

## Farm and Weather Summary

L. James Secor, superintendent

### Farm Comments

*Developments:* Renovations and remodeling of the facilities at McNay were coordinated to accommodate the move of the Angus herd from Rhodes.

*Closing the ISU Rhodes Farm and Moving the Angus Herd to the McNay Farm:* The Iowa Agriculture Experiment Station has been subjected to very large budget cuts (approximately 25%) in the last four years. In 2003, Dean Catherine Woteki announced the closing of several ISU farms in response to the budget reversions. One of the farms closed was the Rhodes Research Farm in Marshall County where the ISU Beef Cattle Breeding Project maintained a purebred Angus herd.

In order to preserve the Angus herd and continue the research project, the McNay Farm crossbred cowherd was sold during 2004 and the Angus herd from Rhodes was moved to the McNay Farm late in 2004. An employee from the Rhodes Farm transferred to the McNay Farm to help manage the beef cattle.

Approximately two-thirds of the Rhodes Farm was rented to a local farmer in 2005. The McNay Farm supplies cattle to a research project that studies the effects of riparian grazing at the Rhodes Farm during the summer months.

*Field Days and Tours:* Twelve events were held. A total of 769 people attended field days and visited the farm.

*Livestock:* The McNay cowherd was sold to make room for the purebred Angus cowherd from the Rhodes Research Farm. The cowherd was moved to the McNay Farm during late summer.

### Crop Season Comments

Corn planting started April 22 and was completed on May 6. Harvest began September 20 and was completed on November 22 with an average yield of 162 bushels/acre. Soybean planting started May 5 and was completed on May 12. Harvest began October 4 and was completed on November 6 with an average yield of 50 bushels/acre.

### Weather Comments

*Winter:* A warm and dry winter allowed grazing for most of the season and a favorable lambing season in February.

*Spring:* The spring was warm and dry, allowing early corn and bean planting. The weather turned cool and wet in late May and June, which made haying difficult.

*Summer:* Adequate rain and cooler than normal temperatures made for very good crop yields, although grain was wetter than the previous years because of cool temperatures in August and September.

*Fall:* August weather was very cool. Harvest was late because of cool temperatures. September and October had normal temperatures and were dry, which allowed harvest to proceed without delay.

**Table 1. McNay Research and Demonstration Farm, Chariton, IA, monthly rainfall and average temperatures for 2004.**

Month	Rainfall (inches)		Temperature (°F)		Days 90° or above
	2004	Deviation from normal	2004	Deviation from normal	
March	2.96	0.69	41	4	0
April	0.78	-2.73	50	1	0
May	6.28	1.79	62	2	0
June	5.47	0.68	67	-3	0
July	3.75	0.60	70	-5	0
August	8.58	4.68	66	-7	1
September	0.90	-3.34	65	1	0
October	<u>1.47</u>	<u>-1.20</u>	52	-1	<u>0</u>
Totals	30.19	1.17			1