

Sutherland Farm Celebrates 50 Years of History

Al Grigg, extension director
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The Northwest Iowa Experimental Association celebrated 50 years of history at the Northwest Research and Demonstration Farm located near Sutherland on June 30, 2004. We had 487 people attend the celebration, which began at 9:30 a.m. with wagon tours of the research taking place on the farm. Elwynn Taylor, ISU Extension climatologist, discussed current weather patterns and reviewed the Iowa weather network. Walt Fehr, ISU distinguished professor in agriculture and agronomy, reviewed historical soybean breeding programs at Iowa State and discussed the new soybean genetics coming out of this program. Antonio Mallarino, ISU agronomy professor, reviewed several years of research on phosphorus and potash placement at the farm. Matt Helmers, ISU ag and biosystems assistant professor, reviewed the water quality research that will start on the new addition to the farm.

During the noon luncheon, Catherine Woteki, ISU dean of agriculture, made a special presentation to Jim Hultgren, president of the Northwest Iowa Experimental Association, commemorating the 50 years of history of the farm. Mark Honeyman, ISU coordinator of the Research Farms, made a special presentation to Mike Scholtus, who was retiring from the Research Farms after more than 38 years.

A panel discussion featuring John Pesek, ISU professor of agronomy, retired; Ken Ross, Sutherland Research Farm superintendent, retired; Dean Barnes, ISU regional crops/field specialist, retired; and Dave Hessman, ISU county extension director, retired discussed the various research projects in their collective 164 years of experience with Iowa State University.

During the afternoon, a display of farm equipment, typical of what would have been used on an Iowa farm in the 1950s, was on display. Working demonstrations of the equipment included moldboard plowing with a 50-year-old pull-type four bottom plow, planting with a two-row wire check planter, cultivating corn in 40-in. rows with a front-mount two-row cultivator, and mowing alfalfa hay with a sickle bar mower.

Doon Farm Celebrates 50 Years of History

The Northwest Iowa Experimental Association celebrated 50 years of history at the Northwest Research and Demonstration Farm located near Doon on August 25, 2004. We had 157 people attend the celebration, which began at 9:30 a.m. with presentations from Kendall Lamkey, ISU professor of agronomy, discussing corn breeding; Palle Pedersen, ISU professor of agronomy, discussing soybean genetics and soybean diseases; and Joel DeJong, ISU area crops field specialist, discussing corn population studies. During the noon luncheon, a panel of leaders and researchers from earlier years discussed research and projects that were important during the 1950s and the accomplishments during the 50-year period. Several field demonstrations followed lunch featuring farm equipment typical of what was used on an Iowa farm then—moldboard plowing with a four bottom pull-type plow, planting with a two-row 40-in. wire check planter, and constructing terraces with a terrace plow.

Both 50-year celebrations were made possible by the hard work of many volunteers and by donations from sponsors throughout the ten counties that comprise the Northwest Iowa Experimental Association and with the help of Iowa State University Extension personnel.