Farm and Weather Summary

Bernie Havlovic, superintendent

Farm Comments

Developments: In September, construction began on a 120-head confinement cattle finishing hoop building. Work also began on an 18 × 48 ft greenhouse and adjoining headhouse in October.

Field Days and Tours: The farms had 33 events conducted throughout the year, with a total of 2,715 people attending the various field days, classes, group tours, and meetings.

New Projects: Corn Population Study, Clarke McGrath; Group Swine Lactation Project, Mark Honeyman; Finishing Cattle in Standing Corn, Russ BreDahl; Soybean Bean Leaf Beetle Study, John Kinnecker; Twin Row Corn Study, Clarke McGrath; Garden Compost Trial, Bernie Havlovic; Soybean Fungicide Trial, Clarke McGrath; Flax Seed Study, Kathleen Delate; Gerber Squash/Seeds of Change Trial, Kathleen Delate; Rates of NH_3 Study, Jeff Butler.

Livestock: Pastures provided excellent grazing during the wet, early summer months, but grass became short during the dry, late summer and fall months. Cattle feedlots were muddy during the late winter and spring months, however they became quite dusty by early fall.

Crop Season Comments

Corn planting started on April 15 and was completed by April 27. Harvest began September 30 and was completed by October 22 with an average yield of 191 bushels/acre.

Soybean planting started April 30 and was completed on May 12. Harvest began September 20 and was completed September 30 with an average yield of 61 bushels/acre.

Weather Comments

Winter 2003–2004: Snowfall totals of over 30 inches were well above normal for southwest Iowa. A low temperature of -11.3^{o} recorded on January 6 was the coldest day of the year.
Spring 2004: Spring brought warmer than normal temperatures and above average precipitation. More than 7 inches of rain was recorded in May, which helped to recharge the farm's soil moisture reserves.
Summer 2004: Summer rainfall was slightly below normal, but air temperatures were well below normal. Daily high temperatures of over 90^{o} were recorded for only three days during the summer months.
Fall 2004: The fall months were both very warm and dry. Soil moisture levels dropped to only 3.76 inches of available moisture in the farm's soil profile by the end of October. The same conditions provided ideal fall grain harvesting conditions.

Table 1. Armstrong Research and Demonstration Farm, Lewis, monthly rainfall and average temperatures for 2004.

	Rainfall (in.)		Temperature (^{o}F)		Days
Month	2004	Deviation from normal*	2004	Deviation from normal	90^{o} or above
March	4.79	2.50	41.5	-0.9	0
April	1.79	-1.22	52.9	2.4	0
May	7.58	4.57	62.8	1.2	0
June	2.64	-1.89	67.7	-3.3	0
July	5.05	1.48	71.3	-4.7	1
August	3.55	-0.02	67.8	-6.3	1
September	1.10	-3.03	68.3	3.0	1
October	0.90	-1.19	53.8	7.6	0
Totals	27.40	1.20			3

*Normal rainfall and temperatures recorded at the US Weather Bureau Station, Atlantic, Iowa.

Table 2. Neely-Kinyon Research and Demonstration Farm, Greenfield, monthly rainfall for 2004.

	Rainfall (in.)	
Month	2004	Deviation from normal*
March	4.40	2.08
April	1.42	-2.27
May	8.10	3.87
June	3.41	-1.01
July	5.24	-0.70
August	5.37	-1.71
September	1.18	-2.79
October	1.25	-1.23
Totals	30.37	-3.76

*Normal rainfall recorded at the US Weather Bureau Station, Greenfield, Iowa.