

Farm and Weather Summary

David Rueber, farm superintendent

Farm Comments

Field Days and Tours. Three field day events were held. A total of 1,057 people visited the farm in 2008.

New Projects. Fungicide-insecticide study on soybeans, A. Robertson; USA national phenology network, M. Schwartz; Biological control of soybean aphid, M. O'Neal; SCN and fusarium interaction, G. Munkvold; Early season weed control in corn, R. Hartzler; Weed control in soybeans, R. Hartzler; Corn hybrids by N and K fertility, A. Mallarino; Soybean seed treatment, D. Rueber; Genetic sources of SCN trial, G. Tylka.

Crop Season Comments

Rain in April and May delayed the start of corn planting until May 5. It was completed May 15. Harvest began October 16 and was completed November 6 with average yields of 160–200 bushels/acre and higher grain moisture than typical.

Soybean planting started May 15 and was completed May 24. Harvest began September 27 and was completed October 21, with average yields of 45–60 bushels/acre.

Weather Comments

Winter 2007–2008. During January, February, and March, 32 in. of snow fell, almost double the normal of 18 in. January and February were both cooler than normal. March cooler than normal temperatures delayed the thawing of the ground until March 26. When the abundant winter snow melted, the tiles started running.

Spring. On April 29 the last hard spring frost came when the temperature fell to 26°F.

Cooler than normal May and June temperatures got the crops off to a slow start. The last measurable spring snow fell on April 12. April, May, and June were wetter than average. Ponds formed in fields on the farm on April 25 and on June 8. Some of the June 8 ponds didn't disappear until June 14, which resulted in drowned out or stunted crops.

Summer. A July 19 strong wind storm struck just as the corn was starting to tassel and lodged or green snapped the corn, especially on the farm one mile south of Kanawha. Soybean aphids reached the economical treatment threshold the second week in August and most soybeans were sprayed to control them. Below average August temperatures further delayed the maturing of the corn crop.

Fall. The first fall killing frost occurred on October 16 when the temperature reached 29°F. A strong storm on October 26 lodged some corn hybrids and brought the first snow of the winter. Rain and snow that fell after November 5 slowed field work. The ground was frozen by November 10 compared with the normal of December 11. Field work ended on November 18 as the ground was too frozen.

Acknowledgements

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Table 1. Northern Research and Demonstration Farm, Kanawha, IA, monthly rainfall and average temperatures for 2008.

Month	2008	<u>Rainfall (in.)</u>	2008	<u>Temperature (°F)</u>	Days 90° or above
		Deviation from normal		Deviation from normal	
March	.82	-1.17	31.2	-3.3	0
April	6.35	3.11	44.8	-3.3	0
May	4.91	1.08	57.4	-2.7	0
June	7.79	2.98	69.3	-0.1	0
July	4.09	0.14	73.5	0.6	0
August	3.24	-0.76	69.8	-0.7	0
September	2.54	-0.66	63.5	1.1	0
October	<u>2.29</u>	<u>0.09</u>	50.3	-0.2	<u>0</u>
Totals	32.03	4.81			0