

Corn harvest could break Sherman County record

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planted Baalman said he not planting any wheat for next year.

“For the first time ever in my life it will be corn and beans,” he said. “I am not saying I am not ever going back to wheat, but that will be something to look at next year.

“I am a director for the ethanol plant at Campus, and like to grow something I can add value to.

“With wheat I feel like they are stealing it from me. We as a country have another wheat crop in storage.”

He said at a recent meeting in Hutchison he heard ADM was converting a big warehouse to store wheat.

“Dan Rasure can tell you about that,” Baalman said of plans to build a large manufacturing building in the Goodland Industrial Park that will be used to store grain before it is converted into a wind turbine plant.

Around Sherman County farmers are more than halfway down with harvest said Brad Cowan, manager of Frontier Equity Co-op.

He said the dryland corn is coming in above average and the irrigated is coming in above average.

Frontier Equity has already filled one corn bunker, and was quickly filling a second this week. A third corn bunker has been erected in the Goodland Industrial Park behind Finley Motors, and the city has extended power to the facility. Josh Dechant said he expects that to be the last bunker filled and the first one emptied.

The big covered bunker to the west is filled with wheat.

ADM has erected two big corn bunkers on the south side of the rail tracks as they are filling the first.

An estimate this summer indicated Sherman County might break the record for corn exceeding the 17,234,000 bushels harvested in 2007. The estimate was that as a whole Sherman County could have a record 20 million bushels of corn harvested this year.

Dana Belshe, agent for the Sunflower Extension District said he feels it is a very good harvest, and for dryland one of the best we have had. He said he thinks the irrigated is very good.

“With the number of acres planted we probably are looking at the best harvest we have seen in many years,” he said, “and it could be a record crop.”

Jeff Bhend, facility business manager at The Scoular Company feels this is the largest corn crop Sherman County has ever seen. He said dryland is averaging over 100 bushels



North of Caruso two larger combines (above) accompanied by a grain cart harvested corn in a large section north of County Road 14 and County Road 72 on Thursday. To the east three semi trucks waited in line to be filled with corn. Further north on County Road 73 a truck for Fred and Jeanie Schields was parked on the edge of the

field as a combine (below) worked to harvest a circle of sunflowers. The sunflower harvest is not as far along as corn, but the word is the crop is looking good. Sherman County apparently did not suffer as much from the hot, dry summer weather as areas to the east.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

an acre and irrigated is averaging over 200 bushels an acre.

He said the crop is relatively dry coming out of the field.

“As of today (Monday) corn is over \$5 a bushel,” he said, “and the price has been volatile.”

He said it seems there are more and more soybeans being planted every year.

Sandy Terry, crop production assistant at SunOpta Sunflower said the sunflower harvest is going slow, and sort of draggin its feet. She said on Tuesday the fields and stocks were a little wet, but that the cold might bring some frost. She said so far the crop that has been harvested looks good, but it is too early to tell.

Kansas Corn farmers harvested 598 million bushels in 2009, smashing the record of 507 million bushels set in 2007 reported the Kansas Corn Commission.

Yield was 155 bushels per acre, a record for Kansas, beating the previous record of 152 bu/acre set in 1996.

Kansas growers were predicted to harvest a record 607 million bushels this year, according to the Sept. 10, crop production report from Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service.

But in the most recent report the Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service said average corn yields



will be down almost 8 bushels per acre compared with the forecast just a month ago. The report said the

reduction was caused by hot, dry weather this summer.

The report is that the forecast is now that Kansas corn production will total 585 million bushels. That would be 13.3 million bushels below last year’s corn harvest. That would make the harvest this year second best.

“The corn yield is down to 130 bushels and that’s down 8 bushels,” said Joel Golz, a statistician at KASS, an arm of the U.S. Depart-

ment of Agriculture. “I think we’re seeing the effects of the heat.”

The 2007 record harvest figure came from the National Agricultural Statistics Service that shows a historic increase in corn harvest since the figures began in 1958.

Back in 1958 Sherman County harvested 438,600 bushels of corn. That increased to 1 million by 1965, and 4 million by 1971. Sherman hit 7.5 million in 1976 one of the few times in recent years that Sherman

County has beaten the figure from Thomas County.

Both counties broke the 12 million level in 1996 with Sherman harvesting 12.1 million bushels and Thomas 13.7 million.

Thomas had 22.7 million bushels in 2007 when Sherman had 17.2 million.

Last year Thomas had 19.1 million bushels and Sherman was at 15.3 million.

Board approves contract, sets meeting

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elementary schools, said Superintendent Angelos.

Board members Cochran, the late Andrew House, Slough and Wilkens have wanted to have at least one of the schools be energy efficient, secure and have an environment that encourages learning.

The board has spent the last three years trying to figure out what to do with more buildings than the district needs. Currently the district has four schools, Goodland High School, Grant Junior High, West Elementary School and Central Elementary. Last spring the district closed North Elementary School.

The decision behind deciding to renovate North School is that it is

the best location with the most available room, Board President Chuck Wilkens has said. North has more property to work with than West Elementary and is the best location. West Elementary is located within two blocks of a highway, which makes it more vulnerable to security problems. Since North school is closed the renovations would not impact students.

The architecture firm and the board plan to move quickly to try to have the bond issue on the April general election.

Board members Jane Philbrick, Amy Sederstrom and Slough supported the general election date as that would not cost the district anything.

Superintendent Angelos said

from talking to Sherman County Clerk Janet Rumpel it would cost the district \$5,700 for a special election.

The cost to the district for the architecture firm’s services would be \$84,000, but if the bond is not passed half will be forgiven.

The cost for the work at the high school would be 9 percent of the project cost. The work at the high school is included in the contract the board signed Thursday but the money for the work is not connected to a school bond.

Superintendent Angelos hopes there will be lots of community participation in the community meetings.

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