

## Kansas expecting biggest corn crop ever

By Norma Martinez

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According to the website Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service on Oct. 19 dry weather has allowed Kansas farmers to harvest 89 percent of the state's corn crop. This is well above the 5-year average of 67 percent and is expected to be the biggest corn crop ever.

At this time last year, the Kansas corn crop was only 43 percent harvested due to the wet weather and farmers didn't have 89 percent of the crops harvested until Nov. 30.

This year's harvest is expected to total 692.2 million bushels. This almost doubles last year's wheat crop which was only 369 million bushels. If this is true it will be the biggest corn harvest since 1933.

About half of the corn in the northwest is in danger because of the high heat and sporadic rainfall patterns. Brian Olson from Kansas State University Extension Service said there's an L-shaped pattern in northwest Kansas where the corn looks good. Cheyenne is one of the counties where rainfall has been adequate and 130 bushel or higher yields are possible.

On Oct. 19 Dick Bursch and his 28-year-old grandson, Clint Bursch, were cutting corn north of U.S. 36. Clint was driving the combine and Dick was driving the tractor pulling the hopper.

Dick said he prefers driving the combine but on this day Clint got there first and beat him to it. Since Clint is the only one of his boys interested in farming, he decided to let Clint be the boss until after lunch. Bursch Farms employs four drivers to haul the corn in three semis and a tandem truck to Frontier Ag.

This year's corn is the only thing Bursch Farms is harvesting. They finished last week and are now tending to their herd of around 100 cattle and catching up with the other chores. Dick says this year's harvest has been good to outstanding. The majority was better than last year's; all of his irrigated land has produced an excellent crop. With the early moisture they started irrigating around the first of July through August and a small part of Sept. Last week, the cutting was good, still a little wet but they moved right along and barely finished before the rain on Friday.

Rob Jensen and Lyle Knapp were done with their corn harvest last week and Jensen was working with Steve Busse last Wednesday.



FALL HARVEST IS IN FULL SWING — Dick Bursch is driving the tractor pulling the hopper. His grandson, Clint Bursch is running the combine.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

Before going out to the cornfields in the morning, he and his father-in-law Ben Swannack from Denton City Wash., were corralling and treating calves with infected eyes. Jensen said he had just recently corralled the calves for weaning and five of them got into some brush that scratched their eyes causing an infection.

In the afternoon Jensen and Ron Smith were at Steve Busse's off of Rd. K and 25 checking out the combine. It was not sounding good after their first round of cutting. Smith comes from Colorado Springs every year to drive the truck for corn harvesting and during the Antique Thresher Show he runs the Print Shop. In the Springs, Smith tutors kids who have been expelled, or are unable to attend school and takes his vacation to come to Bird City for a relaxing break.

Steve Busse has about 250 acres of corn left to cut after harvesting 100 acres. He says the corn is doing real well; it is yielding about 60-120 bushels on dryland and over 200 on the irrigated land. On Monday Jensen said they had finished this section and still have a small circle left to do south of Bird City and a 24-acre patch in Sherman County.

With the corn combine sick last week, Busse fired up the newer combine to check the milo. The Bird City Times co-editor climbed into the cab with him for a view from the combine. This was a great experience for this city girl. The milo is not quite dry enough, it is still a little green on the bottom. Busse says they need a freeze to help the stems dry down. It tested at 12 percent and has to be at least 14 percent before the elevators will take it.

Going into town on Monday found Adam and his son John Deeds working on their combine on Rd 31. They lease land from Gary Seymour and only have two circles consisting of 250 acres left to cut. The corn, they said, is still a little wet from the rain they had on Friday.

Adam says this year's corn was ready earlier compared to last year's. Last year's corn crop was good but he is happy with this year's harvest. It is good corn, he said, and yielding an amazing bonus crop with a good yield and the price is up. With the early start in harvest he will be finished by early November versus December of last year's crop.



WORKING THE CATTLE — Rob Jensen and his father-in-law, Ben Swannack, from Denton City, WA., get the livestock ready for winter.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez



GETTING READY FOR THE PLAY — Chorus girls rehearse for Hello Dolly during practice on Monday.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

## Students to present 'Guys and Dolls'

Cheylin High School will be presenting the musical "Guys and Dolls" by Abe Burrows and Swerling two night the week of Nov. 1. Music for "Guys and Dolls" is by Frank Loser. The musical will be presented in the Bird City gymnasium.

The first performance will be on Thursday, Nov. 4, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for Thursday night will be available at the door.

For the Saturday, Nov. 6, performance, which begins at 6 p.m., tickets will be available by calling the school or from any cast

member.

"Guys and Dolls" contains a number of familiar songs which those attending will especially enjoy. They include "Fugue of the Tin horns," "Guys and Dolls," "Luck Be A Lady," and "The Oldest Established."

Lead characters in the musical include: Miss Adelaide, Teryn Carmichael; Nathan Detroit, Heath Antholz; Sarah Brown, Nakita Schneider; Sky Masterson, Craig Busse; Nicely-Nicely Johnson, Noah Jones; and Benny Southstreet, Dalton Magnani.

## General election set for Tuesday

Kansas voters get the chance Tuesday to decide who will serve as senator, governor, attorney general and more when they cast their ballots in the general election.

In Cheyenne County, all of the polling places will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., allowing registered voters the chance to help decide who will serve.

Those polling places include Bird City Township—Bird City American Legion Hall. Benkelman, Calhoun, Cleveland Run, Jaqua, Orlando, Wano I, and Wano II Townships will vote at Peace Lutheran Church.

Clerk Terry Miller, county election officer, said as of Tuesday morning, 106 walk-in ballots had been cast and 86 ballots had been sent out. The advanced voting ends at noon on Monday, Nov. 1.

Incumbent Ernie Ketzner, Democrat, is seeking re-election for county commissioner in District No. 1. Mr. Ketzner, Bird City, is finishing up his first term.

Others on the ballot include:  
• Jerry Moran, Republican; Lisa Johnston, Democrat; Joseph K. Bellis, Reform Party; and Michael Wm. Dann, Libertarian, for the U.S. Senate.

• Tim Huelskamp, Republican, Fowler; Alan Jilka, Democrat, Salina; and Jack Warner, Libertarian,

for U.S. representative for the 1st District.

• Sam Brownback and Jeff Colyer, Republicans; Tom Holland and Kelly Kultala, Democrats; Kenneth W. Cannon and Daniel J. Raublton, Reform Party; and Andrew P. Gray and Stacey Davis, Libertarians; for governor and lieutenant governor.

• Chris Biggs, Democrat; Kris Kobach, Republican; Derek Langseth, Reform; and Phillip Horatio Lucas, for secretary of state.

• Derek Schmidt, Republican; Steve Six, Democrat; and Dennis Hawver, Libertarian, for attorney general.

• Ron Estes, Republican; and Dennis McKinney, Democrat, for state treasurer.

• Sandy Praeger, Republican, for commissioner of insurance.

• Robert Streyve, Democrat, and Ward Cassidy, Republican, for state representative in the 120th District of northwest Kansas.

• Sally Cauble, Republican, for state Board of Education in the 5th District.

### Helpful website

Learn more about the candidates and where he or she stands by going to the site [www.voteeasy.org](http://www.voteeasy.org). Type in the zip code and all the information comes up for that area.

Support the Cougars  
tonight at 7 p.m.

