

weather report

65°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 4:48 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:14 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:47 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 56 degrees
- Humidity 44 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds south 25-32 mph
- Barometer 29.90 inches and falling
- Record High 91° (1950)
- Record Low 13° (1991)

Last 24 Hours*

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| High | 60° |
| Low | 43° |
| Precipitation | .29 inches |

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, winds southeast 5-15 mph, low 40-45. Tomorrow: Cloudy, 30 percent chance of thunderstorms, high 55-60, winds south 10-20 mph, low 35-40.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: dry, high mid 50s, low 30-35. Thursday: dry, high 50, low 30-35. Friday: dry, high 50-55, low 30-35.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400.MHZ.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Moisture can't save corn crop

Rainfall will help young wheat plants

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

Lots of rain this weekend won't help revive the corn crop being harvested now, but it just might help the wheat crop planted for harvest next year.

The 2.31 inches of rain that fell in Goodland over the weekend came too late to boost yields for the corn crop, which is mostly in the bin.

Yields are down about 30 percent compared to last year, said Erwin Jensen, grain marketer with Collingwood Grain in Goodland.

The rain did bring Goodland a half an inch above the average rainfall for the year.

The area has been sitting below the average level all summer. Goodland has received about 17 inches for the year, said the National Weather Service Office in Goodland.

Harvest is about 90 percent finished now, said Jensen. Generally, he said, farmers are brining in about 145 to 185 bushels per acre, and there have been a few lucky enough to bring in up to 220 bushels per acre.

The rain only served to muddy the fields, he said, and to slow the final harvest.

"The farmers aren't cutting right now," he said, "and they won't be able to for the next few days."

"While the rain will slow down harvest," said Lynn Hoelting, general manager at Mueller Grain Co., "it shouldn't affect the quality of the current crops one way or another."

It's the same story all around Sherman County.

The low yields are spread throughout the county, said Dana Belshe, county agricultural extension agent. "All the dry-land yields were really low this year for the corn crop."

The irrigated corn yields are doing better, he said, especially if the farmers were able to get water to the corn at the critical points.

But he said the yields are lower everywhere than they have been in past years.

The rain did mean good news for the wheat crop planted this fall, said Hoelting.

"Any moisture we get now is going to be beneficial," he said. "Moisture is always good."

Hoelting said the subsoil moisture was depleted this summer under the dry conditions and the rain will help to replenish it.

While moisture is always good, he said, there is a possibility runoff will hurt the newly planted crop.

"Because the rain fall was nice and gentle," he said, "it should only benefit the crops here in northwest Kansas."

Some wheat still might have difficulty, he said. Fields planted late into the season and in dry soil might have difficulty breaking through the surface.

All in all, he said, the rain should only help the fields that are starting to emerge now.

Leaders say they'll stay

WASHINGTON — In no rush to leave the Capitol despite an impending election, Republican congressional leaders say they will negotiate but not capitulate to President Clinton in this year's end-of-session budget and tax battle.

"He's basically saying, 'Give me what I want or I'm going to keep you here,'" said Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss. "And we're prepared to say, 'Fine. We'll stay.'"

The chances of avoiding that outcome improved as negotiators, working past midnight, closed in on a deal on one of the last big unfinished bills, a \$350 billion measure to fund labor, education and health programs in fiscal 2001.



Marc Cowles, an emergency medical technician and firefighter from Sharon Springs, used his imagination Saturday as he stabilized the neck of a little boy (actually a headless dummy) caught in a tractor's power take off. Penny Tedford (far left), from Goodland, listened to instructions on how to rescue the boy as other emergency workers comforted the "father" sitting in a tractor as part of the AgraSafe program at the Sherman County Fairgrounds.

Photos by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Farm accidents focus of class

Rescue workers learn how to save people from machines

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Shelley Boden said a cylinder in a piece of machinery crushed her teenage son's foot three years ago while he was helping out on the family farm.

Boden, a registered nurse at Hays Medical Center, is now project director for a new program in northwest Kansas that teaches rescue workers how to handle accidents involving farm equipment.

The AgraSafe program, paid for by a grant from the state Office of Rural Health Policy, held its first session for emergency workers Saturday at the Sherman County Fairgrounds.

Steve Evert, an emergency medical technician in Goodland and AgraSafe instructor, organized the program where over 50 firefighters, emergency medical technicians and other workers from eight counties spent the day learning how to save people caught in an auger, power take off, silage cutter or under a tractor.

Doctors were able to repair her son's foot, Boden said, but others haven't been as lucky.

In the past two weeks, she said, at least two people in northwest Kansas have been killed in tractor roll-over accidents and one lost a leg to a piece of farm equipment.

"It happens year 'round," Boden said, "and accidents happen in all kinds of weather."

Students spent much of the day trying to keep dry as rain poured down on the fairgrounds.

Benjamin Haremza, an emergency medical technician and AgraSafe instructor from Colby, said farm accidents are different from regular traffic accidents because it usually takes longer for emergency personnel to arrive and it's harder to rescue someone from sturdy farm equipment than from a car.

