

Corn crops will yield something

Fall harvest looks to be better than last two years

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Corn harvest is just around the corner, and although the yields might not be what farmers wanted to get out of the crop, there will be something to cut in many fields.

Karol Evans, general manager of the Decatur Co-op Association, said farmers have brought in some soybeans and corn, and a little bit of milo and sunflowers, but harvest hasn't really started yet. It should gear up in the next couple of weeks, he said.

Fall harvest will be 40 to 50 percent of normal, Mr. Evans said. Some corn fields have been cut for silage already.

This year at the co-op, said Mr. Evans, they waited until the last minute to get ready for harvest. He said he thinks the crop will be minimal and the elevators should have adequate room in every location to hold what is brought in.

Ty Gerlits, Agrilience agronomy production specialist, said harvest and the yields are going to vary quite a bit across the county, even from field to field. There is going to be some corn picked despite the dry weather at midsummer, he said.

In some areas, the yields are going to be better than last year, he

added, and in some, worse. There are some places outside of Jennings where there are corn plants, but no ears set on.

He said he thinks a lot of farmers are going to pick the corn and find a decent field, others will think it isn't worth it. Mr. Gerlits said for insurance reasons, though, people are going to have to pick the crop.

"I don't think it will be a bin buster this year," he said. "I hope it is, but don't think it will be."

Way down in the southeast part of the county, he said, someone harvested 25 to 30 bushel-an-acre corn, well below normal. This year is going to be way down, he said, but it still has the potential of being better than last year.

Farmers have cut some fields for silage in the county, he said, but most of those who did are the ones who do every year. He said he didn't think any more farmers cut for silage this year than last year. Some farmers who normally cut fields for silage may have taken more fields than normal, he said.

Brian Olson, Kansas State University extension agronomist in Colby, said he thought about one in four or one in five fields will make (See CORN on Page 10A)

Steady rainfall delays planting, but welcome sight

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Streets filled with water, the grass got a little greener, farmers took time out of their fields and wheat started to sprout last week as the rain fell across the area.

Oberlin received .66 of an inch of rain last Tuesday and another 1.10 inches last Wednesday. Although some farmers had yet to get into their fields to plant wheat, and it made for a cool day, no one was complaining about the moisture.

Brian Olson, Kansas State University extension agronomist, said before the rain, farmers had planted from 10 to 20 percent up to a third of their wheat, and then they had to wait.

He said everyone is thankful for the rain, but it may mean some changes for planting. Farmers may want to increase their seeding rates 10 to 20 pounds per acre if they don't get to plant for two to three weeks, he said.

He said some of the guys were waiting until the end of September, but the rain might delay that.

"When planting wheat late," Mr. Olson wrote in his column this week, "it is always better to plant too

much than not enough, because it is difficult to predict what the weather is going to do."

Randy Coleman, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Goodland, said an unusual weather situation which lasted 36 hours had been caused by an influx of moisture from the Gulf of Mexico and the subtropical Pacific Ocean. He said that moisture hung around in the mid to high levels of the atmosphere. Then a cold front from the northwest stalled over the area in the low levels. The combination resulted in a lift in the atmosphere, causing moisture in the upper level to condense and fall as a light to moderate rain.

The heaviest amounts were reported along a line from Leoti to Hoxie to Oberlin to McCook, where 2 to 2 1/2 inches fell.

"It was a nice rainfall," said Mr. Coleman.

Reports from eastern Colorado showed only a half inch to an inch fell there. Mr. Coleman said there was some possibility of thunderstorms Monday night.

Temperatures, he said, are start-

(See RAIN on Page 10A)

Kids to celebrate Homecoming week

By LIZ BOYD

The Decatur Dictator

The days for Spirit Week are set, king and queen candidates named, the crown bearer and flower girl chosen, the window and float themes selected, and now it's time for Homecoming at Decatur Community High School.

This year's Spirit Week was decided by the cheerleaders. Monday found the students and staff still in their night clothes for Pajama Day. On Tuesday, they were dressed for Career Day; and since today is picture day, they are all dressed up for "Dress your Best Day."

Thursday is Greek/Boot Day, so students will be decked out in togas or boots.

Friday will be Spirit Day/Shake

your Booty Day.

