

## Farm and Weather Summary

Bernie Havlovic, farm superintendent

### Farm Comments

*Developments:* Construction on a new 5,000-bushel grain storage bin was completed in August, and a 30 ft × 96 ft high tunnel greenhouse was completed in September. Work on the farm's pasture dam, including 1,500 ft of soil drainage tile, was completed at the Neely-Kinyon farm after harvest.

*Field Days and Tours:* The farms held 42 events throughout the year, with a total of 2,756 people attending the various field days, classes, group tours, and meetings.

*New Projects:* Soybean rust sentinel plots, XB Yang; Corn planting depth study, Jeff Butler; Pasture finishing of beef cattle, Dan Morriscal; Bionutrients for soybeans, Clarke McGrath; Timing of phosphorous application, Antonio Mallarino; Natural pork farrowing demonstration, Randy Breach; Adzuki bean population study, John Kinnecker; and Seeds of Life Nursery hardy hibiscus trial, Bernie Havlovic.

*Livestock:* Pasture grazing conditions were good for the first of the season, but growth slowed considerably during the warm and dry summer months. Feedlot conditions were dry and dusty most of the summer and fall.

### Crop Season Comments

Corn planting started on April 25 and was completed by May 4. Harvest began on September 27 and was completed on October 22, with an average yield of 186 bushels/acre.

Soybean planting started on May 1 and was completed on May 25. Harvest began on September 19 and was completed on September 29, with an average yield of 59.8 bushels/acre.

### Weather Comments

*Winter 2004–2005:* It was a fairly mild winter and below-normal snowfall amounts were recorded in 2005. The coldest daily temperature of -10.8°F (below zero) was recorded on January 17.

*Spring 2005:* Spring temperatures averaged cooler than normal while the season recorded above-normal rainfall totals (Table 1). Spring fieldwork was completed in a timely manner.

*Summer 2005:* A pattern of slightly above normal temperatures and well below normal precipitation began in the early summer months, and by the end of summer row crops were drawing heavily on the farm's subsoil moisture reserves.

*Fall 2005:* The warm and dry weather pattern continued into the fall season and throughout harvest. By the end of the growing season, the farm's rainfall totals were more than 9 in. below normal and subsoil moisture reserves were the lowest in the farm's 13-year history.

**Table 1. Armstrong Research and Demonstration Farm, Lewis, monthly rainfall and average temperatures for 2005.**

Month	Rainfall (in.)		Temperature (°F)		Days 90° or above
	2005	Deviation from normal*	2005	Deviation from normal	
March	0.33	-1.96	33.2	-9.2	0
April	3.95	0.94	54.7	4.2	0
May	7.78	2.91	61.8	0.3	1
June	2.66	-1.87	70.1	-0.9	1
July	1.06	-2.73	76.9	0.9	8
August	1.65	-1.92	73.9	-0.2	9
September	2.75	-1.38	63.0	-2.3	1
October	<u>2.35</u>	<u>0.26</u>	52.1	5.9	<u>0</u>
Totals	22.53	-5.75			20

\*Normal rainfall and temperatures recorded at the U.S. Weather Bureau Station, Atlantic, Iowa.

**Table 2. Neely-Kinyon Research and Demonstration Farm, Greenfield, monthly rainfall for 2005.**

Month	Rainfall (in.)	
	2005	Deviation from normal*
March	1.12	-1.20
April	2.25	-1.40
May	4.30	0
June	3.64	-0.70
July	4.22	--0.40
August	1.99	-1.60
September	1.05	-2.80
October	<u>1.22</u>	<u>-1.20</u>
Totals	19.79	-9.30

\*Normal rainfall recorded at the U.S. Weather Bureau Station, Greenfield, Iowa.