



Harvest of dry land and wet land corn will get under way soon. Due to poor growing conditions early this year the overall yield is less than hoped. Photo by Reaghan Smith/The Goodland Daily News.

Crop prices influenced by harvest-driven market

HARVEST, from Page 1

...talking about harvest and the prices drop." Cook said the market has gone from a "weather driven market" earlier this year to a "harvest market." Prices are now based on nationwide yield, he said, and a high yield means prices go down, while low yield means prices go up. However, while Kansas has been in a drought and yields are lower here, other parts of the country have gotten rain and their yields are higher so the prices go down. One bright spot: Duell said the price of pinto beans is pretty good. Right

now the price is \$20 a bag, and a crop averages 20 bags per acre. "It would be better if it was \$30 per bag," Duell added with a chuckle. He said when he harvests his corn, he will dry it and store it in bins at his farm and sell it later. Sometimes, he said, he sells through a local elevator and other times he sells straight to a feedlot. Another detrimental factor to some fields has been the presence of insects, said Graber. Earlier this year spider mites were beginning to show, but at that time he hadn't had to recommend spraying. "Now," he said, "almost every field has had to spray for something."

Fugitive warrants issued for vehicle stealing couple

CHASE, from Page 1

Sheriff's Office, with support from the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has issued a fugitive warrant on Lambert and a second warrant is expected in the next few days on Pearce. The incident started on Wednesday, Aug. 8, when Lambert and Pearce are alleged to have stolen a pickup, fled from the Thomas County Sheriff's deputies on I-70, drove off the roadway, through a fence and into a corn field. The pair then are said to have held a

17-year-old Colby girl at knifepoint and have stolen her 1998 Ford Escort. On Thursday, Aug. 9, authorities found the Ford Escort abandoned at the Hoxie Grain Company and the white 1991 Jeep Cherokee was reported stolen. As authorities were busy discounting many varied theories as to the couple's whereabouts, the next solid lead was not to happen until late August. "We feel that right now we are on their trail and we are looking at every possible lead that comes through," Hopper said. "They are about a week ahead of us."

Colorado woman rolls car

A Colorado woman was taken to the hospital on Labor Day after she lost control of her vehicle on I-70, and drove it into the north ditch and rolled it onto the driver's side. A report from the state Highway Patrol said Peggy Graybel, Basalt, was

driving a 1999 Toyota Forerunner west at 7:22 a.m. when she lost control about three miles west of Goodland. The 44-year-old woman was taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center, treated and released. She was alone in the car.

Van veers off I-35 killing officer

EMPORIA (AP)—A van veered off Interstate 35 and eventually hit a Kansas Turnpike office, killing a woman in the van, the Kansas Highway Patrol said.

identified. The driver of the van and a second passenger were hospitalized in Emporia, the patrol said.

The patrol said the accident occurred about 7:45 a.m. Thursday when the van ran off I-35 as it was approaching the Emporia toll plaza. The van struck a post and traveled across exiting eastbound lanes and then struck two parked vehicles before continuing into the toll office building. The woman killed in the crash was dead at the scene and not immediately

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Experts study shoring up bridge

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Daily News

The district engineer for the Kansas Department of Transportation said it will take a couple of weeks for bridge experts to determine if the bridge on K-27 over the North Fork of the Smoky River can be shored up to allow heavier trucks.

The state reduced the weight limit on the bridge to 25 tons, posing problems during the upcoming fall harvest, when farmers will need to use the bridge to haul crops to the elevator in Goodland. The county commissioners say the weight limit should be at least 40 tons.

A joint press release from the Sherman County Commissioners and the Kansas Department of Transportation discussed the problem and told

what plans are being pursued: "We both realize the negative impact this posted bridge has on the local economy. Since the bridge is not scheduled to be replaced until 2007, Sherman County officials and the Department of Transportation are reviewing several different options to provide an acceptable alternative to allow heavier loads. Those include looking at making repairs to the existing bridge to allow higher load limits. Also work is being done to move the building of the new bridge up from the existing timetable."

Chriss McDuffett, district engineer, said the state has done some temporary work on the north end of the bridge already, but that bridge engineers are examining ways to shore up the bridge

for heavier loads. He said he did not have a real feel for how long this will take, nor how long adding additional shoring would take.

McDuffett said he was optimistic the project can be moved up, and he would be attending a meeting in a couple of weeks. "I may know more after that," he said.

The restrictions on the bridge of 15-20-25 tons, about eight miles south of Goodland, will remain in place until the bridge engineers determine if repairs can allow heavier loads and repairs can be made.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said the county is aware of the problem, and will work with McDuffett to assist in solving the problem.

"It is an old bridge," McDuffett said, "and one thing we are concerned about is that even if we shore up one area we may have further problems with other sections."

The bridge was built in 1937 when the highway was moved east. Current state plans are to build a new bridge east of the existing structure, but not for several years.

McDuffett said the bridge was part of an older program for replacement, but with the new comprehensive plan it has been made part of the major modification project for K-27 which is not scheduled until 2007.