Because it takes longer for help to arrive, said Boden, more friends and neighbors have gathered and the patient's condition may have worsened.

The eight-hour class began with classroom lectures, but by noon emergency workers were busy using the



Kary Meyer, emergency worker in St. Francis, checked a dummy caught in a silage cutter for life signs Saturday before firefighters used hydraulic tools, a spreader and a bolt cutter to free the fake farmer.

hydraulic tools, welders, circular saws and inflation devices to extricate dummies trapped in, on or under farm equipment.

Boden said they set up accident scenes to teach emergency workers how to deal with all aspects of the farm accident, including upset family members and friends.

In one scene, where a dummy had its arm caught in an auger, Haremza pretended to be the woman's husband and hovered around his injured wife in a panic.

One emergency worker led him away, while others comforted the wife and protected her from flying

sparks as firemen used a circular saw to cut through the auger.

Boden said the program includes shorter, less hands-on classes for farmers.

She said one is scheduled here in January.

Lea Herl, a volunteer for the emergency medical service in Hoxie, said the class taught emergency workers in different fields how to communicate and work together in a stressful situation.

"Communication, that's the big thing," she said, "so everyone knows what everyone else is doing."

Storms drop lots of rain

Moisture puts city over annual average

By Janet Craft

The Goodland Daily News

Severe thunderstorms Saturday brought gusty winds and heavy rains across most of northwest Kansas and a few tornadoes east of Sherman County.

Rainfall amounts varied.

The moisture received in Goodland put the town over its average rainfall amount for the year, said a meteorologist at the National Weather Service office.

Goodland received 2.31 inches of rain, with the majority falling on Saturday. The moisture brought Goodland's yearly total rainfall to 17.06 inches.

"We are above normal now," said meteorologist Scott Mentzer.

He said Saturday's moisture puts Goodland .69 inches above normal for precipitation.

Mentzer said one system produced a series of storms across the area. Tornadoes were confirmed Saturday afternoon in Gove, Sheridan, Graham and Norton counties in Kansas.

Mentzer said at 1:30 p.m. (Central Time) a tornado was reported near Gove. At 1:39 p.m., the storm ripped rails from a bridge and did some minor damage to a barn seven miles north of Gove.

At 1:59 p.m., a tornado (possibly the same storm) was reported five miles south of Hoxie and at 4:32 p.m. another one was reported five miles east of St. Peter in Graham County.

Tornadoes were reported at 4:50 p.m. (Central Time) five miles southeast of Moreland in Graham County and ten miles west of Norton at 5:51 p.m.

Flash flood warnings were issued in Thomas, Gove, Sheridan, Rawlins, Decatur, Logan and Wichita counties, but no significant flooding occurred, Mentzer said.

Rainfall amounts reported by the weather service included: Brewster 4.35 inches, St. Francis 1.47, Colby 2.14, McDonald 2, Atwood 2.86, Oakley 3.23, Rexford 2.68, Wallace 3.62 and Tribune 2.51.

The heaviest amounts of rain fell in an area from eastern Wallace County in Kansas to eastern Dundy County in Nebraska.

Talk good after debut of guide

Thursday was the debut of the new expanded Goodland Daily News Television Guide, and comments so far have been favorable on the change.

Despite the fact planning has been going on for over a month, a few glitches showed up in the first printing.

The channel numbers are a bit confused with channel 15 looking like a second channel 5, and beginning at channel 28, the numbers are off by one.

Crossword aficionados found that the clues in this week's guide didn't match either the grid or the answers.

TV Data, which provides the listings for the guide, says they will have the problems corrected over the next couple of weeks, but hopes to have the crossword corrected for the next edition.

"While readers noticed the number mix-up, the comments on the new television guide have been very positive," said Tom Betz, editor. "There have been comments about how much more readable the format is, and appreciation for the advertisers who are helping to sponsor the weekly section."

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.72 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.58
- Loan deficiency payment — 0¢
- Corn — \$1.81 bushel
- Posted county price — \$1.67
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 32¢
- Milo — \$2.88 hundredweight
- Soybeans — \$4.04 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.86
- Loan deficiency pmt. — \$1.04
- Millet — no posted price; ask.
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$5.20 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — \$4.50
- Confection current — \$15/\$6 cwt.
- Pinto beans — \$15 (new crop)

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean.)

These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Bush says he can unite

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Launching the last week of his presidential campaign, George W. Bush said Monday he would unite Americans in a way Al Gore can't because the vice president's "vision of reform is to build a better bureaucrat."

"He is surrounded and supported by interest groups that exist to oppose reform," Bush told about 2,000 people in a rally.

Gore, campaigning in Michigan and Wisconsin, said it was the Texas governor who would be "a rubber stamp for the powerful interests." Summarizing their final arguments before the Nov. 7 election, each candidate also contended the other's plan would threaten the nation's strong economy.

"Prosperity itself is on the ballot," Gore declared.