

## Field Days and Farm Tours

Ken Pecinovsky, farm superintendent

You are welcome to use the information contained in this progress report, and your advice and/or contribution to future research is welcome. We thank Iowa State University researchers, extension staff, Northeast Iowa Experimental Association members, and agribusiness people for their support. The success of the Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm is truly a group effort.

On March 21, we held our Northeast Iowa Agricultural Experimental Association annual meeting. Patty Judge, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, gave an overview of current issues in this year's legislative session, such as water quality and nutrient management and their implications for Iowa Agriculture. Meeting topics also included nitrogen and phosphorous management from commercial and manure sources by Antonio Mallarino and an introduction to the Maquoketa River Watershed Project, by Jim Baker. A seasonal review of this past year's research was also given by Ken Pecinovsky. The board meeting was conducted after the morning presentations.

The annual field days were well attended in 2000. Topics at the June 21 spring field day included weather impacts and predictions for the 2000 crop by Elwynn Taylor, herbicide performance by Mike Owen, hail damage and planting date study conclusions by Dale Farnham and an insect pest update by George Cummins. Evening topics also included agronomics and use in feed rations of high oil and low phytate corn by Dale Farnham and Palmer Holden, grain marketing opportunities by Don Hofstrand, and an update on pseudorabies laws and regulations by Mark

Storlie. An afternoon split session also included a tour of the horticulture garden and a discussion of horticulture opportunities by Pat O'Malley and a cooking with soybeans presentation by Nancy Clark. A courtesy supper was also provided by C<sup>8</sup>MP Crop Consulting.

A home demonstration garden tour was held on August 29 with a presentation on this year's garden including a wide assortment of different colored varieties of popcorn, dry beans, potatoes, onions, and tomatoes. A salsa garden and an organic tomato production demonstration also highlighted the garden tour. Storability comparisons were made among different varieties of potatoes and onions. A wide assortment of All-American flower selections were also grown, including salvias and gazanias.

Topics at the August 24 fall field day included in-field equipment demonstrations of fertilizer and manure application equipment focusing on calibration for accurate nutrient applications. Topics also included grain quality as related to corn diseases and mycotoxin formation in Bt and non-Bt corn hybrids by Gary Munkvold. Also there was a presentation by Mahdi Al Kaisu on improving soil productivity and erosion impacts. A 2000 crop progress update and precision agriculture demonstration update were given by Brian Lang and George Cummins.

Individuals and tour groups are welcome at the research farm. Visitors can reach the farm by traveling 1 mile south of Nashua on Highway 218, and then 1.3 miles west on gravel (290th St.). To schedule a tour, please call the Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm office at (515) 435-4864.