Farm and Weather Summary

Bernie Havlovic, farm superintendent

Farm Comments

Developments: A no-till pasture renovation project on the 40-acre permanent pasture began in March. An electric fence was installed around the farm's vineyard to prevent deer and raccoon damage.

Field Days and Tours: The farms held 37 events throughout the year, with a total of 2,241 people attending the various field days, classes, group tours, and meetings.

New Projects: High tunnel tomato trial, Hank Taber; High tunnel bramble trial, Paul Domoto; Corn/soybean variety show plots, Jim Rouse; Strawberry variety trial, Cindy Haynes; Corn rootworm extended diapause study, Jon Tollefson; Nitrogen rates on corn, John Sawyer; Foliar fertilization of soybeans, Antonio Mallarino; Potassium × corn hybrid study, Antonio Mallarino; Corn tillage × plant population study, Roger Elmore; Corn date of planting study, Roger Elmore; Corn row spacing × population study, Roger Elmore; Corn hybrid × tillage interaction study, Roger Elmore; Soybean aphid control study, Matt O'Neal; Organic no-till with cover crops, Kathleen Delate.

Livestock: Area pastures offered good grazing conditions early and again late in the season. Feedlot conditions were muddy during the spring months but considered good for the rest of the season.

Crop Season Comments

Corn planting started on April 21 and was completed by May 9. Harvest began on September 30 and was completed on November 7, with an average yield of 202 bushels/acre.

Soybean planting started on May 10 and was completed on May 15. Harvest began on September 26 and was completed on October 14, with an average yield of 63 bushels/acre.

Weather Comments

Winter 2005–2006: Snowfall totals were near normal while temperatures averaged slightly above normal for the winter. The coldest daily low temperature of -10.1 degrees was recorded on February 18.

Spring 2006: Mild spring temperatures and above normal rainfall allowed for timely spring planting and good emergence of row crops. Spring crop development was considered good.

Summer 2006: Summer rainfall totals were below normal, but timely. Corn and soybean crops made excellent progress during the summer months.

Fall 2006: A cool and wet September was followed by a warm and very dry October enabling row crops to mature and be harvested in a timely manner.

Table 1. Armstrong Research and Demonstration Farm, Lewis, monthly rainfall and average temperatures for 2006.

	Rainfall (in.)		Temperature (°F)		Days
Month	2006	Deviation from normal*	2006	Deviation from normal	90° or above
March	2.97	0.68	38.1	-4.3	0
April	4.15	1.14	55.3	4.8	0
May	3.75	1.12	62.4	0.8	1
June	2.83	-1.70	72.2	1.2	2
July	4.75	-0.96	75.8	-0.2	9
August	8.29	4.72	72.4	-1.7	1
September	6.19	2.06	61.3	-4.0	0
October	1.37	-0.72	48.5	2.3	0
Totals	34.30	6.34			13

*Normal rainfall and temperatures recorded at the U.S. Weather Bureau Station, Atlantic, Iowa.

Table 2. Neely-Kinyon Research and Demonstration Farm, Greenfield, monthly rainfall for 2006.

	Rainfall (in.)	
Month	2006	Deviation from normal*
March	3.99	1.7
April	4.37	0.8
May	3.26	-1.0
June	1.26	-3.0
July	3.70	-0.9
August	6.80	3.2
September	3.85	0.1
October	1.69	-0.7
Totals	28.92	0.2

*Normal rainfall recorded at the U.S. Weather Bureau Station, Greenfield, Iowa.