

Farm Service notes program deadlines

Adrian J. Polansky, executive director of the Farm Service Agency in Kansas reminds producers of the following program deadlines:

- Sunday, July 15 – Final date to report spring seeded crops, Conservation Reserve Program and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program acreages.
- Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date. Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster occurrence or when the loss first becomes apparent, and before disposition of the crop. Producers who have coverage will be required to report crop losses.
- Wednesday, Aug. 1 – Final date for nominations for the Farm Service Agency County Committee election.
- Aug. 1 - Final date to request 2012 farm combination and/or farm division for a farm with base acres.
- Saturday, Sept. 1 – Final application date for 2013 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program coverage on all small grain crops, except oats. Program eligibility may require coverage on all non-insurable crops and crop insurance on insurable crops.
- Thursday, Nov. 15 – Final date to report perennial rangeland for-

age (grass, alfalfa, clover, etc). Please note that this deadline is earlier than previous years.

- Saturday, Dec. 15 – Final date to report fall-seeded crops for the 2013 crop year. Please note that this deadline is earlier than previous years.
- In order to receive program payments, each recipient must complete adjusted gross income certification and consent to Disclosure of tax information.
- Emergency loans are available to help producers in disaster-designated counties recover from production and physical losses due to natural disasters. Producers have eight months after the designation to apply for a loan.
- On-going programs include Direct and Guaranteed Farm Operating and Farm Ownership Loans, Rural Youth Loans, Farm Storage Facility Loans and Continuous Conservation Reserve Program.

Due to budget constraints, Farm Service can no longer mail regular newsletters. Producers are encouraged to provide their e-mail address to the local Farm Service office to receive monthly newsletters by e-mail.

Contact the Farm Service county office at 462-7671 to make an appointment. For information go to www.fsa.usda.gov.

It's watermelon weather and plants are blooming

I am the proud possessor of approximately 1,500 old 78 rpm records that I accumulated during my days in the radio broadcasting business, which is another story. The story today is that one of those records is entitled "Watermelon Weather" and is sung by Perry Como and Eddie Fisher. The recording was made in the early 1950s. Hoagie Carmichael wrote the song and a gentleman by the name of Paul Francis Webster added the lyrics....

It's watermelon weather That summer kind of weather When people get together and sing....

It's a great summer kind of song; the kind of song you can enjoy during the season and kinda get the feeling of summer. You can hear the song on YouTube if you'd like.

Gardeners used to plant a lot of watermelon back in the day. Not so much anymore, for whatever reason, not the least of which is that they are perceived to take up too much space in our small backyard garden. The introduction of those little ice-box-size melons, as well as the small seedless varieties, has sparked renewed interest in growing them. The old-style large melons are seemingly relegated now to a few irrigated fields, planted by farmers with a feel for days gone by.

Watermelons were introduced in this country in New England in 1629 by America's first settlers, in Florida in 1664 by Native Americans and all along the Colorado River area by 1799.

Charles Frederick Andrus, a horticulturist in Charleston, S.C., set out to develop a disease- and wilt-resistant watermelon in 1954, the result of which was the long, light green melon given the name of Charleston Gray. That, along with the large dark green melon called Black Diamond, and the big striped one named Crimson Sweet, were the forerunners of true watermelon flavor, growth habit and public popularity.

Almost all of today's new varieties have a bit of Charleston Gray lineage. I remember Charleston Gray as the first watermelon I planted in my garden, and the seed



Kay Melia

• The Gardener

is still available in most seed catalogs and on most store seed racks.

But like most gardeners, I stopped growing them years ago. My excuse was the same as yours. They just took too much space, and offered limited germination as well as disappointing production. With the introduction of the small ice box types, I feel like many gardeners are rethinking their past watermelon excuses. They have become a novelty with the small sizes and the different colors, both outside and inside.

This spring, I planted a few hills of a small five- to seven-pound melon called Golden Crown, an All America winner in 1991. I chose to try it because it turns yellow when it is ripe. Can you imagine a watermelon patch with no thumping going on? With Golden Crown, when it's yellow, it's ripe.

We'll see. Right now, the vines are spreading and I even see a few blooms. I can't say I'm overjoyed at the prospect of harvesting a yellow watermelon after spending many summers growing and enjoying those big green and striped melons. And by the way, whatever happened to that big truckload of watermelons available every week in the parking lot of the local sale barn? And in some cases, whatever happened to the sale barn? Indeed, it is truly Watermelon Weather!

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day
Hi-Plains Co-op

Wheat (bushel)	\$6.33
Corn (bushel)	\$6.01
Milo (hundredweight)	\$10.20
Soybeans (bushel)	\$13.12



Jolene Hansen (standing) handed out game supplies to Ron Dible (left), Jeannette Dible and Chuck Austin Thursday at Spuds and Splits at the Red Barn. People age 40 and over come from

the Rexford and Colby area to enjoy baked potatoes, banana splits, conversation and games.

