

Farm and Weather Summary

Northwest Research Farms

David Haden, farm superintendent

Farm Comments

Field Days and Tours. There were nine events held at the Northwest Farms, Sutherland and Doon. A total of 1,092 people attended the field days and tours.

New Projects. Soybean aphid study, Matt O'Neal; Subsoiling experiment, Paul Kassel; Flax demonstration, NWRF staff.

Crop Season Comments

Sutherland. Corn planting began April 28 and was completed May 14. Harvest began October 27 and was completed December 2 with average yields of 72 bushels/acre.

Soybean planting started May 7 and was completed June 4. Harvest began October 5 and was completed October 26 with average yields of 20 bushels/acre.

Doon. Corn planting began April 29 and was completed May 4. Corn harvest was November 17 with average yields of 203 bushels/acre.

Soybean planting began June 3 and was completed June 4. Soybeans were harvested October 15 with average yields of 56.5 bushels/acre.

Weather Comments

Winter 2003–2004. This was the third winter in a row with below average snowfall and above

normal temperatures. Planting began with a nearly full soil moisture profile.

Spring 2004. Fieldwork began March 23. Oats were planted March 24. The last time oats were planted this early was 1999. Below normal March rainfall combined with above normal temperatures allowed fieldwork and planting to start early and progress rapidly.

Summer 2004. Growing conditions were excellent. Hail on July 13 caused severe damage to crops at the Sutherland farm. Conditions through September continued with above normal rainfall and below normal temperatures.

Fall 2004. Yields of both corn and soybeans were expected to be reduced because of cool and wet growing conditions. Once combining began, it was soon realized that yields of both crops set new records.

Acknowledgments

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Table 1. Northwest Research and Demonstration Farm, Sutherland, 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	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
April	2.68	0.18	49.5	2.9	0
May	6.91	3.16	59.5	-0.1	0
June	2.34	-2.11	64.0	-4.8	1
July	7.05	3.58	69.4	-3.7	0
August	3.84	0.07	65.2	-6.9	0
September	10.42	7.28	66.8	5.7	0
October	<u>1.55</u>	<u>-0.53</u>	50.4	<u>1.6</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals	34.79	11.63		-5.30	1

NA = Not available.

Table 2. Northwest Research and Demonstration Farm, Doon, monthly rainfall and average temperatures for 2004.

Month	Rainfall (inches)		Temperature (°F)		Days 90° or above
	2004	Deviation from normal	2003	Deviation from normal at Rock Rapids	
March	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
April	3.24	0.80	48.6	1.6	1
May	4.97	2.03	57.2	-2.2	2
June	0.97	-3.11	66.0	-3.2	1
July	4.30	0.99	71.2	-2.9	4
August	2.27	-1.52	66.2	-5.2	2
September	8.50	5.52	66.0	4.9	1
October	<u>1.20</u>	<u>-0.70</u>	50.2	<u>1.4</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals	25.45	4.01		-5.6	11