

Farm and Weather Summary

David Rueber, farm superintendent

Farm Comments

Field Days and Tours. Three field day events were held. A total of 1,072 people visited the farm in 2005.

New Projects. Flax weed control; Oat breeding trial; Corn planting rate; Soybean planting rate; Soybean foliar fungicide trial; Soybean seed treatment; and Wheel traffic on drilled soybeans.

Crop Season Comments

Corn planting started April 29 and was completed May 5, with some areas being replanted May 19. Harvest began October 11 and was completed October 21 with average yields of 140–230 bushels/acre. Poorly drained no-till sites yielded the least and the better drained sites where soil insecticides were applied yielded the best.

Soybean planting started May 24 and was completed May 31. Harvest began September 30 and was completed October 10, with average yields of 47–61 bushels/acre.

Weather Comments

Winter 2004–2005. January continued the trend of the last five years by being warmer than normal. February also was warmer than average, having only eight days when the temperatures

did not rise above freezing. A late heavy snowfall and near-normal temperatures in March caused the ground to be frost-free by March 23.

Spring. Early April showers saturated the soil profile and had the tiles running. Heavy early May rains right after corn planting was completed stopped soybean planting and reduced corn stands. On May 2, the last spring frost came when the temperature fell to 27°F. Cool temperatures the rest of May slowed corn growth.

Summer. June and July were warmer than normal, allowing crops to develop rapidly. On July 20 a 1-in. rain followed by strong wind gusts lodged corn, especially in poorly drained areas that had a lot of rootworm feeding.

Fall. Abundant rain in September recharged the soil profile with moisture. The first fall killing frost fell on October 23 when the temperature reached 28°F. September, October, and November were warmer than normal, allowing fieldwork to be completed by November 14. December was cold but snowy (15 in.), which prevented the ground from freezing below 8 in.

Acknowledgments

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Table 1. Northern Research and Demonstration Farm, Kanawha, 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	1.77	-0.22	34.7	0.4	0
April	5.13	1.89	53.8	5.8	0
May	7.48	3.65	58.3	-1.8	0
June	4.35	-0.46	73.3	3.8	5
July	4.19	0.24	74.6	1.9	7
August	3.65	-0.35	70.7	0.8	2
September	5.54	2.34	68.6	5.8	2
October	<u>0.53</u>	<u>-1.67</u>	53.0	2.4	<u>1</u>
Totals	32.64	5.42			17