

## Update: ISU On-Farm Cooperator Trails

### RFR-A1597

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#### 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 CSI network was initiated in 2006 and underwent a metamorphosis in 2011 and 2014 and now is known as On-Farm Cooperator Trials.

The original farmer trials network was started at the ISU Northwest Research Farm, and as On-Farm Cooperator Trials, it has expanded to the western, north central, central, southwest, and southeast regions of the state. Future expansion across the remainder of Iowa is possible.

The On-Farm Cooperator Trials structure allows for expanded networking. The university research farms serve as logistical hubs and ISU ag specialists, Extension field agronomists, and campus researchers serve as technical hubs. Most project ideas are farmer-driven and some may be researcher-driven, with both working to achieve the stated goal of "a research network to improve soybean and corn production with replicated trials in farmer fields."

#### Materials and Methods

In 2015, the WRF 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 set-up in farmer's fields with producers providing the equipment and land base, and WRF and Extension staff providing trial planning and plot layout, data collection and analysis, and assistance in planting and harvesting.

There were two corn trials and one soybean trial completed in 2015. The following is a final list of the participant trials conducted by WRF during the 2015 growing season.

- Corn drought resistant hybrid comparison
- Corn foliar fertilizer
- Soybean foliar fungicide treated vs. non-treated

#### Results and Discussion

Results of the various trials undergo statistical analysis and are published in the research farm's progress reports.

If you have a crop-related production question, or are interested in participating in an ISU trial, please stop in or call the WRF at 712-885-2802. We will assist with the plot, and if you choose, display an official ISU participant sign at your 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 On-Farm cooperator trials sponsors

##### Companies

Berne Coop, Ute  
Wyfells Seeds, Ute

##### Individuals

Joel Bubke