. Corn silage yields ranged from 19 to 25 tons/acre at 62% to 69% moisture. Corn grain yields ranged from 162 to 212 bushels/acre. Soybean planting began on May 2 and was completed on May 22. Yields ranged from 39 to 62 bushels/acre. Fall harvesting began on September 25 and was completed on November 6.

Weather Comments

Weather data for all farms in this progress report are shown in Table 1 in the Ag Engineering and Agronomy Farm report, page 3.