

Farm and Weather Summary

L. James Secor, superintendent

Farm Comments

Developments. A new lab facility was built next to the cattle feedlot building. Feedlot fences and the working facility were rebuilt. Two hoop buildings were built to house project bulls.

Field Days and Tours. Five events were held with a total of 500 people attending field days and visiting the farm.

New Projects. Soybean aphid study, M. O'Neal; Rust sentinel plots, X.B. Yang; Red clover hardiness plot, C. Brummer; Soybean seed treatment study, M. O'Neal.

Livestock. Cattle transfer from Rhodes to McNay was completed December 2004. The cow herd was switched from an all spring calving herd at Rhodes to both a spring and fall calving herd at the McNay Farm to better accommodate land, labor, and facility resources there.

Five genetically superior cows were selected to provide embryos for sale at the 100th National Western Stock Show in Denver in January 2006. A heifer calf from one of the herd's top-producing cows was also sold at the sale.

Crop Season Comments

Corn planting started April 27 and was completed on May 20. Harvest began October 15 and was completed on November 20, with an average yield of 163 bushels/acre.

Soybean planting started May 5 and was completed on May 15. Harvest began October 5 and was completed on October 20, with an average yield of 60 bushels/acre.

Weather Comments

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

Spring. The spring was warm and dry, allowing early corn and bean planting, as well as providing a favorable calving season. Normal May and June weather allowed hay making to proceed smoothly.

Summer. Warmer than normal temperatures for part of July and less than normal rainfall stressed the corn. Soil moisture reserves and 3 in. of rain in early August produced good corn yields and excellent bean yields.

Fall. Normal temperatures and below average rainfall made for an easy harvest and good soil conditions for fall tillage.

Table 1. McNay Research and Demonstration Farm, Chariton, IA, monthly rainfall and average temperatures for 2005.

Month	Rainfall (in.)		Temperature (°F)		Days 90° or above
	2005	Deviation from normal	2005	Deviation from normal	
March	0.93	-1.31	37	0	0
April	4.40	0.88	53	2	0
May	3.02	-1.45	58	-3	0
June	5.45	0.64	72	2	4
July	2.43	-1.88	74	-1	9
August	3.40	-0.49	72	-1	3
September	0.80	-3.37	68	3	1
October	<u>1.22</u>	<u>-1.42</u>	51	-2	<u>0</u>
Totals	21.65	-8.40			17