

Farm and Weather Summary, Central Iowa Farms

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Farm Comments

The Central Iowa Farms consist of farmland in Story, Boone, Marshall, and Polk counties. There were 1,904 crop acres farmed by local farmers as custom operators. These acres were used for large-scale research, equipment testing, silage production, and manure application. Small-scale plots consisted of 186 acres. The student-managed Ag 450 Farm rented 285 acres, of which 103 acres were 50/50 sharecropped. The Student Organic Farm used 5 acres.

New Projects. The Ankeny Farm was sold, and the university will temporarily rent a portion of the farm until the dairy is relocated. The university purchased approximately 887 acres of land in Story County as a replacement location for the dairy. Construction of the new dairy farm will begin in 2006. The Central Iowa Farms have assumed management of the 2,000-acre Rhodes Farm. The majority of the Rhodes Farm has been rented, but the university has retained a portion of the farm for continuing research projects. No-till soybeans were planted as part of a renovation on 19 acres of grass at the animal science horse pastures and at the Horticulture Station. Preliminary steps have been made to relocate the Student Organic Farm to the Horticulture Station.

Crop Season Comments

Oats were seeded at the Ankeny location on March 23 and yielded 108 bushels/acre despite receiving hail damage near the maturity date. Corn planting began on April 8 and was completed on May 3. Corn silage yields ranged from 22 to 28 tons/acre at 63% to 68% moisture. Corn grain yields ranged from 177 to 239 bushels/acre. Soybean planting began on May 2 and was completed on May 23. Yields ranged from 53 to 74 bushels/acre. Fall harvesting began on September 24 and was completed on November 22.

Weather Comments

Weather data for all farms in this progress report are shown in Table 1 in the Ag Engineering and Agronomy Farm report, page 3.