

# Long awaited tomato harvest has arrived

The long awaited tomato harvest season is finally here, at least a week later than normal it seems. But who in the world is counting weeks?

When the fresh garden tomato harvest begins, we count hours and minutes until we pick that first beautiful fruit!

No question about it, the tomato harvest is the most welcomed harvest of them all, cantaloupe notwithstanding, and we are finally being rewarded with Mother Nature's true delicacy. And we must enjoy the bounty quickly, because the first frost of the season is barely 60 days away.



**kay melia**

• the gardener

While most gardeners are enjoying our first fruit of the season, many of us who plant or transplant some of the early varieties have been picking for a week or so longer. The earliest varieties are usually producing in about 65 days, but the actual "first picking" date in Northwest Kansas is probably closer to 75 days. That's

another reason most of us refuse to plant the old heirloom varieties because it takes at least 85 days for harvest to begin.

As usual this year, I'm hearing a few bad stories about the tomato blights, just like I do every year about this time. The dreaded early blight or the equally fierce late blight seem to take their toll every summer, and there just isn't much we can do about it. You'll recognize it of course when the plant is stunted, and the leaves turn an ugly brown-

ish gray.

I pulled my first blighted plant on August 3rd, and there may be others before the season is over. A friend of mine has now lost 8 of the 12 tomato plants in his garden, several as early as a month ago. To say that it is discouraging is an understatement. The blights don't seem to choose certain varieties; all are fair game. Despite the efforts of the world's most dedicated horticulturists, very little progress has been made to stamp out tomato blight.

Until now. Please welcome Dr. Randy Gardner, a botanist from North Carolina State University,

who has released a new tomato hybrid called Mountain Magic. This small 2 ounce tomato is the result of crossing a full size tomato, with early and late blight resistance, with a grape tomato, with early blight resistance. Mountain Magic is said to be highly flavorful, highly productive and with good combined resistance to both early and late blight! It marks the first blight breakthrough, ever!

Strangely enough, Mountain Magic seed was available in several mail-order garden catalogs this year, but I sure missed it. Dr. Gardner (that's his real name) has actually

developed all the other "Mountain" named tomato varieties, including Mountain Fresh, Mountain Glory, and several others. As noted the fruit is small, but larger than most of the cherry varieties, including 4th of July.

My guess is we will now soon see a full sized tomato with good blight resistance. Dr. Gardner retired from N.C. State last spring, but continues to work privately to find greater blight resistance to everyone's favorite garden crop. Let's all put our hands together loudly for Dr. Randy Gardner, a true American hero!

# Round barn celebrating 100 years with dance

By Ron Wilson,

*Huck Boyd Institute for Rural Development at K-State*

Let's have a barn dance. That sounds like a phrase from yesterday, but today we'll learn about a family that is having a modern-day barn dance as a centennial celebration to honor their 100-year old round barn. It's a fitting symbol for a historic Kansas farm family

David and Delores Stump are owners of Springhill Herefords near Blue Rapids, Kan. They are also the owners of this historic, rural round barn which will reach 100 years old in 2011.

The farm where the barn stands was settled by Mr. and Mrs. John Drennan who came to Kansas from Ireland in 1870. While building a home for his family, Drennan lived in a dugout on the ranch. The Drennans had 10 children.

In 1911, the Drennans had a barn built on the place. It was constructed by Benton Steele, a pre-eminent barn builder and architect of the time. He designed the barn to be round and self supporting. The unique structure left no flat surface exposed to the Kansas wind. A trolley system was designed to distribute loose hay in the center for storage and a manger can feed 100 cattle at a time around the perimeter.

It was built for approximately \$3,000. The barn is 92 feet in diameter and 40 feet from the bottom to the cupola on top. The big hay mow could hold 230 tons of loose hay.

In the 1920s, the Drennans dispersed their registered Hereford herd and rented out the farm. Meanwhile, David's father Harold Stump, began Springhill Herefords in 1937. He rented the farm for five years when he was first married and then moved to a farm across the river. David followed his dad into the Hereford business.

In 1960, the Stumps bought the Drennan farm, including the historic round barn. Today, Springhill Herefords is a family operation dedicated to producing efficient

Hereford cattle that excel in the pasture and the show ring. They have more than 150 registered Hereford cows, 1,200 acres of native bluestem grass, and wheat, milo, corn and soybeans on their 3,500-acre operation.

This is a family affair for the Stumps. David and Delores have three daughters: Angie, Jami and Kim. Now all three girls are married and starting families of their own.