GWEN GRIFFITHS/Colby Free Press

Summer brings its own set of activities

Austin Johnson, of Cupertino, Calif., spent a week with grandparents Ray and Jackie Johnson and cousin Haydyn Best. They toured homes and farms of pioneer relatives in Dresden and the surrounding area. Haydyn and Austin drove to Imperial, Neb., to spend time with cousins Erika, Kuper, Dominik and Evan.

The fourth family reunion of John and Emma Huss was held June 16 in Rexford. A potluck dinner was held at the Rexford High School with an afternoon of visiting, and games of badminton, basketball and washers was played.

Hosts of the reunion were Madonna (Huss) Anderson, Gem and family members Cindy Neff, Comins, Mich.; Vicki Wark, Kalyn Weber, Chad and Dez Wark, Morgan, Hayden, Dylan and Lakin,



Gwen Griffiths

• Rexford Correspondent

Rexford; Rebecca and Chance Rains, Jaren and Braylon, Sharon Springs; Debbie Thompson, Austin, Texas; Lucas Morton, Wichita; Marty Anderson, Colby; April Vargas, Sienna and Stella, Colby; Tina Ohlrogge and Shane, Colby, and Mark Ohlrogge, Levant; David and Lori Anderson, Sage and Sophie, Owasso, Okla.; Dustin and Francis Anderson, Dustin Jr., Brooke and cousin Jenna, Arkansas City; Miranda Cook and Malachi, Conway, Ark.; Shawn and Nikki Anderson, Raymore, Mo.

Other descendants attending in-

cluded Emma Lou (Huss) Sattler, Herndon; John Sattler, Aubrey, Caleb, Hannah and fiancé, Adam Clark, Wichita; Jacob and Alexis Sattler, Hayden, Gwen and Lilly, Wichita; Terri Dechant, LaSalle, Colo.; Taryn Sattler, Herndon; Pat (Donald Huss) Glebe, Stratton, Neb.; Patrick Huss, Kansas City, Mo.; Paula Sramek, LaCrosse; Celene (Huss) Dunker, Ludell; Joann (Huss) Malone, Russell; Jamie Malone, Russell; and Jerry and Janet Malone, Leawood.

The Spuds 'n' Splits group met at the Red Barn Thursday night. They had quite the group when I dropped in to take a few pictures and it smelled like it had been a delicious dinner. They also spent time playing games and chatting.

I want to send out a big thanks to all who participated in the city-

wide garage sale on Saturday. I was pleased with the turnout and with how many Rexford families took part by holding a sale.

Don't forget about the 4th of July picnic coming up next week. The entire community is invited. The beverage and meat will be provided; each family should bring a side dish, dessert and table service. Due to the dry weather and the burn ban that has been imposed on Thomas County, there will be no fireworks, but we can still enjoy each other's company and observe the founding of our country together.

I think that's the news from Rexford for this week. If you have something you'd like me to publish, just call 687-2076 or e-mail griffithsgang@gmail.com.

Have a great week!

Colby native to be featured on medical website

A native of Colby and renowned brain surgeon, Dr. William White, will be featured on a new medical website, www.Barrow50.org.



William White

Dr. White is director of the pituitary brain tumor program at Barrow Neurological Institute at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix. He is part of the team at Barrow which performs more brain surgeries than any hospital in the United States.

He was born and raised on a farm near Colby and still operates the farm. Dr. White earned a degree from Kansas State University in 1963 and graduated from the University of Kansas School of

Medicine in 1968.

The institute is celebrating its 50th anniversary, and the website is part of its commemorative activities. Dr. White is one of only 50 patients, doctors and nurses chosen to be interviewed for the site. Patients travel from all over the United States and the world for the neurological expertise available at Barrow.

"When I first arrived at Barrow in 1970, the medical field didn't have CT scans and MRIs," says

Dr. White. "Over the years, the development of the CT scan, followed by the MRI and a variety of new technologies we use, has significantly changed the face of medical care."

"I'm proud to work at Barrow because we have the best technologies and medical team to take fantastic care of our patients."

To see Dr. White's full interview, go to www.Barrow50.org and select the 50 Years, 50 Faces icon.

Barrow's physicians treat patients with a wide range of neurological conditions, including brain

and spinal tumors, cerebrovascular conditions, movement and neuromuscular disorders.

Bridge Club

Meadow Lake bridge winners for Tuesday were: first, Elaine Ptacek; second, Katie Melvin; third, Margaret Danner; fourth, Sarah Jane Barrett; fifth, Gail Vacca; and sixth, Lyle Worthy.

We want your local news: e-mail to colby.editor@nwkansas.com



The Colby Free Press will be

Wednesday **CLOSED** JULY 4th

to observe Independence Day

(there will be no paper on this day)

We will reopen for normal business hours Thursday, July 5th.



COLBY FREE PRESS

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End of the Bolt

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