

Farm and Weather Summary

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Allee Demonstration Farm

Farm Comments

Developments: An infrared heating unit improved the environment for the winter farrowing project. The average number of pigs weaned per litter was 8.14. Facility maintenance and feeding equipment improvements have increased efficiencies in the custom cattle feeding operation.

Field Days and Tours: One event was held, and a total of 421 people visited the farm.

New Projects: Corn pollen drift demonstration; USDA collaboration in animal health and feed safety epidemiology project; Iowa Pork Producers filming of pigs in hoops and pastures; National Pork Board hoop winter farrowing project.

Livestock: The Allee Farm sold 542 farrow-to-finish antibiotic-free market hogs to the Niman Ranch Pork Company. Custom backgrounding and finishing of beef cattle was conducted with a total of 515 head.

Crop Season Comments

Corn planting started April 29 and was completed April 30. Harvest began October 16

and was completed October 21 with average yields of 158 bushels/acre.

Soybean planting started May 27 and was completed May 28. Harvest began October 7 and was completed October 8 with average yields of 31 bushels/acre.

Weather Comments

Spring 2003: Sparse moisture in March and early April allowed fieldwork to begin April 2. The only measurable rain in May was on the 13th and 14th for a total of 1.2 in.

Summer 2003: The first 10 days of June were cool and rainy. The low temperature was 47°F on June 3. A rainfall of 2 in. on June 24 was the largest rainfall for June. The largest rainfall occurred July 4–9 totaling 7.20 in. Hail damage on July 4 and August 26 ruined 9% of the soybean crop.

Fall 2003: September rains on the 11th and 18th totaled 2.5 in. Soil conditions remained dry during harvest, and fall tillage was completed November 20.

Acknowledgments: The Allee farm staff would like to thank the Iowa Pork Producers, the USDA, the National Pork Board, and the Newell Cooperative.

Table 1. Rainfall at Allee Farm, Newell, Iowa 2003.

Month	Rainfall (in.) Allee Farm
March	0.40
April	2.60
May	1.20
June	4.50
July	7.20
August	.80
September	2.50
October	0.40
Totals	19.60