

Farm and Weather Summary

Allee Demonstration Farm

Lyle Rossiter, farm superintendent

Farm Comments

Developments. An open front cattle shed (30 ft × 80 ft) was remodeled for swine AI (artificial insemination). Two deep-bedded pens were connected with a feed alley and 34 feeding stalls. A flex auger feeding system is used to deliver feed into a cart and sows are hand fed and individually separated for breeding.

Field Days and Tours. Local youth of the Newell-Fonda school-to-work program and FFA chapter awarded the Allee Farm and staff with an “Honorary Chapter FFA Degree.” Each year, the students choose a business or person in the community who has encouraged positive work ethics and an educational venue for them to increase their knowledge of daily agricultural crop and livestock production. The Booster’s 4-H Club learned shop skills including proper electrical techniques of a simple switch to turn on a light bulb, safety, and tool management. The Booster’s sold \$970 of frozen pie filling from the 84 apple tree orchard located on the Allee Farm. The Buena Vista special swine class held three production swine classes at the farm, practicing proper herdsmanship and showmanship of market swine. Thirty-seven PFI members participated in an AI swine class held in September. The Allee Farm staff would like to thank the community for their support and all 288 guests who visited the farm.

New Projects. Evaluated corn rootworm traits with genetically enhanced CRW vs. conventional/insecticide vs. conventional seed plots on 17 acres. The corn-on-corn yield data is reported with the studies of on-farm research in northwest Iowa (<http://ofr.ag.iastate.edu>). USDA livestock tag evaluation study.

Livestock. The cattle operation continues to grow, marketing 40 heifers, 224 steers, and background 260 steers. Niman Ranch swine sales included 322 market hogs.

Crop Season Comments

Corn planting started April 25 and was completed April 26. Harvest began October 19 and was completed October 23 with average yields of 128 bushels/acre.

Weather Comments

Winter. January was mild with a new 120-year record temperature of 30 days above 32°F. February was mild with a two-day snowfall accumulation of 8 in. March had 8 in. of snow and 1.1 in. of rain.

Spring. There was 3.6 in. of rain in April. May was cool the first half, which slowed seed emergence and growth. Warmer temperatures occurred the last two weeks (80-90s). Total May moisture was less than one inch.

Summer. June and July temperatures were seasonal and dry weather was persistent. June total moisture was 1.0 in. July was the driest month (.2 in.). August total rain was 4.6 in., which rejuvenated soybean plant growth and pod development.

Fall 2004. September rains (2.9 in.) assisted soybean pod fill and increased seed size. Light frost occurred on September 20. October 15–18 harvest was slowed due to drizzle, rain, and snow. First heavy frost was October 22. Total rain for October was .2 in.

Acknowledgments

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