



PACKING SILAGE — Dairy workers are busy packing the chopped corn to feed to the cows through out the winter months.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez



CUSTOM HARVESTERS are cutting corn for silage to use at the dairy.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

Putting up the feed

Wednesday was a clear, cool, windy day, but the wind did not stop the choppers and trucks from cutting and hauling corn silage at the Bird City Dairy. The Garcias from Goodland and the North Brothers from Rogers Hereford Ranch and Custom Harvesting in McCracken were adding corn dust to the air as they ran two choppers and seven trucks that raced down the dusty roads to the dairy. Once there they dumped it and returned back to the field for another load.

The harvesters were in their second day of harvesting and worked until 11 at night when the rain came and shut them down. After getting almost .75 inch of rain, it was so wet, they had to wait until late afternoon on Thursday to get the cross choppers running and have it

completed by Friday.

Once the loads are dumped dairy workers drive three tractors over and over and around the stack of silage to pack it down. After they are through cutting and packing the approximately 16-17,000 tons of corn silage down, the dairy workers will then cover it with a double layer of plastic, and seal it with old tires.

It will take about three months for the silage to ferment then they will feed it to the dairy cows. This will be enough to feed the 2,300 dairy cattle for 10 months. This year's harvest is more of a typical yield and is off just a little from last year's yield which was 2,500 tons.

In order to get these cows to produce 17,000 gallons of milk a day, they feed them very well.

On top of the corn silage which they raise, the dairy has to buy 90 percent of their feed. These cows are fed a mixture of corn silage, Total Mixed Ration (TMA), alfalfa, cotton seed, canola meal, flaked corn, dried distillers grain, soy, hull grains, minerals and a little bit of sugar. This mix is delivered fresh four times a day and monitored daily to ensure the proper nutrition of the cows on a regular schedule.

Mr. McCarty says they work together with all the other farmers who produce the grains and minerals needed.

"We want consistency, in how we milk, feed and grow," he said.

Everyday the Bird City Dairy strives to be the place with happy cows, happy people and great milk.

Man finishes steak quest

It was the last steak on a quest to eat a steak in each of the 105 counties in Kansas.

Bill Bunyan, a Dodge City resident and a member of the Kansas Explorers Club, chose Big Ed's Steak House in Bird City for his final steak, a Big Ed's fillet special. During the seven years it took to complete the feat of covering the counties, Mr. Bunyan said the biggest steak was a 16-ounce KC strip at the Branding Iron in Liberal, Seward County. One of the best steaks he had was a T-bone at Crazy R's in Goodland, Sherman County.

Completing the "steak quest" was his third quest. The other two quests were taking a picture of the courthouse in each of the Kansas Counties. He has also eaten a hamburger in every county and has a "Wimpy" T-shirt to commemorate it.

Eating the hamburgers won him fame and he was featured in newspapers across the United States and abroad. He was offered \$200 to eat a giant hamburger and a mountain of French fries in Lawrence. He said he ate his Cheyenne County hamburger at the Dusty Farmer Restaurant in St. Francis.



WHERE'S THE BEEF? Bill Bunyan (center) can tell you as he ends his 105 county quest for steak in Cheyenne County. Joining him (l to r) are friends Phyllis and Tom Gregg and wife Susan.

Times staff photo by Karen Krien

He ate his last hamburger on the quest, then celebrated his birthday with a cake and cookies decorated as hamburgers. He has a book of photos and newspaper articles to prove it.

Mr. Bunyan and his wife, Susan, are retired teachers. Since they had no children, they were free

to travel and have been exploring the state of Kansas for the last 10 years. At 72, he doesn't have plans for another quest.

The Kansas Explorers Club is a part of the Kansas Sampler Foundation. He said Marci Penner, who is responsible for starting the club, was not able to

attend the final feast on Monday. However, he and Susan were joined by friends, Dick and Mary Beth Boyd of Norton, Rusty and Sharon Adleman of Oberlin, Tom and Phyllis Gregg of Wray, and local residents, Stan and Dee Dorsch, and Dave and Marcia Hickert.

Members do well in last two contests

By Darci Schields

Cheylin FFA members competed in two contests this past month and placed high at both contests.

"The kids did a good job," said Max Keltz, FFA sponsor. "It's always fun to do well against other schools."

The Cheylin members, along with 11 other schools, participated in the Northwest District FFA Land and Home Site Evaluation Contest on Wednesday, Sept. 15, in Ellis. Judging took place in a pasture south of the Ellis High School.

Due to less-than-ideal weather conditions from the evening before, where Ellis received 3-4 inches of rainfall, participants had to stand in holes with several inches of water in order to test the different soils.

Cheylin ended the day with very high marks. The Cheylin senior division team, which consisted of Caleb Keltz, senior, Mitchel Jensen, senior, Wil Orten, junior, and Joshua Keltz, sophomore, took first place.

The Cheylin Greenhand division team, which consisted of Heath Churchwell, sophomore, Eddie

Frisbie, Ty Carmichael and Shayla Hubbard, all freshmen, took third place.

Senior division individuals placing were Mitchel Jensen, third overall, Wil Orten, seventh overall. Eddie Frisbie was fifth place overall in the Greenhand Division.

Norton

Cheylin participants traveled to Norton on Wednesday, Sept. 22, to compete in the Land and Home Site Evaluation against 10 other area schools. Cheylin placed second as a team, behind Norton who placed first.

The Cheylin team included Caleb Keltz, Craig Busse, Mitchel Jensen, Wil Orten, Joshua Keltz and Eddie Frisbie. Individual participants who placed were: Craig Busse with third and Wil Orten with sixth.

Other school team results include Hays with third place, Ellis, fourth place, WaKeeney, fifth place, Oakley, sixth place, Russell, seventh place, Smith Center, eighth place, Atwood, ninth place, Hoxie, 10th place and Palco, 11th place.

