Farmers share dry woes

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type of losses we'll have this year," said Larry McCants, president of First National Bank in Goodland. "I think we'll see double or triple liquidations this fall and spring.

Speaking briefly after hearing the testimony, each panel member said they understand the farmers' worries because they've been in the farmers' shoes. They said Congress will try hard to help when it reconvenes in September. Until then, they said, all they can do is listen to the farmers' problems and pray for a lot of rain.

"We're in a very good position to get some type of drought assistance," Adams told the crowd, "considering the people we have working for us in

Several drought assistance bills have been submitted to Congress, including ones from Rep. Moran and Sen. Roberts, but no decisions have been made. President Bush has said drought assistance should come out of money set aside to pay for the new farm bill to avoid a bigger budget deficit.

Sherman, have been declared disaster

est emergency loans from the U.S. ond driest May, June and July in his-Department of Agriculture. But farm- tory, the first being in 1924, and the ers say the last thing they need is another loan.

farmer, echoed many of the speakers when he told the panel the money shouldn't come out of the new farm bill, but from the Federal Emergency after a natural disaster.

Davidson, who is touring Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska, agreed the drought has caused enough damage to be considered a natural disaster, but and there won't be any plants there to said his agency would have to change its policies to help drought victims. He said the agency only helps people who have been forced from their homes because of a natural disaster.

"Unfortunately," he said, "farmers need help. aren't being displaced from their homes, but from their livelihood."

Two northwest Kansas agriculture extension agents talked about how dry it really is here.

agent, said between May 15 and Aug. 20, a growing period for fall crops, the Many Kansas counties, including county received just 3.78 inches of likely end up paying double or triple rain, which is more than three inches that figure after the fall harvest, which areas because of drought damage, below the normal of 6.88 inches for is expected to be one of the most dis-

fifth hottest year on record.

Since the past few years have been Ben Duell, a Sherman County drier than normal, Belshe said, thirsty crops aren't able to draw on water stored in the ground. Those reserves have dried up.

"It will take several years for produc-Management Agency, which steps in ers to recover from this drought," he

> Roger Stockton, area crop extension specialist in Colby, said the ground is so dry it's going to start blowing away

"We're at an extreme risk of having a mini-Dust Bowl situation out here this winter," he said.

Stockton said farmers desperately

"It's time for some kind of intervention to save western Kansas," he said. "I don't think anyone wants to see this area turn into a ghost town.'

Davidson said the Risk Manage-Dana Belshe, Sherman County ment Agency so far this year has paid out \$97 million in crop insurance, primarily for wheat losses. He said it will

John Thaemert, president of the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers, told a panel of state and federal officials on Monday at the Kansas Drought Forum that farmers are in desperate need of drought assistance Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

year, he said, a total of \$159 million opened the forum by saying 38 percent was paid in crop insurance.

Davidson said the drought is hitting Colorado, Kansas, South Dakota and Montana the worst, but Texas, Oregon, making farmers eligible for low-inter- that period. He said it's been the sec- appointing in 20 or more years. Last Plains are also suffering. Palmgren said, "but now we're called wheat wolf today."

of the U.S. is in severe drought, and some areas have been suffering for five aren't joking when they tell how much years.

"These farmers can jokingly say 'We Nevada, Indiana and the northern High used to be called wheat growers," he said, "and I don't think we're crying

Unger said farmers and ranchers devastation drought has caused.

"They usually don't cry wolf," he

High winds, hail cause damage to Kanorado buildings There were no reports of damage in the stage, she said.

RAIN, from Page 1

office in Goodland.

By Doug Stephens

But, he added, we didn't miss out on the strong winds and large hail the storm spawned.

Mentzer said in Sherman County and west of Goodland. At 4 p.m., he over three hours.

The Goodland Daily News

said, drivers on I-70 west of Goodland reported hail and wind had broken car Goodland, Mentzer said, but a barn and

worst of it, Mentzer said. Residents say meteorologists were going to part of the roof on the old school house Kanorado today to check the damage. was ripped off and an accident at the there were reports of gusts up to 89 Collingwood Grain elevator apparm.p.h. and golf-ball sized hail north ently knocked out power in town for owns the old school building. Wind

Thieves strike store second t

other buildings in Kanorado were Kanorado seems to have gotten the nearly torn apart by the winds. He said

Peggy Witzel, who runs the Little Butterfly Cafe in Kanorado, said she blew off the part of the roof covering

"It took the wood off and everything," Witzel said. "There's just a big hole there now."

She said she plans to put on a new roof, though it will be expensive because the building isn't insured.

A grain dryer apparently blew into a transformer at Collingwood Grain, Witzel said, and wind blew down power lines and large branches all over town. The manager of Collingwood in Goodland wasn't available this morning to confirm what happened, and a secretary said the power is still out at the Kanorado elevator.

Witzel said the entire town was without power for three to four hours Monday night, but city workers had the lights back on by 9:30 p.m.

"There was major damage," she good job of cleaning up branches last night and this morning.

