

Development of Research Farms

Bernard Havlovic, farm superintendent

Armstrong Farm

The research farm continues to grow and develop in its ninth year of operation. Erosion control improvements were made to the farm's southwest 80 in mid-April, when 3,650 feet of narrow-based terraces were constructed and seeded. The southwest 80 also was the site of construction of the farm's wetland demonstration area, completed June 2001. Both surface and tile drainage water from a 23-acre area is filtered through three wetland berms prior to exiting the property.

Several improvements to the farm's feedlot area were completed in 2001, including reshaping of the west mound and installation of a landscaping fabric in the cattle-working pen to improve drainage. Extensive improvements were made to the farm residence following spring hailstorms. These included replacement of the old roof and chimney with new sheeting and asphalt shingles.

Lauren Christian Swine Farm

Significant scheduling changes were made in 2001, when the farm converted from a weekly farrowing schedule to a biweekly farrowing. Other changes designed to better accommodate ongoing research projects included conversion of the automated feeding system in the east hoop structure to feeding stalls as well as improvements to the auger feeding system in the nursery buildings.

Neely-Kinyon Farm

Thirty acres of the Neely-Kinyon Farm, including the 17-acre block for the Long-Term Agroecological Research (LTAR) study, were "certified organic" in 2001. Remaining portions of the farm are in the three-year transitioning process leading toward organic certification.

Field Experiments. Seventeen new field experiments were established at all the farms in 2001, and a total of 71 research projects, demonstrations, and training courses were conducted by ISU research and extension staff representing six departments. The farm has become a major supplier for research project pigs for scientists on the ISU campus as well as other outlying research farms.

New experiments established at the Armstrong Farm:

Animal Manure Time-of-Application Study
Soil Test Nitrogen and Carbon Experiment
Long-term Crop Rotation/Nitrogen Study
Winter Triticale Variety Trial
Corn Seed Treatment Study
Corn Row Spacing Study
Soybean Bean Leaf Beetle
Insecticide Evaluation
All-America Selections Display Garden
Flowering Shrub Demonstration Planting
Vitamin D in the Feedlot Ration Study
Yeast in the Starter Feedlot Ration Study
Implant Comparison for Feedlot Cattle
Feedlot Management Shortcourse

New experiments established at the Lauren Christian Swine Farm:

USDA Nursery Pig Feeding Trial
4-H Pig Project
Mycoplasma Pneumonia Trial

New experiments established at the Neely-Kinyon Farm:

Organic Grape Production Study
Organic Measures to Control
Soybean Seed Staining
Edamame Soybean Evaluation
Year-round Beef Cattle Grazing Demonstration