

Harvest could to start by end of week

By Tim Burr
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A large group of producers and others interested in this year's winter wheat crop attended the Cheyenne County Wheat Plot Tour. It was held at the plots south of Wheeler on Wednesday evening, June 18. The plots, well maintained by cooperators, Sunny Crest Farms, included 18 different varieties that were able to be viewed in side-by-side comparisons. The plots are a cooperative project between Kansas State University, Northwest Kansas Area Extension from Colby, Cheyenne County Extension, and the Smull family of Sunny Crest Farms.

Discussion about the various varieties, and information about the cropping history of the plots was given by Jeanne Falk Jones, K-State agronomist with Northwest Kansas area extension. Jim Shroyer, Kansas State wheat specialist, discussed the wheat, giving growing history and previous performance results for the varieties. Dr. Shroyer will be retiring from Kansas State this month, after more than 30 years working with the agronomy department. Most of those years, Dr. Shroyer had attended and participated in the Cheyenne County field day.

Information was distributed to those in attendance regarding the plot varieties, results from previous years plot tests, and information on new varieties being developed. There was also discussion about threats to Kansas wheat in the form of a new insect pest, the Wheat Stem Sawfly, which is a problem in Wyoming, and has now been found in eastern Colorado. Other concerns were discussed, such as weed pressure in thin or hailed stands, and insects or diseases which can be harbored over summer in volunteer wheat.

Most of those in attendance then moved on to Wheeler, where the Cheyenne County grain dealers sponsored a meal, held in the shop at American Implement dealership.



LUCAS HAAG, K-State agronomist, was one of the speakers at the county wheat plot tour held Wednesday south of Wheeler. Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

Enter the contest today!

By Tim Burr
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The 2014 wheat harvest is rapidly approaching. Certain fields and areas of the county traditionally ripen earlier than others, and that seems to be holding true again this year.

A field just east of St. Francis, farmed by the Bracelin's, along U.S. 36 near the Prairie Land facility, certainly has looked well ahead of much of the area. Fields in the area south of Wheeler, which often harvest early, along with fields in the Republican River Valley, are again looking to be ahead.

Soil types (sandy as opposed to clay), planting time and conditions, along with stress caused by the lack of moisture and later with the recent hail, all can be causes why the wheat will ripen at different times.

So, when do you think the first load will arrive at the county elevators? The Harvest Countdown contest is underway. To win the \$100 in script, you must get your guess entered at any one of the participating businesses, and soon. But, just as important, you can have braggin' rights for a whole year! Just ask Carol Redding, Ted Busse or Tom Williams. They have been bragging since last year, when they were the winners, and boy, they will let you know that they proud of it. Just think, it could be you!

Get your entries in now to any of the participating business in the Harvest Countdown. Participating businesses are: The Bank in Bird City; American Implement in Wheeler; Majestic Service, Pizza Hut, St. Francis Equity Snack Stop and Western State Bank in St. Francis.

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aken, they were dismissed to go to the park for a sit-down steak dinner. Rick Rogers had his golf cart available for rides to the park.

The steak dinner, coordinated by Chef Linda Ketzner and grilled by Eddie Brunk, Andy Beikman, Bruce Feikert, and Daryl Loyd, all St. Francis high school graduates, was delicious. It was served with a salad, potato, and homemade roll. The dessert was a decorated sugar cookie.

The plates were served by Saintry high school athletes. Mr. Keller noted that it was nice to see the young people interacting with the older alumni. One alumni asked how the committee was able to get the young athletes to serve? He thought their service was outstanding.

Music was provided by DJ Randy Smestad, which featured music from the 50's to today. Ione Slattery's tribute to St. Francis was also played.

The beer garden was well attended, and people enjoyed beer with their steaks and later in the evening. People were finishing up the meal as the storm blew in. Big raindrops fell and people scurried to their vehicles. Others were lined up along the west side of the courthouse and under park shelters. As the rain continued, alumni left for their homes, some went to Riverside and Diamond R and others went back to their alumni meeting places.

Continuing the celebration
This year was the first year without the help of Shirley Zweygardt, who had coordinated the alumni plans for years. Tom Keller, who had been appointed as the chairman of this year's alumni, presented her with the first lifetime alumni membership. Mr. Keller noted that everyone who had worked with alumni team had a greater appreciation of her many years of organizing and making the events happen!

The team began meeting after the first of the year. After a number of meetings, the articles of incorporation and by-laws were formed and the alumni voted to accept them 52 to 4.

Now, it is time to start thinking about next year's alumni. Those on the team this year, along with a representative from classes with

the years ending in 4 and 9, will meet around the end of July.

Mr. Keller reported that honor classes who have already appointed board members include: 1944, 1054, 1964, 1969, 1984 and 1999. Those classes who still need to appoint a representative include: 1949, 1959, 1974, 1979, 1989, 2004 and 2009.

Mr. Keller said having a representative from each of the classes will give a well-rounded number of ideas and suggestions. Some classes asked if the representative can be from out of town? Mr. Keller said he had no objection to this suggestion, but the representative will need to be able to attend meetings and help with the alumni celebration.

Classes still needing a representative need to appoint someone who is willing to serve, available to attend meetings, and serve on the board for only one year. When the representative is selected, contact Mr. Keller at tomekeller48@gmail.com or call 785-332-3991 (home) or 785-332-8516 (cell).

Look for more information concerning the next alumni meeting in future issues of The Herald.

SHERIFF

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they would be able to lower the department's cost by hiring two deputies to expand the workforce to cover the city and absorb the other hours with the existing work in the sheriff's department. They could make schedule changes and give the same amount of time to the city as it was getting with three officers.

Sheriff Beeson said that he does have the duty to keep the peace as sheriff. He was elected sheriff and that is his responsibility. However there are grey areas, such as investigating small misdemeanors; and then there is enforcing the city's laws, which is the responsibility of the city's police department.

Sheriff Beeson said he will always protect the citizens of Cheyenne County.



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