Witzel said someone told her they thought they saw a tornado, but there were no reports made to the weather

service office.

major wind damage across the Tri-State area, but there were no confirmed tornadoes. He said meteorologists are investigating a report of a small tornado in Cheyenne County south of Strong winds reportedly turned over

some rail cars in Wallace, east of Sharon Springs, about 5 p.m., Mentzer said, and wind and grapefruit-sized hail broke out windows and damaged roofs in Hitchcock County in Nebraska. "This whole complex was very sig-

nificant," he said. Two storm cells formed near the Nebraska line, one eastern Colorado this afternoon and near Benkelman, north of Bird City, and another farther to the east.

The storm started developing after said, adding that townspeople did a noon around Benkelman, Neb., Mentzer said, and started moving south, rolling into Cheyenne County about 2:30 p.m. It hit Sherman and Friday night," he said," and it seems Thomas counties about 4:15 p.m., he

'That's when it started getting really, Mentzer said there were reports of really dark," he said. The thick, fast-moving clouds al-

most completely blocked out the sun. bringing darkness to Goodland.

Once the southbound storm passed over I-70, Mentzer said, it didn't drop much more rain, but kept producing strong winds.

He said Sharon Springs received only about .88 of an inch.

While this area stayed relatively dry, there was flooding in Atwood, Bird City and Colby, Mentzer said.

Northwest Kansas could be in for another doozy tonight, he said. Severe thunderstorms are expected to form in move east over Sherman County and

"It's the same setup," he said, noting that there's a good chance for more rain

"We've been in a wet pattern since like we'll stay in it at least through Wednesday."

KC's Videos was broken into Thursday night for the second time in a month and this time the thieves got The burglars got away with about away with a computer and caused \$20 in petty cash.

about \$1,000 in damage to a back door. Kindi Bauman, who owns the video store at 1018 Main with her husband Chris, said she got to her business about 7 a.m. Friday morning to use a sun lamp and found the back door broken down and a computer used to keep track of accounts and inventory miss-

The first time the store was broken Bauman said, but she doesn't keep money around anymore.

enough for me," she said.

KC's isn't the only business which has been broken into lately. The build- movies or video games are missing me."

ing north of the video store, Picnic in from the store, and she will have to do the Park at 1016 Main, was broken into an inventory. late Sunday, Aug. 17, or early the next

Luckily, Bauman said, most of the files on the store's stolen computer were saved on a back-up, and have pects. been transferred to a replacement computer. There were a few items which was doing some work by hand until the at 899-5665. new system was up to speed this morn-

into — through the same back door on cifically for her store, she said, and

"I don't know why they took it," has taken a new security measure. Bauman said. "I don't see the motive. "Getting burned once was more than They won't be able to do anything with with me every day," Bauman said.

Chris Bauman said he's not sure how

the back door was broken into. It is made of steel, he said, and isn't easy to get around. The police are investigating the robbery, he said, and they told him they are looking at a few sus-

The Baumans encourage anyone with information about the crime to had to be re-entered, she said, and she call the Goodland Area Crime Stoppers

Callers can stay anonymous, and rewards can be given up to \$1,000 if the The computer stolen is set up specall leads to a conviction.

Bauman said she hopes the police June 26—thieves got away with cash, won't be of much use to anyone else. catch the criminals, but until then, she

> I bring my dog down to the store "Ever since the first time we got The owner said she isn't sure if any robbed, I make sure to have him with

Colorado not paying for water

WATER, from Page 1

of Kansas is entitled," Padilla said. Campbell's assessment of how long it will take Kansas to see any money comes as the state is struggling financially. Gov. Bill Graves recently cut \$41 million from the budget because state revenues aren't living up to ex-

But a 1996 Kansas law limits how the state could spend money received from Colorado to litigation costs and water conservation projects in the Ar-river to be depleted as it flows into

kansas River basin in southwest and north-central Kansas. In fact, south-central Kansas.

an increased flow of water is more next summer. important than money, because people assume attorneys fees will eat up most of the dollars.

Any resolution of the lawsuit with Nebraska over the Republican River appears years away.

Kansas filed it in 1998, and another special master has yet to rule on Kansas' claim that Nebraska allowed the

Campbell said a trial before the special Neufeld said for people in his area, master isn't expected to begin until

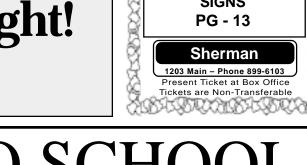


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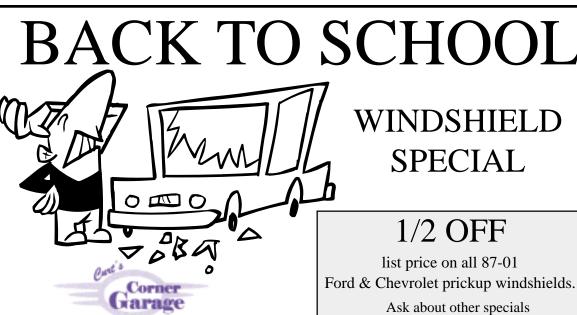
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