

# Three wheat farmers claim yield prizes

A St. Francis farmer was among three Kansas wheat farmers to earn \$1,000 by winning their respective regions in the 2011 Kansas Wheat Yield Contest.

Chuck Downey, St. Francis, in the Western Region, recorded a 61.76 bushel per acre yield with the variety Winterhawk. Tom Austin, Minneapolis, harvested 104.82 bushels per acre with a field of Armour, to claim the Central Region. James Kesler, Sabetha, won the Eastern Region with AgriPro's Art variety, which yielded 61.34 bushels per acre.

Winners will be presented checks and plaques at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson at 1:15 p.m., Sept. 15, at the Kansas Wheat Exhibit inside the Pride of Kansas Building.

"Farmers were challenged in 2011 with drought and excessive heat. Yet the farmers who participated in the 2011 Kansas Wheat Yield Contest persevered, pushed the envelope and maximized yields," says Justin Gilpin, chief executive officer of Kansas Wheat, the cooperative agreement between the Kansas Wheat Commission and the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers. Kansas Wheat and BASF were co-title sponsors of the second annual contest.

The 2011 yield contest features a quality component that measures protein, test weight and milling and baking quality. Results from those tests will be announced at the Kansas State Fair.

Mr. Downey said the Kansas Wheat Yield Contest provided just the right incentive to try and maximize wheat production on the Douthit-Downey Land and Cattle in Cheyenne County, which he operates with his father-in-law, Walter Douthit and his wife, Megan.

This year, he "threw the kitchen sink at the wheat crop," using a host of micronutrients and macronutrients to take care of his wheat crop.

Mr. Downey said starting the crop properly with high-quality, treated seed is critical.

"Every variety has a weakness. I choose varieties that I can control these weaknesses," he said.

This was the first year he tried WestBred's Winterhawk variety, which had performed well in the Sherman and Cheyenne county test plots, and had a disease package that fit in well with his conservation tillage program. He planted about 1.05 million seeds per acre, treating the seed with Dividend and an Amway product called Nutriplant, prior to planting. He added 40 pounds of 11-52-0 at planting.

Downey waited until spring emergence to determine how intensively he wanted to treat the wheat crop.

"I hate to get too much money tied up into the crop before winter," he says. "Rain is our limiting factor in northwest Kansas. If it dried up and quit raining, you could lose quite a bit of money if you were to put a lot of fertilizer on in the fall."

His contest plot, which totaled 13.9 acres, looked promising coming out of winter dormancy. Thus, he added 65 pounds of nitrogen and 15 pounds of sulfur in April, and followed that at jointing in May with copper, zinc, coron and chloride, plus the fungicide Tilt and the herbicide, Barrage. At the flagleaf stage, he added another 9 ounces of Twin-line fungicide, plus the micronutrients Headset and Megafol, and 32 ounces of Coron.

There is no substitute for crop scouting; Downey walks his wheat fields weekly from the time they break dormancy until harvest. Cheyenne County Extension Agent Marty Fear supervised the harvest.

Next year, he plans to implement more no-till into his wheat acres in order to save as much moisture as possible.

"If you're not trying something new, you cannot expect anything to change," he said.

Yield: 61.76 bushels per acre

Wheat variety: Winterhawk, WestBred

Certified seed source: Sharp Brothers Seed

Certified crop consultant: none



SHADRYON BLANKA gets some help from Robin Petersen to get his goat moving through the 4-H premium sale on Friday night of the fair. Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

# Tech college holds unique meeting

Northwest Tech hosted a unique meeting for western Kansas small school superintendents on Thursday, July 28. Among those in attendance was superintendent Rob Schiltz, St. Francis.

The purpose of the meeting was to join an informal discussion about current research with nationally prominent rural educator, Dr. Paul Theobald, from Buffalo State College, and to discuss the creation of a new superintendent's organization aimed at representing and promoting the interests of small western Kansas schools and their communities.

Dr. Theobald talked about recent research showing that graduates from small schools tended to be quite successful in college and beyond when compared to their large school contemporaries. His point was that 'bigger isn't always better when it comes to schools.'

He also discussed the many

contributions that small schools and communities have historically made, and continue to make, in the quality of American life.

"They represent a system of ethics and values that are dear to the foundation of the nation," he said.

Dr. Theobald was concerned that in times of economic recession, politics often turn against small schools as dollars become scarce.

"When small schools are closed, the students just don't go away," he said. "In fact, there is some thinking that it actually may cost more to educate students in the resulting consolidated schools, particularly when travel is involved."

During the meeting, President Ed Mills said Northwest Tech would assist in any way possible to support the group.

"This is exactly what we have been needing," said Mary Ellen Welshon, superintendent from

Golden Plains.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the group decided to begin meeting monthly on the campus at Northwest Tech to discuss matters of mutual concern.

