

## Farm and Weather Summary

Bernie Havlovic, farm superintendent

### Farm Comments

*Developments:* Leah Riesselman joined the farm staff in July as our horticultural specialist. The farm installed 400 ft of terrace and 3,525 ft of buffer strips in the middle 80. The 70 ft wide buffer strips will be seeded to five cultivars of switchgrass.

*Field Days and Tours:* The farms held 18 events, with a total of 2,975 people attending the various field days, classes, group tours, and meetings.

*New Projects:* Corn and soybean cover crop × nitrogen study, John Sawyer; Soybean fungicide × insecticide study, Alison Robertson; Soybean fungicide trial, Allison Robertson; Emergency forage crops for late season planting, Kyle Jensen and Aaron Saeugling; Compost treatments for tomato and green pepper organic production, Kathleen Delate; Oregano production in a high tunnel, Linda Naeve; Bailey Nursery hardy shrub rose trial, Eldon Everhart; High tunnel pole bean and colored pepper trial, Hank Taber; and Stocking densities of beef cattle in a hoop finishing unit, Darrell Busby, Mark Honeyman, and John Lawrence.

*Livestock:* Spring and early summer rainfall was well above normal creating excellent grazing conditions for pasture cattle, but livestock confined to open feedlots experienced some muddy conditions. The last half of the summer turned very dry, which

improved the feedlot conditions but also slowed the growth of cool-season grasses in the area pastures.

### Crop Season Comments

Corn planting started on May 5 and was completed by May 14. Harvest began on October 20 and was completed on November 10, with an average yield of 187 bushels/acre.

Soybean planting started on May 14 and was completed on June 2. Harvest began on September 27 and was completed on October 20, with an average yield of 43 bushels/acre.

### Weather Comments

*Winter 2007–2008:* Following a winter that produced above normal snowfall, the subsoil moisture supplies were near field capacity at the end of winter.

*Spring 2008:* A wet April and May delayed corn and soybean plantings. Early crop growth was slow due to below normal spring temperatures.

*Summer 2008:* Summer months were dryer than normal, but temperatures were cool. By the end of summer, corn development was 2 weeks behind normal.

*Fall 2008:* Fall was warm but wet and corn harvest was completed much later than normal with grain moisture wetter than recent years.

**Table 1. Armstrong Research and Demonstration Farm, Lewis, monthly rainfall and average temperatures for 2008.**

Month	Rainfall (in.)		Temperature (°F)		Days 90° or above
	2008	Deviation from normal	2008	Deviation from normal	
March	1.0	-1.22	35.8	-6.6	0
April	4.57	1.75	47.3	-3.2	0
May	6.82	1.95	57.8	-3.7	0
June	12.07	7.54	71.9	0.9	0
July	3.62	-0.17	74.7	-2.2	3
August	1.23	-2.34	70.7	-3.4	2
September	4.18	0.03	65.3	-0.0	0
October	<u>5.59</u>	<u>3.55</u>	53.7	7.5	<u>0</u>
Totals	39.33	11.10			5

**Table 2. Neely-Kinyon Research and Demonstration Farm, Greenfield, monthly rainfall and average temperatures for 2008.**

Month	Rainfall (in.)		Temperature (°F)		Days 90° or above
	2008	Deviation from normal*	2008	Deviation from normal	
March	1.23	-1.06	36.8	-5.6	
April	4.63	1.62	46.9	-3.6	0
May	5.56	0.69	57.9	-3.6	0
June	12.81	8.28	71.1	0.1	0
July	5.15	1.36	74.7	-1.3	3
August	0.81	-2.76	71.8	-3.3	2
September	4.51	0.38	65.1	-0.2	0
October	<u>4.01</u>	<u>1.97</u>	53.7	7.5	<u>0</u>
Totals	38.71	10.48			5

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