

2012

# ISU Southeast Research Farm Highlights, 1982–2011

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## Recommended Citation

Honeyman, Mark S., "ISU Southeast Research Farm Highlights, 1982–2011" (2012). *Iowa State Research Farm Progress Reports*. 123.  
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**Keywords**

RFR A1187

**Disciplines**

Agricultural Science | Agriculture

## ISU Southeast Research Farm Highlights 1982–2011

### RFR-A1187

Mark Honeyman, coordinator, ISU Research Farms

“The vision for the research farm is clear. It will become the major hub for agricultural research, demonstration, and development in southeast Iowa.” M. Honeyman, 1989.

Following are highlights selected from annual progress reports.

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|---------|--|
| 1982    | Area farmers, agribusiness people, and extension staff meet and elect a temporary board to start a research farm for southeast Iowa.   |
| 1983    | Southeast Iowa Agricultural Research Association formed.<br>Drought postponed fundraising.   |
| 1984    | Fund drive for new farm conducted.<br>700 members enrolled.  |
| 1985–86 | Farm crisis deepens.<br>SEIARA presses on to raise funds to buy a research farm.   |
| 1987    | Site selection committee named.<br>Several sites evaluated.<br>On November 1, a 198-acre farm southeast of Crawfordsville in Washington County was purchased for \$290,000.<br>Bernie Havlovic named first superintendent.   |
| 1988    | Three field days held with 1,000 people attending.<br>SEIARA has 2,000 members in 21 county area of southeast Iowa.<br>New waterways (7,500 ft) installed.<br>Several farm buildings dismantled.<br>Soil mapping of farm occurs.<br>Richard Stortz is field lab technician.<br>Research starts at research farm. Topics include: corn breeding, nitrogen management, herbicides for corn and soybeans, corn planting dates and rates, corn rootworms, corn diseases, cutworms, oat/barley/wheat/rapeseed trials, water quality, weather station, and demonstration garden/orchard. |
| 1989    | New headquarters (shop) building constructed.<br>Number of field projects doubles in 1989 compared with 1988.<br>Nut tree demonstration planted.<br>Old residence dismantled and new well (250 ft deep) dug.   |

- 1990      New office building (32 x 48 ft) constructed.  
New windbreak (450 ft) planted.  
ISU Chinese pigs visit farm.  
More than 300 people attend June field day.  
Warm-season grass demonstration seeded.  
Long-term rotation/tillage study started.
- 1991      More than 5,000 ft of field tile installed.  
More than 800 people visited the research farm.
- 1993      Kevin Van Dee is named new farm superintendent.  
Pete Ruff is field lab technician.
- 1994      Matthew Hunt is field lab technician.  
Thirty-five experiments conducted at research farm.  
Title of research farm transferred from ISU Ag Foundation to Southeast  
Iowa Agricultural Research Association.
- 1995      Concrete stave silo removed.  
Barn renovated.  
More than 7,000 ft of drainage tile installed.
- 1996      Name changed from ISU Southeast Research Center to ISU Southeast  
Research and Demonstration Farm.
- 1997      Thirty-nine field experiments conducted on the research farm.  
More than 5,000 ft of field drainage tile installed.  
New weather station installed.
- 1998      More than 1,200 people visit the research farm.
- 1999      Long-term tile drainage study installed in cooperation with NRCS.  
Almost 1,500 people visit the research farm.
- 2000      Six scheduled field days held at the farm focusing on corn, soybeans,  
organic crop production, buffer strips, native grasses, noxious weeds, and  
demonstration home garden.
- 2001      Free-range chickens reared in “chicken tractor” as a demonstration.
- 2002      SEIARA purchased 76 acres adjacent to farm located in Louisa County.  
New land is rented to area farmer.
- 2003      Grape variety trials planted.  
Jared Anderson is ag specialist.

- 2004 Myron Rees hired as ag specialist.  
New projects include manure injection, field peas, low linolenic soybeans,  
and vertical tillage.
- 2005 Organic flax and soybean rust sentinel plots planted.  
Annual research report is 52 pages.
- 2006 Tile drainage study installed on new land.  
Forty field trials conducted on the research farm.
- 2007 John Deere 9410 combine acquired.
- 2008 Farm operates new land, 76-acre tract for research for first time.  
Sugar beets for biofuels grown.  
Harvestore silo and cattle shed removed.  
New hoop barn (50 × 120 ft) erected.
- 2009 Combine fitted with automatic grain weighing and sampling system.  
Research farm serves 23 project leaders.
- 2010 Eight-row planter acquired.  
Sorghum for biomass and twin-row corn trials conducted.
- 2011 More than 25,000 ft of tile installed on the new land—will serve multiple  
studies for many years.
- 2012 25<sup>th</sup> year of corn, soybean, and soils research conducted.  
25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the farm will be celebrated at a June field day.

**Southeast Iowa Agricultural Research Association Presidents  
1982–2011**

- 1982–87 Don Sheetz, Washington County  
1988 Don Roehlk, Scott County  
1989–90 Tom Dunn, Louisa County
- 1991–92 Oscar Steele, Washington County  
1993–95 Don Keiper, Linn County  
1996–99 Paul Hemingway, Johnson County
- 2000–2001 Bill Lefebure, Linn County  
2002–2003 Jim Campbell, Wapello County  
2004–2005 David Vandenburg, Lee County  
2006 James Gevock, Jefferson County  
2007 Peter Shaff, Clinton County  
2008 Jim Dane, Johnson County  
2009–2011 Jared Schultz, Jefferson County