

Farm and Weather Summary

Bernie Havlovic, farm superintendent

Farm Comments

Developments: An automated water fountain monitoring system was installed in one pen of the feedlot. Bob Burcham retired in October after 14 years at the Armstrong and Neely-Kinyon Farms.

Field Days and Tours: The farms held 41 events, with a total of 2,869 people attending the various field days, classes, group tours, and meetings.

New Projects: Low K × corn hybrid study, Antonio Mallarino; Soybean population × plant oil content, Palle Pedersen; Soybean herbicide trial, Jim Lux; Soybean growth and development, Palle Pedersen; Switchgrass variety trial, Mark Smith; Comparison of corn planter seed monitoring devices, Kyle Jensen; Ohio State corn hybrid seed blending study, Kathleen Delate; Tomato and pepper irrigation trial, Hank Taber; and Seeds of Life flowering shrub demonstration, Eldon Everhart.

Livestock: Abundant rainfall created good season-long pasture grazing. The March 2 blizzard and record setting rainfall totals for May, August, and October created some very poor feedlot conditions.

Crop Season Comments

Corn planting started on May 1 and was completed by May 18. Harvest began on September 25 and was completed on November 14, with an average yield of 170 bushels/acre.

Soybean planting started on May 15 and was completed on June 2. Harvest began on September 29 and was completed on November 14, with an average yield of 65.5 bushels/acre.

Weather Comments

Winter 2006–2007: The coldest temperature for the year was -11°F on January 16. We received more than 12 in. of snow on March 2, closing area roads for 72 hours.

Spring 2007: April and May rainfall totaled more than 14 in. and caused delays with both corn and soybean plantings. A record setting low temperature of 14° on April 17 damaged fruiting buds in area vineyards and orchards.

Summer 2007: Seasonal temperatures and a dry early summer dried out fields and allowed for row crops to catch up. August produced three severe thunderstorms and nearly 10 in. of rain.

Fall 2007: Weather during harvest was warm but very wet. The 8 in. of rain in October more than doubled the farm's previous record for that month. Harvest was not completed until mid-November.

Table 1. Armstrong Research and Demonstration Farm, Lewis, monthly rainfall and average temperatures for 2007.

| Month | Rainfall (in.) | | Temperature (°F) | | Days 90° or above |
|-----------|----------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| | 2007 | Deviation from normal | 2007 | Deviation from normal | |
| March | 4.12 | 1.83 | 44.8 | 2.4 | 0 |
| April | 4.57 | 1.56 | 47.9 | -2.6 | 0 |
| May | 9.85 | 4.98 | 65.5 | 4.0 | 0 |
| June | 1.58 | -2.95 | 75.3 | -0.7 | 0 |
| July | 2.33 | -1.46 | 75.8 | -0.2 | 5 |
| August | 9.91 | 6.34 | 73.7 | -0.4 | 3 |
| September | 3.74 | -0.39 | 65.6 | 0.3 | 0 |
| October | <u>8.38</u> | <u>6.29</u> | 56.5 | 10.3 | <u>0</u> |
| Totals | 44.48 | 16.20 | | | 8 |

Table 2. Neely-Kinyon Research and Demonstration Farm, Greenfield, monthly rainfall and average temperatures for 2007.

| Month | Rainfall (in.) | | Temperature (°F) | | Days 90° or above |
|-----------|----------------|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| | 2007 | Deviation from normal* | 2007 | Deviation from normal | |
| March | 2.42 | 0.13 | 45.8 | 3.4 | 0 |
| April | 4.57 | 1.56 | 48.5 | 2.0 | 0 |
| May | 7.58 | 2.71 | 66.2 | 4.7 | 0 |
| June | 2.40 | -2.13 | 71.9 | 0.9 | 3 |
| July | 2.36 | -1.43 | 76.0 | 0.0 | 8 |
| August | 10.79 | 7.22 | 76.8 | 2.7 | 6 |
| September | 4.52 | 0.39 | 67.2 | 1.9 | 0 |
| October | <u>5.80</u> | <u>3.71</u> | 58.4 | 12.2 | 0 |
| Totals | 40.44 | 12.16 | | | 17 |

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