

Farm and Weather Summary, Central Iowa Farms

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Farm Comments

The Central Iowa Farms consist of farmland in Story, Boone, and Polk counties. There are 1,963 acres farmed by local farmers as custom operators. These acres are used for large-scale research, silage production, crop rotation, and manure application. There also are 157 acres of small-scale plots. The student-managed Ag 450 Farm rents a total of 388 acres, of which 103 acres are 50/50 share cropped. The student-operated organic farm uses 5 acres. A tour was given at the dairy farm compost pad to officials from the Iowa DNR, the Iowa Turkey Federation, and ISU.

New Projects: Combine Cleanout, Mark Hanna; Corn Pollen Drift, Mark Westgate; European Corn Borer Movement and Distribution, Brendon Reardon; and Turfgrass Breeding Isolation, Shuizhang Fei. Nineteen acres at the Kelley Farm and 20 acres at the Bilsland Farm were enrolled in the USDA Farmable Westland program. A vegetative buffer strip was installed at the Bates Farm. Management of Black Native Prairie as an outdoor classroom began. Soil moisture probes were installed on six weather stations on farms across Iowa. Sampling by the EPA of the Ankeny Farm was completed. The ISU Dairy Teaching Farm was closed and vacated. A demonstration area for a long-term, high-yield continuous corn plot was prepared. Continuous no-till farming practices were implemented on an additional 77 acres. Assistance with the Strategic Siting of On-Farm Westland video and project was given. No-till soybeans were planted as part of pasture renovation on 42 acres of beef and sheep pasture of the Animal Science Teaching Farms.

Crop Season Comments

Oats were seeded March 24–27 and harvested July 20–23 with yields of 92 to 131 bushels/acre. Corn planting began April 23 and was completed May 25. Corn silage yields ranged from 21 to 27 tons/acre at 62 to 68% moisture. Corn grain yields ranged from 130 to 210 bushels/acre.

Soybean planting began May 20 and was completed June 5. Yields ranged from 32 to 43 bushels/acre. Soybean yields were reduced by later summer drought and aphids. Fall harvesting began September 25 and was completed November 4.

Weather Comments

Weather data for all farms in this progress report are shown in Table 1 in the Agronomy Farm article, page 5.