Northwest Tech will also be hosting the annual Rural Schools and Communities Conference Friday, Oct. 21. The focus for this conference will be Technology in

Education. There will be Apple representatives, as well as representatives from S&T and Eagle Communications.

This year, said Dr. Mills, will be an exciting event, more geared toward school districts. For more information on upcoming events at Northwest Tech, visit [www.nwktc.edu](http://www.nwktc.edu).

# Meeting to follow potluck to discuss Bird City center

The senior center potluck will be held at noon on Monday, Aug 22. Following the potluck at 2 p.m., will be the discussion on whether or not to close the community center.

The time has come when this is a decision that must be answered. The attendance has been poor for sometime, and the old timers need someone to relieve them of the responsibilities of tending to the care of the center. This means making sure the building is opened each morning and closed in the evening, as well as cleaning it.

At this point, there are just a

few of the senior citizens who are making use of the facilities and attending the birthday parties and potlucks. Others have moved on to different areas or unable to attend for health reasons. The few participants left have done their share for many years. In order to keep the facility open they need some new responsible recruits to take over.

It is the desire of this meeting to get some ideas on what to do about re-organizing, or closing the community center. All interested parties are encouraged to attend the Aug. 22 meeting.

# Student completes space center program

Alex Queen of St. Francis, son of Marlin and Kimberly Queen, graduated from the Explore Space: Alien Adventure program July 30 at the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center. Alex will be entering fifth grade at St Francis Elementary this fall.

Developed by Cosmosphere staff, Alien Adventure is a three day commuter camp with an overnight stay, for students entering fourth and fifth grade. Students investigate the nature of life on our planet and the possibility of life elsewhere.

Each team presents the culture of their particular area of the chosen planet in native dress, and a night sky story related to their unique history as a people at the "Alien Ball," which is open to parents.

They observe the night sky and enjoy shows in the Carey IMAX Dome Theatre, the Justice Planetarium and Dr. Goddard's Lab.

They also explore the Hall of Space Museum.

This is just one of the Cosmosphere's educational camps. For more information about this or other camps, call the education coordinator at 800.397.0330, ext. 323, or visit [www.cosmo.org](http://www.cosmo.org). The Cosmosphere is located at 1100 N. Plum, Hutchinson.

The Cosmosphere offers camp programs for students as young as those going into second grade, and on through high school age. Camps are available for adults, including some for intergenerational learning that grandparents or parents as young as 40 can attend with their children or grandchildren. Camp experiences are also offered for groups, including schools who want a program designed just for them, and corporate team building. The Cosmosphere also has programs designed specifically for Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Webelos.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

**Bernadette Luncsford**  
*Winner of the Toshiba portable DVD player.*

**Thanks to all who registered at our booth for the player, bought locally at Video Kingdom.**  
**Casey McCormick**

Farm Bureau Property & Casually Insurance Company  
Western Agriculture Insurance Company | Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company  
\*Company providers of Farm Bureau Financial Services  
Health insurance policies are underwritten by an insurance company that is not affiliated with our companies

**Sign-up now for SFRC Fall Classes**

- \*Woodworking with Dennis Friedrichs  
Sept. - Nov.
- \*Blacksmith with Tony Howard  
Beginning and Intermediate Classes
- \*Fused Glass Class with Kim Zwegardt  
Sunday, October 9th

*For more information call Penny at 785-332-3949*

**Ladies & Girls Potluck Brunch**

**Wesleyan Community Church**  
Bird City  
**Saturday, August 20th**  
10 a.m. to 12 noon  
Guest Presenter: Kim Zwegardt  
Casual Attire • Babysitting Provided  
Everyone Welcome  
For information: 785-734-2697

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# SIZZLING SUMMER

*Come & Go Bridal Shower for Christina Zwegardt*

**Saturday, Aug. 13**  
2 p.m.  
Cheyenne Manor  
200 N. Ash, St. Francis

**End Of The Season Swimming Pool Hours**

Sunday, Aug. 14th  
Afternoon Swim 1:30 - 5:30; Evening Swim 7-9  
Monday the 15th - Friday the 26th  
Lap Swim: Mon., Wed., Fri., 6:30-7:30 a.m.  
Open swim, Mon., -Fri., 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 21st  
Afternoon Swim 1:30- 5:30 p.m.  
Last Day: Friday 26th  
**Pool Number: 332-3410**

**Pre-Trip Vehicle Checks for Safer, Gas-Saving Summer Road Trips**

*Check that the gas cap is not damaged, loose or missing to prevent gas from spilling or evaporating.*

*To find out more about your car, stop by today!*

**St. Francis Equity**

**Station 785-332-2421**  
**Feed Store 785-332-2129**  
**Office 785-332-2113**

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