

Farm and Weather Summary

David Rueber, farm superintendent

Farm Comments

Field Days and Tours. Three field day events were held. A total of 951 people visited the farm in 2006.

New Projects. Soybean breeding, date of planting of rootworm resistant corn, corn green snap, oat and barley variety test, corn-alfalfa double crop planting, nitrogen rates on corn, corn depth of planting, corn date of planting, and corn rootworm.

Crop Season Comments

Corn planting started April 22 and was completed May 9. Harvest began October 6 and was completed October 24 with average yields of 180–220 bushels/acre.

Soybean planting started May 8 and was completed May 12. Harvest began September 25 and was completed October 5, with average yields of 55–65 bushels/acre.

Weather Comments

Winter 2005–2006. January continued the trend of the last six years of warmer than normal, with only nine days when the temperature did not rise above freezing. It was the warmest January in 34 years. February also was warmer than average. Cool night temperatures in March delayed the ground from being frost-free until March 23.

Spring. Early April showers saturated the soil profile and the tiles were running full. On April 26, the last hard spring frost came when the temperature fell to 28°F. April was the fifth warmest in 34 years. A light frost on May 6 froze any above ground corn leaves.

Summer. June, July, and August were warmer and dryer than normal, with July being the fifth warmest in 34 years. But the water table was above the 7 ft depth until July 31 so crops grew well.

Fall. Abundant rain in September recharged the soil profile with moisture. The first fall killing frost was October 12 when the temperature reached 24°F. October and November were dryer than normal, allowing fieldwork to be completed by November 20. December was the second warmest in 34 years with the ground bare and unfrozen on New Year's Eve.

Association Celebrates 75 Years of Research in Cooperation with ISU

The North Central Iowa Research Association celebrated 75 years of history at the Northern Research and Demonstration Farm on September 8, 2006. More than 275 people attended the celebration, which began at 10:30 with a welcome by the Association president Harley Krietlow. Wendy Wintersteen, ISU dean of agriculture, made a special presentation to President Harley Krietlow, commemorating the 75 years of cooperation between the association and ISU. U. S. House Representative Tom Latham gave a short speech, and during the noon luncheon WOI radio broadcast live from the farm. Elwynn Taylor explained the influence of weather on crop production and Kendall Lamkey, chair of the ISU Agronomy Department discussed the future of agricultural research. Wagon and walking tours of research plots, demonstrations, displays, an anniversary corn maze, and antique machinery were available throughout the day.

The celebration was made possible by the hard work of many volunteers, especially the North Central Iowa Research Association board of directors, by donations from sponsors, and the efforts of ISU Extension staff.

Acknowledgments

Thanks to Asgrow Seed Company, North Central Coop, Spraying Systems Company, Golden Harvest, Kanawha Reporter, and Wayne Rietema for support of work at the farm.

Table 1. Northern Research and Demonstration Farm, Kanawha, IA, monthly rainfall and average temperatures for 2006

Month	Rainfall (in.)		Temperature (°F)		Days 90° or above
	2006	Deviation from normal	2006	Deviation from normal	
March	3.00	1.01	35.9	1.6	0
April	4.29	1.05	53.6	5.6	0
May	.86	-2.97	62.2	2.1	2
June	3.33	-1.48	71.2	1.7	3
July	2.69	-1.26	76.1	3.4	12
August	3.23	-0.77	72.0	1.9	0
September	6.36	3.16	60.1	-2.7	0
October	<u>1.50</u>	<u>-0.70</u>	48.1	-2.5	<u>0</u>
Totals	25.26	-1.96			17