

Farm and Weather Summary

L. James Secor, superintendent

Farm Comments

Field Days and Tours: Ten events were held. A total of 675 people attended field days and visited the farm. An additional 385 third grade students visited the farm in mid-September.

New Projects: Carbon sequestration, M. Al-Kaisi; Soybean row width □ population, Palle Pedersen; Nesting study in grazed warm season grasses, Jim Pease.

Livestock: The dry spring made the calving season easier this year. Updates were made on the handling facilities. The farm is supplying livestock to other farms and projects needing livestock with known genetics.

Crop Season Comments

Corn planting started April 19 and was completed May 21. Harvest began October 20 and was completed December 10 with an average yield of 120 bushels/acre.

Soybean planting started May 20 and was completed May 22. Harvest began September 30 and was completed October 20 with an average yield of 48 bushels/acre.

Weather Comments

Winter: January and February 2002 had ideal warm weather for lambing. The soil moisture profile was full.

Spring 2002: Warm days in March allowed for oat planting. A few warm days in April allowed early corn planting before cool rains stopped progress for 10 days. Planting was finished in a timely manner.

Fall 2002: Fall weather was ideal. Crops were harvested in a timely manner. Grain was dry and yields were good.

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Table 1. McNay Research and Demonstration Farm, Chariton, IA, monthly rainfall and average temperatures for 2002.

Month	Rainfall (inches)		Temperature (°F)		Days 90° or above
	2002	Deviation from normal	2002	Deviation from normal	
March	1.05	-1.41	34.8	-2.2	0
April	2.40	-1.06	50.1	-1.4	0
May	4.35	0.39	58.0	-3.8	0
June	2.49	-2.35	73.3	2.6	1
July	4.65	0.81	76.6	1.5	6
August	2.35	-1.66	71.9	-1.1	4
September	1.05	-3.39	67.0	2.1	2
October	<u>3.27</u>	<u>0.68</u>	47.1	-7.1	<u>0</u>
Totals	21.61	-7.99			13