"Right now I am just throwing out options," McDuffett said. "We will have to see what the engineers come up with, and can develop a plan."

Will Bush win over Mexicans?

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexicans think it's great that President Bush munches on tacos in the White House and likes to show off his accented Spanish.

But they say it's actions, not image, that ultimately will win them over.

"President Bush can eat all the enchiladas and speak all the Spanish he wants, but that doesn't mean we think he's a good president," said Juan Valenzuela Mares, 59, a retired high school teacher in the border city of Ciudad Juarez, where thousands of jobs have been slashed since January.

"We don't care about those things. What we care about is that he resolve the issues between our two countries," he added. Since he took office in January, Bush—who, as a candidate, used his knowledge of Mexico as an example of his foreign policy abilities—has been on a quest to make his southern neighbor feel appreciated and important.

He made the country his first foreign destination as president, paying a visit

to Fox's ranch in northern Guanajuato state, where the two leaders first planted the seeds of hope for a new migration agreement.

In a toast at Wednesday night's state dinner at the White House, Bush welcomed Fox—the first official foreign visitor of his administration—then gushed that the United States "has no more important relationship in the world than our relationship with Mexico."

Katia D'Artigues, a columnist for the daily newspaper Milenio, says she thinks she knows what is behind what some have called the "lovefest" between the two presidents.

"Love in politics has its motives... and there is a very special one here: The re-election Bush is seeking in 2004," D'Artigues said, referring to Hispanics' growing political clout in the United States.

In Ciudad Juarez, a city across the border from El Paso, Texas, most agree Bush and Fox have been masterful at creating what looks like a bilateral

match made in heaven.

But they wonder aloud if the smiles, hugs and bilingual platitudes will translate into better conditions for a city dominated by foreign-owned factories that are bleeding jobs as a consequence of the U.S. economic downturn.

When Bill Clinton was president, "At least Mexico had a lot of work," said Salvador Vallejo, 54, who earns a living making cowboy boots, a common staple of both presidents' wardrobes.

"All I know now is since the new U.S. president came in, you walk around here, and you see a lot of businesses that have shut down."

In Chiapas, a southern state struggling with poverty and an ongoing rebel conflict, people are wary of a conservative Republican president's intentions toward Mexico.

"The relationship between the governments of Mexico and the United States is focused more on business interests than anything else," said

Leobardo Cancino, a young lawyer in Chiapas. "We are at a total disadvantage, and the only one benefitting is the United States."

Both Bush and Fox have promised to lessen the disparities between their two countries by working together on important issues, including migration, trade and drug trafficking.

Juan Martinez, a businessman from Mexico City, said he appreciates the fact that Bush has reached out to Fox and said the warm relationship between the two presidents "has made for a healthy start, for the benefit of our country."

But Guadalupe Valenzuela, a 45-year-old father of two who has lived on both sides of the border, says he's not convinced.

"The only thing that's made Bush popular is his relationship with the Mexican president, but nothing really has changed," said Valenzuela, a salesman of American cars. "He hasn't really done things that have benefitted Mexico."

Farmers now eligible for crop disaster assistance

Bill Fuller, state executive director of the Farm Service Agency, an-

nounced this month that producers who had crop losses from 1994 through

1998 and changed tax identification numbers during that time may now be eligible for the 1998 Crop Disaster Assistance Program multi-year benefit option.

The multi-year benefit was based on a percentage of the total dollar amount the producer received, and record by the producers tax identification number, for combining crop insurance indemnities, Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, and ad hoc disaster assistant during the five-year period. Public notice was published in the

Federal Register on Aug. 28, 2001, and serves to inform all potential applicants of the revisions to the 1998 Crop Loss Disaster Assistance Program.

The public notice and forms can be accessed on the Internet at the FSA home page at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>. Applications will be accepted only through Sept. 14, 2001 and must be submitted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency. The applications for this special program must not be filed with your local FSA office, but rather, to the address listed above.

Refinery and workers reach tentative agreement

COFFEYVILLE (AP)—Negotiations between the Farmland petroleum refinery here and six unions representing workers have ended, with union members expected to vote on a contract proposal on Monday.

The Coffeyville Metal Trade, which represents the six unions that have members working at the refinery, began meeting with its members Thursday to go over the contract proposal.

Ken Heins, administrative superintendent at the refinery, said the two sides had met Wednesday and Thursday, before reaching a tentative agreement Thursday afternoon.

Dee Messer, business manager for the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 123, one of the six unions represented by the CMTC, said the contract proposal is a two year deal, with a wage increase in each year. It also resolves the difference the two sides were having over medical insurance coverage for the workers, he added. There are approximately 215 union members employed at the refinery. Their existing two-year contract with the company was set to expire last Friday, but they agreed to extend that contract for a week while negotiations continued.

Warden leaves Leavenworth

LEAVENWORTH (AP)—The warden at the federal prison here is leaving to serve as a regional director of U.S. Bureau of Prisons.

Mickey Ray has been the warden at the U.S. Penitentiary in Leavenworth

for a year. He said he had planned to stay there forever.

"I really intended to retire from Leavenworth," said Ray.

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