

## Farm and Weather Summary

Kevin Van Dee, farm superintendent

### Farm Comments

*Developments.* The year 2008 was the first time the research farm managed the new land addition. Approximately half of the crop ground was dedicated to a subsurface drainage study. Also in 2008, the Harvestore and an open-front cattle shed were razed in order to construct a 50 ×120 ft machinery storage hoop barn.

*Field Days and Tours.* Three events were held in 2008. The spring field day drew a large crowd. The student agricultural day and the fall field day also were successful events. A total of 951 people visited the farm in 2008.

*New Projects.* Soybean fungicide by insecticide study, Alison Robertson; Corn fungicide IPM study, Alison Robertson; Subsurface drainage study, Greg Brenneman; Sugar beet biofuel variety trial, Vince Lawson; Corn herbicide demonstration, Jim Fawcett.

### Crop Season Comments

Corn planting began May 5 and was completed May 22. Harvest began October 8 and was completed November 13 with yields of 150 to 234 bushels/acre.

Soybean planting began May 6 and was completed June 19. Harvest began September 26 and was completed October 29 with yields of 40 to 63 bushels/acre.

### Weather Comments

*Winter 2007–2008.* The first measurable snow fell on December 9, 2007. The soil moisture profile was above average by planting time in 2008.

*Spring 2008.* Precipitation was above average during the spring, delaying planting until early May. Temperatures were below average for the first three months of the growing season, further delaying crop progress.

*Summer 2008.* Temperatures fluctuated somewhat during the summer months. June temperatures were above average, but the remaining months were below average. There were only two days with temperatures above 90°F during 2008. Precipitation totals were near average or above during the entire summer.

*Fall 2008.* Corn yields were above average in both corn following soybeans and continuous corn. Soybean yields were generally average compared with recent years. Soil moisture is at capacity going into 2009.

**Table 1. Southeast Research and Demonstration Farm, Crawfordsville, 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	0.92	-1.40	35.1	-3.5	0
April	5.34	1.70	49.0	-3.1	0
May	5.36	0.78	59.2	-3.1	0
June	6.26	2.06	71.4	0.7	0
July	3.34	-0.20	73.1	-1.8	1
August	3.80	-0.26	69.9	-2.9	1
September	8.16	5.76	63.3	-2.0	0
October	<u>2.36</u>	<u>-0.78</u>	50.9	-1.9	<u>0</u>
Totals	35.54	7.66			2