This year's float theme, Greek Mythology, was chosen by the Student Council, and the theme for window decorating is candy, chosen by the cheerleaders.

The classes will decorate the cafeteria windows at the school today. The traditional homecoming bonfire will start at 7 p.m. Thursday, and afterwards, the classes will assemble at the high school to begin work on their parade floats. They will finish their floats Friday morning.

Homecoming queen candidates are Ashley Stragey, Trina Shields, Molly Coleman, Jamie Elwood and Kim Ketterl. King candidates are Gannon Reichert, Andy Anderson, (See PARADE on Page 10A)



FINDING SOME BARGAIN BOOKS, Linda Stanley (above) got some good buys and helped the swimming pool fund at a benefit garage sale on Saturday in the basement of the Oberlin United Methodist Church. Hope McBride, 6, (below) also found some bargains but she didn't want to have her picture taken.

— Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes

Sale raises money

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Shoppers came out Saturday morning to support a benefit garage sale for the Oberlin swimming pool.

Anna Shaw, a member of the city's Pool Commission, said people have really pulled together to support the project.

Many volunteered to help set up the garage sale in the United Methodist Church basement and then helped clean it up, she said. Others went through their homes and garages to find items to donate.

None of the items had prices, she said, so shoppers gave what they thought was fair, and often something extra.

At the end of the sale, anything that was left was given away. Mrs. Shaw said volunteers went through every item of clothing and got rid of anything that was stained or ruined. All the other clothes went to the Bargain Box Plus.

The toys went to Bev Reiter for the Oberlin Jaycees, puzzles went to the retirement centers, chairs and exercise equipment went to Sappa Valley Youth Ranch and material and sewing items went to Ruby Poe.

Everything that could be used was sent somewhere, said Mrs. Shaw, and the rest went to the



dump.

Mrs. Shaw said they called the county commissioners about waiving the dump fee. The two she talked with said they needed

to wait until the meeting Tuesday to make that decision.

The sale, she said, raised around \$2,384.

(See POOL on Page 10A)

Mini Sapa is here

Museum open on Saturday

Decatur County's Last Indian Raid Museum will come alive on Saturday for the 46th annual Mini Sapa Celebration.

Each year, the museum opens for a day of free admission, food, fun and games to mark the anniversary of the 1878 Indian Raid which marked the end of an era in Kansas.

This year, the county's 125th anniversary is being celebrated. The museum will be entering a float in the parade Friday afternoon for homecoming and the county anniversary. They plan to have an anniversary cake for the county on Saturday after lunch.

Curator Sharleen Wurm said the day starts at 7 a.m. with a pancake feed in the Old Bohemian Hall, which was moved to the museum four years ago. Since then, the board and employees have been restoring the building.

The breakfast will be by donation.

By 8 a.m., a bake sale will start in the land office. It will run until all the goodies are gone, raising money for the museum.

The museum doors will open at 9 a.m. and remain open until 5 p.m. The museum offers history on the last Indian raid here, the county, pioneer families and more. Out buildings include a sod house, school, train depot, grocery store, the Bohemian Hall, an old land office, a doctor's office, filling station, a general merchandise store, annexes, a livery stable, the print shop and a gift shop.

Mrs. Wurm said the gift shop will be open all day so people can stop in and see new items — and shop.

Games for the kids will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the east side of the hall.

Exhibitors will include a bakers market, blacksmithing and craft items. Mrs. Wurm said they will be there from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Exhibitors will be set up in the second annex and east of the hall.

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., there will be a pumpkin decorating contest east of the hall. The charge will be \$1.

(See MUSEUM on Page 10A)

Antiques will be on display

Antique automobiles, engines, hot rods and custom vehicles will roar into town this weekend for the 24th annual Mini Sappa Antique Thresher and Engine Show at the Decatur County Fairground.

The two-day event is full of activities, starting at 9 a.m. Saturday.

Liane Martin, head of registration, said the show has something for the whole family. There will be cars, pickups, tractors, stationary engines, garden tractors and motorcycles. Besides that, she said, there will be a really nice quilt show, crafts and vendors.

For the kids, she said, there will be a corn tank seeded with coins and train rides.

Demonstrations will include a corn sheller, threshing machine, stationary hay baler and more.

