

Farm and Weather Summary

Allee Demonstration Farm

Lyle Rossiter, farm superintendent

Farm Comments

Developments. A 30 ft × 60 ft hoop was assembled in August to store 70 tons of ground hay. An Artsway forage wagon was acquired to deliver the hay/corn ration to feedlot steers. A new cattle lot was completed in September.

Field Days and Tours. The Allee Farm is a visual and working classroom site for youth to become knowledgeable about agriculture. Thirty-one third-grade and 18 home-schooled children toured the farm on hayracks to learn about corn and soybean production, feedlot cattle, and antibiotic-free swine. One hundred and fifty local 4-H youth visited the farm for their monthly meetings when they learned about building fair projects and animal husbandry and practiced showing animals in a show ring atmosphere. A class of Newell-Fonda high school students work two hours each school day at the farm to complete their School-to-Work program credits. A total of 308 guests including a delegation of Physicians from Mexico, Practical Farmers of Iowa members, and ISU Extension staff visited the farm this year.

New Projects. Background feeding of 300 seers for research, USDA collaboration in animal health and feed safety epidemiology study, NRCS water table well monitoring, and a Practical Farmers of Iowa on-site cooperator.

Livestock. The sow herd did not farrow pigs in January or February due to PRRS disease. The sows were bred for July and August farrowing in summer hoop. A total of 171 pigs were

weaned. In the fall, two groups of feeder pigs were purchased from the ISU Armstrong Farm under the Niman Program.

Crop Season Comments

Corn planting started May 4 and was completed May 6. Harvest began October 10 and was completed October 20 with average yields of 187 bushels/acre.

Weather Comments

Spring. The soil profile showed normal moisture levels. Cold temperatures of 27°F to 50°F from April 22 to April 28 slowed planting and stressed seed germination. Planting conditions in May were normal with an accumulation of 5.3 in. of rain.

Summer. June rains produced 6.8 in. of moisture to support crop growth through a hot July with 1.9 in. of rain. Moderate temperatures prevailed in August with 1.0 in. of rain. Corn pollination was excellent, although shorter ear development decreased yields. Soybean pod and bean development improved with September rains of 3.2 in.

Fall 2004. A warmer than normal fall season lasted into November. The last two weeks of November and first week of December produced record low temperatures for a period of three weeks.

Acknowledgments

The farm would like to thank the Practical Farmers of Iowa, the USDA, the Newell-Fonda School-to-Work program, and the Newell Cooperative.