

Farm and Weather Summary

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Farm Comments

Developments: In December, 2002, a 40-acre plot of land was donated to the Western Association by the Welles Farm Partnership. Also, the farm sponsored an ISU intern during summer 2002.

Field Days and Tours: Eight events were held. A total of 849 people attended field days and tours. A media day was held to announce the Swine Mortality/Alligator Project, with a public field day held the following day. More than 100 people attended and viewed the alligators. Steve Davis, of the Maple Motel in Mapleton provided free samples of alligator meat.

New Projects: Swine Mortality Disposal Project, Kris Kohl; Long-term Tillage Study, Mahdi Al-Kaisi; Prairie Restoration Plots, Brian Wilsey; Swine Utilization of Triticale, Mark Honeyman;

Cuphea Project, Frank Forcella; Western Bean Cutworm, Todd Vagts.

Livestock: A major outbreak of swine ileitis occurred in January 2001. After diagnosis and initial treatment, a successful prevention/management plan was implemented. Dry summer conditions shortened pastures, requiring early removal of pasture cattle, and caused the loss of one hay cutting. Sixteen acres of triticale were grown for feed and bedding needs in a swine feeding trial.

Crop Season Comments

Corn planting occurred May 3, and harvest occurred November 1 with an average yield of 141 bushels/acre.

Soybeans were planted May 15 and were harvested October 11 with an average yield of 42 bushels/acre.

Projects at Western Farm

Legume renovation of warm season grasses
 Determining the mechanism of yield stability in alfalfa
 Cuphea production: A potential new crop?
 Manure erosion in high residue crop systems
 Soil moisture survey, spring and fall
 Carbon sequestration study
 Long-term impact of tillage systems on soil quality indicators
 Triticale production and utilization in swine finishing
 Insect monitoring traps; black cutworm moth and western bean cutworm moth
 Ration formulation to improve leanness of finishing swine in hoops
 Integration of pasture systems for cattle finishing programs
 Prairie restoration plots
 Apple cultivar trial—conclusion
 U.S. Weather Service weather station
 Demonstrations:
 Utilizing swine mortalities for alligator production
 Manure settlement basin
 Composting of livestock mortalities
 Composting of hoop buildings manure pack
 Swine finishing in hoop buildings
 Rotational grazing