

Farm and Weather Summary

Lyle Rossiter, superintendent, Allee Farm

Farm Comments

Developments: Improvements were made to the 30 × 80 ft lean-to for winter hut farrowing by adding a radiant heat tube designed to keep the inside building temperature at 45°F.

Field Days and Tours: Two events were held, and a total of 338 people visited the farm.

New Projects: Niman Ranch antibiotic-free pork production; corn breeding evaluation plot

Livestock: Sold 148 feeder steers and custom fed 185 cattle; pasture farrowed 39 gilts in July and sold 202 market hogs in the spring; raised 546 organic range chickens for Wholesome Harvest Foods and local consumers

Crop Season Comments

Corn planting started April 26 and was completed May 19. Harvest began October 15 and was completed October 27 with average yields of 177 bushels/acre.

Soybean planting started May 26 and was completed May 31. Harvest began September 26 and was completed October 13 with average yields of 52 bushels/acre.

Weather Comments

Winter 2001-2002: It was a mild winter resulting in increased swine and cattle weight gain. Four snowfalls occurred: February 1 (5 in.), February 10 (4 in.), March 1 (5 in.) and March 7 (2 in. rain/ice).

Spring 2002: April 2 was the last snowfall, allowing spring tillage to start April 16 with a normal soil moisture profile. Heavy rain in early May ponded in the fields, requiring corn replanting.

Summer 2002: The early summer was dry, which slowed soybean development and stressed corn on sandy soil. Hot, humid weather in July and August made hay and small grain harvesting a challenge.

Fall 2002: Local farmers combined corn before late maturing soybeans. Corn yields were above normal in heavier soils. Soybeans averaged 50–70 bushels/acre. The first snowfall was October 22 with another 2 in. accumulating on October 28.

Acknowledgments: The Allee farm staff would like to thank the Northwest Iowa Extension staff, the Newell Coop Elevator, and the Newell Historic Society for their help with field day events.

Table 1. Rainfall at Storm Lake, 2002.

Month	Rainfall (in.)	
	Airport	Allee Farm
March	NA	NA
April	8.06	2.25
May	3.44	4.20
June	1.93	1.90
July	2.94	4.15
August	8.92	11.75
September	0.25	0.50
<u>October</u>	<u>0.82</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals	26.36	24.75