

McNay Memorial Research and Demonstration Farm Summary

RFR-A9134

Superintendent L. James Secor
Jim Secor retired 1/31/10

Operations Manager Nicholas Piekema

Livestock Manager Dennis Maxwell
Dennis Maxwell retired 1/31/10

Livestock Specialist Kevin Maher
Animal Caretaker Sam Ruble

Field Lab Technicians Steve Goben
Gary Jacobs
Gary Jacobs retired 1/31/10

Research Farms Coordinator Mark Honeyman
Farms Manager Dennis Shannon
32 Curtiss Hall
Iowa State University

McNay Memorial Research and Demonstration Farm
45249 170th Avenue
Chariton, IA 50049
(641) 766-6465 (phone and FAX)

Location: From the intersection of highways 65 and 34
go 4 miles south, 2½ miles east, and ¼ mile north.

Farm and Weather Summary

L. James Secor, superintendent

Farm Comments

Developments. The McNay Research Farm will see big changes in the 2010 year. The sheep flock was sold and the facilities and pasture rented to a local young farmer. At the same time, the decision was made that the farm staff would no longer farm the crop ground or make hay. The staff was reduced by three full-time employees through early retirements. The cropping and haying will be performed by custom operators. The remaining staff will care for the cowherd and conduct the crop experiments with part-time help as needed.

Field Days and Tours. Seven events were held with a total of 280 people attending field days and visiting the farm.

New Projects. Potassium × residue harvest systems project, A. Mallarino.

Livestock. In 2009, there were 432 lambs and 244 calves (244 spring, 118 fall) born by the ewe flock and purebred Angus herd at the farm.

Crop Season Comments

Corn planting started April 17 and was completed on May 22. Harvest began October 20 and was completed on December 18, with an average yield of 146 bushels/acre.

Soybean planting started May 22 and was completed on June 29. Harvest began October 19 and was completed on November 11, with an average yield of 55 bushels/acre.

Weather Comments

Winter. Early winter was cold but more moderate temperatures in February and March made for one of the better lambing seasons.

Spring. Once again we had a wetter than normal and cooler than normal spring. This resulted in slow progress of planting and hay making as well as calving in the mud.

Summer. A cool wet summer slowed crop development but was comfortable for livestock and staff.

Fall. Harvest was late because of slow development during summer and also the cool, wet weather slowed grain drying.

Acknowledgements

The ISU Research Farms acknowledge the many years of excellent service of Jim Secor, Dennis Maxwell, and Gary Jacobs who retired from the McNay Farm on January 31, 2010. We also thank the Lucas County Cattlemen and Fort Dodge Animal Health for their support.