

Farm and Weather Summary

L. James Secor, superintendent

Farm Comments

Developments. Sam Ruble joined the McNay Farm staff in 2008 as an animal caretaker.

Field Days and Tours. Five events were held with a total of 658 people attending field days and visiting the farm.

New Projects. Potassium × harvest systems project, A. Mallarino; and Evaluating autogenous bacterin for control of pinkeye in beef cattle, A. O'Conner.

Livestock. A very cold, wet beginning of 2008 made both lambing and calving difficult. Death losses were higher than normal because of weather conditions. The summer and fall were cool and wet but still provided ample pasture and forage.

Crop Season Comments

Corn planting started May 1 and was completed on May 21. Harvest began October 10 and was completed on December 10, with an average yield of 96 bushels/acre.

Soybean planting started May 5 and was completed on June 28. Harvest began October 5 and was completed on November 1, with an average yield of 29 bushels/acre.

Weather Comments

Winter. A cold and wet winter continued into 2008. February's very cold temperatures made for an unfavorable lambing season.

Spring. Spring continued cold and wet, more than past years. Wet fields slowed planting and delayed haymaking from spring to summer.

Summer. Cooler and wetter conditions continued into the summer. Crop development was slowed.

Fall. The cool and wet conditions slowed harvest, and in some fields harvest was delayed well into December.

Acknowledgements

A special thanks to Jodie Pitcock and Brenda Wilson for donation of a power tip chute for sheep.

Table 1. McNay Research and Demonstration Farm, Chariton, IA, monthly rainfall and average temperatures for 2008.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Rainfall (in.)</u>		<u>Temperature (°F)</u>	
	<u>2008</u>	<u>Deviation from normal</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Deviation from normal</u>
March	1.30	-.95	34	-4
April	5.70	2.10	46	-5
May	4.75	.24	56	-4
June	9.26	4.46	69	-1
July	10.23	5.87	72	-3
August	1.72	-2.34	70	-3
September	6.43	2.26	63	-1
October	<u>3.25</u>	<u>.57</u>	52	-1
Totals	42.64	12.21		