There will also be a garden tractor pull at 12:30 p.m. She said each tractor will pull a weighted sled. The farther the tractor goes, the more resistance there will be. Bob Steele of Atwood is in charge.

Activities offered both days include a poker run at 1 p.m. and a parade at 4 p.m.

On Saturday evening, there will be a hog roast on the east side of the 4-H building. Mrs. Martin said there will be entertainment that evening. The dinner costs \$6 per person.

The newest thing this year is that Jim Marshall, Calvin Ufford and Ray Kircher rebuilt a 1949 John Deere Model A tractor which will be given away. The tractor paint job was done by Nik Martin.

Admission to the show is \$3 for adults, \$.50 for kids.



PAINTING A FOOTBALL PLAYER on the window of the old Social and Rehabilitation Services office, Shelli Fortin was helping to get the Homecoming spirit going on Sunday in downtown Oberlin.

— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

* Crop will be cut Harvest to start soon

(Continued from Page 1A)
 a harvestable crop this year. There are some fields that have something in them and then there are others that have nothing.
 In Sheridan County, said Mr. Olson, he's getting reports from 20 to 80 bushels an acre on dryland corn. Eighty bushels an acre is respectable, he added, but many fields won't make that.

In Decatur County, he said, there have been places that have made 20 bushels or less.

August, said Mr. Olson, was really hard on corn in this area. Going into August, the crop was green, but then there wasn't any moisture in reserve. If the area would have received two inches of rain then, things would be different.

Even without that moisture, said Mr. Olson, this crop is still better than the ones the last two years. It may just be marginally better for some, but it still is better.

A lot of corn in the county, he said, was chopped for silage. Those fields were close on making something, but without the moisture needed in August the plants didn't make it.

The plants came up and pollinated, he said, but they didn't get the moisture to carry them through on the development of the kernel.

Compared to normal, said Mr. Olson, the yields will probably be down. This area didn't start to grow corn until the mid 1990s, he said. There were some acres of corn before then, but not many. In the mid '90s, the crop became popular. It was different then, because the area was getting rain. Average yields were 60 to 80 bushel an acre. That would be a reasonable expectation, he said; people would be happy with that.

The dryland corn this year isn't going to reach that, said Mr. Olson, but still it will be better than it has been.

* Rain fills streets

(Continued from Page 1A)
 ing to cool off, getting back to normal for this time of year. That is in the mid 40s at night and the mid 70s during the day. At the beginning of October, he said, the temperatures should drop. We can expect temperatures in the upper 30s at night and upper 60s to 70s during the day.

Although there has been talk that the hurricanes in Florida may be having some effect on the weather here, he said that isn't true. This recent weather was caused by moisture that drifted up from the south and west, he said, and the right ingredients were here to make it rain. The area is still in a drought, he added. The recent moisture helped, but most places are still below normal moisture for the year.

Mr. Coleman said he thought the normal in Oberlin was around 19 inches. The area has received 20.4 inches so far this year.



JENNINGS STUDENTS Collin Long and Drake Rowh got help from aide Mary Wahlmeier to choose which items they want as reading rewards. The school is running a reading incentive program for all students. — Herald staff photo by Kim Davis

Program rewards students who read

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**

Youngsters looked over the glass case at the Jennings School, checking out the stuff they might be able to take home.

Each student had points and they could use those points to buy prizes, anything from a Fort Hays State University license plate to Bratz stickers to a football.

Students earned the points reading, in school and at home, and they

then can use them to buy prizes.

The Reading Incentive Program is new at Jennings, though Aide Mary Wahlmeier said the school always has done some kind of incentive program.

This year, she said, all of the students are involved from kindergarten to seniors.

Each age group sets a goal, either an individual one or as a class. Each week, if the goal is met, they get to

use the points earned for reading to "buy" a prize.

In the high school, the sophomores, juniors and seniors are having a contest with the seventh and eighth graders and freshmen to see who can read the most.

If the students meet their goals by the end of the semester, said Mrs. Wahlmeier, there will be a school-wide party.

School secretary Lois Heilman

said the district is using federal reading money to buy prizes, since they are being used for rewards for kids who are reading.

Colleges, including the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, Fort Hays State University, Colby Community College and Dodge City Community College, have donated some of the prizes.

