

Farm and Weather Summary

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Farm Comments

Developments. Research with distillers grains continued in the heifer development area and for supplementing beef cattle on pasture.

Field Days and Tours. Eight events were held with a total of 680 people attending field days and visiting the farm.

New Projects. No new projects were started in 2007.

Livestock. During 2007, 475 lambs and 343 calves were born to the McNay flock and herd. A portion of the McNay fall calving cowherd once again spent the grazing season at the ISU Rhodes Farm as part of Dr. Jim Russell's riparian grazing research.

Crop Season Comments

Corn planting started May 14 and was completed on May 21. Harvest began October 22 and was completed on November 16, with an average yield of 140 bushels/acre.

Soybean planting started May 21 and was completed on June 3. Harvest began October 15 and was completed on October 29, with an average yield of 56 bushels/acre.

Weather Comments

Winter. The trend for warm dry winters ended. The February lambing season was the coldest in many years.

Spring. April was cold and wet. An extremely hard freeze in early April eliminated one cutting of alfalfa and slowed pasture growth. May brought warmer, drier weather and allowed planting to progress rapidly.

Summer. June and July were normal to slightly drier. Heavy rains in early August encouraged good crop yields and very good late summer pastures.

Fall. Later planting dates and fall rains delayed harvest some but not enough to make a late harvest.

Table 1. McNay Research and Demonstration Farm, Chariton, IA, monthly rainfall and average temperatures for 2007.

Month	Rainfall (in.)		Temperature (°F)	
	2007	Deviation from normal	2007	Deviation from normal
March	2.96	0.70	44	6
April	5.82	2.26	46	-5
May	7.62	3.11	64	3
June	2.90	-1.82	70	0
July	2.50	-1.75	73	2
August	11.35	7.25	76	3
September	2.32	-1.81	64	0
October	<u>4.62</u>	<u>1.95</u>	56	3
Totals	40.09	9.89		