Their cattle business has its own website: [www.springhillherefords.com](http://www.springhillherefords.com). The website has lots of production data about the Hereford breeding stock for sale, and it also describes Springhill Herefords as "Home of the Round Barn."

"We use this barn every day," David said. "We start our calves in there and calve heifers in there," he said. "There's a hay mow in the middle and small bales stacked on one side." The old trolley system for moving hay is still in the barn but not in use. A concrete floor and working facility was added inside the barn a few years ago.

"It's probably 99 percent original," David said. "About the only thing we've replaced is a few boards on gates, shingles, and a few windows."

The barn is a striking sight, both inside and out. A cone-shaped rooftop covers the large open area in the center, surrounded by pens and stalls.

"I appreciate the historical value, but it's also a very useable barn," David said. "You can clean it out with a skid loader or tractor. As you use that barn, you really come to appreciate it."

The barn still stands at its original location on the farm east of the rural community of Blue Rapids, population 1,073 people. Now, that's rural.

This year marks 100 years since the barn was first constructed. The Stumps plan to mark this milestone with a special celebration on August 27. The local historical society will provide lunch, followed by barn

viewing, pasture tours, a barbecue supper and - what else? - a barn dance.

We commend David and Delores Stump and all the family for making a difference by honoring history while engaging in modern

beef production. Now - may I have this dance?

And there's more. Remember Benton Steele, the premier barn-builder? In future weeks, we'll learn about him and about other historic barns around Kansas.

Audio and text files of Kansas Profiles are available at <http://www.kansasprofile.com>. For more information about the Huck Boyd Institute, interested persons can visit <http://www.huckboydinstitute.org>.

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**Goodland United Methodist Church**  
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Pastors: Dustin and Shelly Petz  
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Sunday: Adult Classes: 9:15 a.m.  
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Pastor: Rick Holmes • 890-7082  
225 W. 16th  
(785) 890-7944  
Sunday: Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.  
Morning Service: 11:30 a.m.  
Evening Service: 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday: Bible Study Service 6:30 p.m.  
Thursdays: Adult Bible Study 7-8 p.m.

**Bible Baptist Church**  
Pastor: Clifford Middlebrooks  
Fifth & Broadway  
890-7368  
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 a.m.  
Morning Service: 10 a.m.  
Evening Service: 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 p.m.

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**  
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Sacrament Meeting: 10 a.m.  
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Spanish Speaking Church  
Minister: Esteban Ortiz B.  
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Pastor: Dorine Chambers  
Worship Service: 10:45 a.m. CST  
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. CST  
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Minister: Sheryl Johnson  
Worship Service: 9 a.m. CST  
Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

**First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
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Eighth & Arcade • 890-5233  
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Worship 10:30 a.m.  
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Wednesday: Prayer Class - Noon  
Pastor Carol's Class 5:45 p.m.  
[www.goodlandfccdoc.org](http://www.goodlandfccdoc.org)

**Church of the Nazarene**  
Pastor: Bob Willis  
Third & Caldwell  
899-2080 or 899-3797  
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service: 10:50 a.m.  
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Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 p.m.

**Word of Life**  
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1-888-781-3450  
Pastor: (to be announced)  
Services: (to be announced)  
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and prayer: 7 p.m.

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Sunday: Sunday School: 9 a.m.  
Worship Service: 10:15 a.m.

**First Baptist Church**  
Pastor: Travis Blake  
1121 Main  
890-3450  
Sunday:  
Coffee fellowship: 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship: 10 a.m.  
Sunday School: 11:15 a.m.  
Thursday: Bible study 9:30 a.m.  
Wheatridge Center

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
13th & Center  
Church 890-2115 or 890-7245  
Services: 5 p.m. Saturday evening

**Harvest Evangelical Free Church**  
521 E. Hwy. 24 • 890-6423  
Pastor: Brian Fugleberg  
Sunday: Worship: 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday school: none in summer  
Wednesday:  
Senior High 6:30 p.m. at church  
Junior High none in the summer  
[www.goodlandefree.com](http://www.goodlandefree.com)

**Seventh Day Adventist Church**  
1160 Cattletrail  
Pastor: Jerry Nowack  
Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service: 11 a.m.

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church**  
13th & Sherman • 890-6161  
Pastor: Darian Hybl  
Sunday: Christian education/fellowship:  
10:15 a.m.  
Worship Service: 9 a.m.

**Church of Christ**  
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