

Activities at Northwest Research Farms

David Haden, superintendent

Educational programs. Through partnering with different organizations, the Northwest Research Farms participate in many educational programs for youth on and off the farm. Some of these organizations include Farm Bureau, National Resource and Conservation Service (NRCS), O'Brien County Soil and Water Conservation District, ISU Extension, Cherokee Chamber of Commerce, and ISU Department of Agricultural Education and Studies. Topics covered in programs include value-added products, forestry, water quality, ethanol, genetics, livestock, crops, farm equipment, weather, and farm safety.

Field days focus on adult education. At these events ISU specialists cover a wide range of topics. This year, these included insect control, forage selection, weed management, feedlot regulations, pasture improvement, manure management, nitrogen fertilization, water table monitoring, and alfalfa management.

The largest single educational activity is the Ag For Kids program, a cooperative effort between Farm Bureau, NRCS, and Iowa State University. In 2001, it was held at the Woodbury County Fair grounds September 11-14. More than 1,300 fifth grade students and teachers from the Sioux City public and private school systems attended, as well as many parents.

Table 1 shows the dates and attendance at organized events at the Northwest Research Farms during 2001. Combining on-farm attendance with attendance at the Woodbury County program, more than 2,200 people participated in educational events related to the Northwest Research Farms during 2001.

Our activities are a service to the people of northwest Iowa. If you would like a farm tour or information, stop by the farm or contact us by mail or phone at:

Northwest Research and Demonstration Farm
6320 500th St.
Sutherland, IA 51058
Phone: (712) 446-2526
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Table 1. Attendance at organized events at the Northwest Research Farms.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Annual meeting	February 27	32
Windbreak planning workshop	April 5	17
Cherokee County fourth grade	May 2-4	148
Forage field day	June 13	42
Sutherland Farm field day	June 27	120
Garden field day	August 8	23
Weed commissioners	August 14	14
Doon Farm field day	August 22	39
Cherokee County fifth grade	September 4	161
Crop production clinic	September 11	40
O'Brien County NRCS Outdoor Classroom	September 12	<u>302</u>
<u>Total attendance</u>		<u>938</u>

Development

The past year provided the Northwest Iowa Experimental Association with an opportunity to emphasize their support of research. With help from the ISU Agricultural Foundation, the association purchased 120 acres adjoining the research farm in O'Brien County. The association now owns 340 acres in O'Brien and Lyon counties.

The additional acres will bring more needed research projects to northwest Iowa. The board

of directors has made water quality research a top priority. Because of the topography, location, and soil type of the new farm, it has great potential for water quality research and demonstrations.

Research projects planned for 2002 include a study on carbon sequestration, a triticale variety trial, and production of grapes (viticulture).