The prizes are on display in a glass case outside the gym.

* Sale brings in \$2,384 for city pool

(Continued from Page 1A)

This was the third fund raiser for the pool project since summer. The first was a hamburger feed held by the lifeguards. Mrs. Shaw said Raye's Grocery donated the buns for it and the Oberlin Jaycees cooked the meat. That raised \$300.

Then Rocking R and Fidele Electric and Woodcrafting had an auction together.

That brought in \$770. Most of the bidders wrote their checks for over what they purchased the items, she

said.

With the three fund raisers, donations, a project to win a painting by Mrs. Shaw and pledges, the commission has raised \$7,260.

That is a long way from the finish line but she said she wanted to thank everyone who has given so far. Part of the money raised, \$500, went to the pool evaluation. The \$500 isn't included in the \$7,260 total.

The commission is looking for ideas for fund raisers, she said, and anyone who has one is welcome to

come to a meeting.

Mrs. Shaw said she is starting the process of looking for grants. Almost every grant asks for matching money from the city, and the money raised by volunteers can be used for this.

No matter what, she said, the money will be used to either renovate or remodel the pool.

The pool commission, she said, was appointed by the City Council, but the members then realized there weren't enough people in the group.

It has now expanded to Friends of the Pool, which is anyone who is volunteering for the project. The group has put together a newsletter.

The Decatur Professional Women have volunteered to send the newsletter to at least one alumni class from Decatur Community High, hoping to raise some more donations.

Anyone wanting to donate money can leave a check at the Chamber of Commerce office, or in a can at Stanley Hardware.

* Parade will be downtown Friday

(Continued from Page 1A)

David Morris, David Barth, Jake Padgett and Lance Fortin.

The crown bearer is Nashon Copeland, son of Nathan and Angela Copeland, and the flower girl is Emily Howland, daughter of Caleb and Sarah Howland.

This year, the 10-year queen is Jessie (Long) Luck, and the athlete of the past is Chris Claussen.

Events Friday for the Red Devils will start off with an assembly at 1:15 p.m., followed by the parade at 2:30 p.m.

The parade will start lining up at the Good Samaritan Center. Unlike past years, the parade won't just include the school. The homecoming parade is also being used to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Decatur County.

The county has asked others to take part in the parade for the anniversary.

The parade will travel down Main Street south from the center.

Kickoff for the football game against the Rawlins County Buffaloes will be at 7 p.m. The Home-

coming queen will be crowned at halftime of the game, while the king

will be crowned during the dance later at the school.

Telethon plans started

Any group in Decatur County interested in receiving money from the annual Seeds of Hope Telethon needs to send a letter to the committee in the next few weeks.

The deadline is Friday, Nov. 12. Each letter needs to state the name of the group and for what the group plans to spend the money. The groups to receive money will then be selected by the telethon committee.

Last year, the organization gave money to 16 groups in the county. Letters should be sent to Seeds of Hope Telethon, Box 305 Oberlin, Kan. 67749.

The committee decided that there wouldn't be a walk-a-thon this year but are working on ideas for something to replace it.

On Monday, Dec. 20, the telethon committee will hold a soup supper downtown to raise some money.

Anyone interested in serving on the committee should contact Peg Smith at 475-2296. The group meets once a month and is always looking for new people who want to help.

The telethon, held in February, serves as a sort of "united fund" drive for Decatur County charities.

* Museum fun day Saturday

(Continued from Page 1A)

Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the hall. The menu includes pork burgers, polish sausages, brats, baked beans, chips and drinks.

From 2 to 3 p.m., there will be an apple fest, including bobbing for apples, caramel apples and decorating apples.

Mrs. Wurm said nurses will be on hand from the Decatur County Hospital to test blood pressures free of charge. They will be set up in the old doctor's office.

The Decatur County Ambulance Service will have its newest ambulance at the museum and will be doing blood sugar tests. Anyone who wants to check out the ambulance can take a look.

Training to be held

Training for new Client Assessment, Referral and Evaluation (CARE) assessors in northwest Kansas will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 7, at the board room of the Sunflower Electric in Hays.

For details contact Dick Brown at (800) 432-7422 or (785) 625-2037.

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