

Farm and Weather Summary, Central Iowa Farms

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Farm Comments

The ISU Central Iowa Farms consist of farmland in Story, Boone, Marshall, and Polk counties. There were 2,350 crop acres farmed by local farmers as custom operators. These acres were used for large-scale research, equipment testing, silage production, and manure application. Small-scale plots covered 95 acres. The student-managed Ag 450 Farm rented 285 acres, of which 103 acres were 50/50 sharecropped. The Ag 450 farm was also hired to perform custom farm work on Central Iowa Farms.

The ISU Ankeny Farm was sold in 2005, and the university temporarily rented a portion of the farm until the dairy was relocated in late November. An auction was held at the Ankeny Dairy Farm in December to sell excess machinery and equipment inventory. Initial improvements have been started on the cropland's tile drainage system at the new dairy farm. Tile main and lateral installations were installed in the fall after the crops were removed and more lateral tile will be installed in the spring of 2008.

The majority of the Rhodes Farm is rented to a private party, but the university has retained a portion of the farm for long-term grazing research projects. Approximately 3,100 ft of fence was replaced along the Rhodes Farm's northeast property line. The 120 fall calving cows from the ISU McNay Research Farm were grazed on the retained portion of the Rhodes Farm.

Soybeans were planted as renovation of 21 acres of pasture and hay at the Animal Science Teaching Farms. A winter rodent population distribution study was conducted on approximately 800 acres. A grain and biomass harvesting study was conducted on approximately 85 acres of corn. A remote sensing project has expanded on 177 acres. The combine cleanout study harvested approximately 280 acres of corn and soybeans. Corn was harvested for silage on 439 acres.

Crop Season Comments

Corn planting began on April 18 and was completed on May 19. Corn silage yields ranged from 23 to 27 tons/acre at 61% to 70% moisture. Corn grain yields ranged from 152 to 215 bushels/acre. Soybean planting began on May 14 and was completed on May 27. An outbreak of soybean aphids required spraying in mid to late July. Yields ranged from 47 to 66 bushels/acre. Fall harvesting began on September 28 and was completed on November 12.

Weather Comments

Weather data for all farms in this progress report are shown in Table 1 in the Ag Engineering and Agronomy Farm and Weather Summary (see page 3).