

ISU McNay Research Farm Timeline

- 1956 Harry and Winnie McNay donated their farm to ISU Alumni Achievement Fund.
- 1957 Beef cattle crossbreeding project with Hereford and Angus began.
- 1958 First calves from an ISU research project were born.
- 1961 Charolais and Brown Swiss bulls were introduced.
- 1963 Calving 2-year-old heifers was researched and recommended.
- 1964 Lineville Farm herd was combined with the McNay herd.
- 1965 Improved pastures of brome grass, orchard grass, alfalfa, and birdsfoot trefoil were established.
- 1967 Albia Farm was closed and the cattle moved to McNay Farm.
- 1967 West Barn cattle complex was constructed including silos, automated feed bunks, covered pens, and handling facilities.
- 1967 New cattle breeding study was started combining beef and dairy breeds of Angus, Hereford, Holstein, and Brown Swiss.
- 1972 Fall calving beef herd was established.
- 1972 Early weaning (45 days) of calves was documented and researched through 1986.
- 1973 Corn herbicide plots were established.
- 1975 Harry McNay died and McNay Farm title was transferred to Iowa State University.
- 1975 Dennis Maxwell started as beef cattle research manager.
- 1976 Extensive grazing research trials were started on pastures of reed canarygrass, brome/alfalfa/orchard grass, or birdsfoot trefoil/tall fescue.
- 1977 Jim Secor started as superintendent.
- 1977 Feeding of intact bulls was reported.
- 1978 Preconditioning of calves was researched.
- 1981 No-till corn was planted for first time in cornstalks.
- 1981 Prostaglandin was used to synchronize estrus in beef cows.
- 1982 Ridge-till corn was planted. Also no-till corn was planted in brome sod.
- 1982 Large round hay bale research on storage techniques and losses was under way.
- 1982 Research on bovine respiratory diseases was initiated.
- 1983 Research on growth of cattle with different frame sizes was published.
- 1984 Synthetic beef cattle lines were developed using Angus, Jersey, and Simmental breeds.
- 1985 Forestry research on CRP land was conducted.
- 1986 Tillage system comparisons for corn was reported.
- 1986 Large round hay bale density studies was conducted.
- 1986 Wet corn gluten feed trials were conducted.
- 1987 Demonstration home garden was started.
- 1987 Spring calving cowherd was expanded.
- 1988 Real-time ultrasound was used to evaluate muscling and fatness of live beef cattle.
- 1988 Herbaceous energy crops were grown for biomass yield research started.
- 1989 Ewe flock was moved from Beaconsfield Farm to McNay Farm.
- 1989 New sheep research facility was constructed.
- 1989 Beef cow enterprise records were compiled for the McNay cowherd.
- 1989 Automated wood-fired, hot water boiler system project installed.
- 1989–93 New headquarters building including shop, offices, and restrooms was constructed.

- 1990 Bovine viral diarrhea (BVD) research was conducted.
- 1990 Summer annual forages were evaluated for sheep pasture.
- 1993 Energy plantations (trees) were planted.
- 1995 Stockpiled winter grazing was reported.
- 1996 Pasture weaning of beef calves was reported.
- 1997 Year-round grazing system for beef cows was documented.
- 1997 Electronic estrus detection experiences were discussed.
- 1997 New breeding project was started with McNay cows as recipients for Angus embryos.
- 1999 Organic soybeans were grown on CRP land.
- 1999–2000 Meeting room was added to headquarters building.
- 2000 Field days for more than 400 area third-grade students were conducted.
- 2000 Tile drainage work was installed.
- 2003 2.35 lambs were weaned per mature ewe with lamb survival from birth to weaning of 87%.
- 2003 Pinkeye in cattle was researched.
- 2004 Soybean aphid control studies were conducted.
- 2004 McNay crossbred cowherd was sold.
- 2004 Purebred Angus cowherd was moved from Rhodes Farm to McNay farm.
- 2005 Soybean rust sentinel plot was planted.
- 2005 Lamb survival rate birth to weaning was 90%.
- 2006 McNay Research Farm celebrates its 50-year anniversary.