

# Wheat farmers face dilemma

A serious financial dilemma is facing many wheat farmers over the next few weeks: Would it be better to spray a fungicide on the wheat, or assume the crop is lost because of the freeze?

A fungicide application has to be made before flowering to control rust, which could cause the farmer to lose half the potential yield. Yet flowering is when the farmer will have a good idea whether there is any damage from the freeze. This, unfortunately, is the predicament in many fields.

Let's go over what we know so far. I have received multiple reports from farmers and industry agronomists who, along with myself, have split open wheat stalks to view the head. For the most part, indications are there is some damage but generally the wheat is in good shape.

When there is a freeze, though, a few degrees can make all the difference. Fields on bottom ground in particular will likely have more damage than those higher up.

Injured wheat heads may have an off-white to yellow-brown color with a water-soaked appearance in comparison to a crisp green head of uninjured wheat. To assess the damage, a farmer needs to split many stalks and see what percentage of heads are damaged. That will provide reasonable assessment for yield loss, although secondary tillers can compensate for the loss from primary tillers.

If you find there is not much noticeable damage, check for us. Ideal growing conditions of 50-60 degrees Fahrenheit with humidity have allowed stripe rust to grow very quickly in some fields, with leaf rust also increasing. A field checked for rust 10 days ago may look completely different now, so farmers need to check their fields again.

Following are some comments on stripe rust from Jim Stack, K-State wheat pathologist: "Stripe rust has



## Extension Lines

By Brian Olson  
Extension Agronomist

become more of a problem in recent years. The difference this year is that about half the wheat planted in past years when stripe rust was a problem was resistant to the disease, and that may not be the case this year. Much of that wheat was Jagger, which has been a stripe rust-resistant variety. The races of stripe rust this year, however, appear to be different than during those outbreaks, so Jagger's and other varieties' ability to fend off this race of stripe and other rusts is not fully known."

"Symptoms of stripe rust are long, rectangular stripes of small yellowish-orange pustules on the leaves. These pustules consist of masses of rust spores. Leaf rust pustules occur in a random pattern over the leaf and are usually darker (cinnamon) in color. Stripe rust also goes by the name of yellow rust. If left unchecked, stripe rust can kill the leaves of a wheat plant, so that it has no energy to form kernels."

Mr. Stack said the emphasis is on protection. There is a sense of urgency about this, he said, because we're at a critical stage of development for wheat. The flowering to soft dough stage is where the biggest impact to yields occurs, but by law, we can apply fungicides only up to flowering.

Therefore, he recommends:  
• If farmers see no symptoms of stripe rust, they should check their wheat closely every two days.

• If they find stripe rust on lower leaves, they should evaluate their crop's susceptibility, which is determined by the variety of wheat, the

near-term weather forecasts and the stage of development. Stripe rust ratings for each variety can be found in the publication "Wheat Variety Disease and Insect Ratings."

• If farmers find stripe rust on the upper two leaves, they should apply a fungicide. Fungicide options include Headline, Stratego, Quadris and Tilt.

• If a farmer finds that half of the flag leaf on the plants is destroyed, they should save their money and not spray.

Stack said that other diseases have also popped up around the state, but right now stripe rust is the biggest threat. Leaf rust is also present in some fields, but it favors warmer weather. To stop the rust, the area needs hot and dry weather. However, we all know that can cut into yields by shutting down the wheat plant.

All in all, there are many decisions farmers need to make. Hopefully in the end, Mother Nature will allow us to get this crop in the bin.

For more information on stripe and leaf rust or wheat variety ratings for these diseases, go to [www.oznet.ksu.edu/agronomy-block2/](http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/agronomy-block2/) or visit your county extension office to pick up a copy.

Brian Olson is Kansas State University extension agronomist for Decatur, Gove, Norton, Sheridan, and Trego counties. E-mail [bolson@oznet.ksu.edu](mailto:bolson@oznet.ksu.edu) if you have any questions or would like to see a newspaper article. For more information, contact the county extension office, 475-8121.

# Students enjoy trip

## Vocal students have chilly but fun time

By JUSTINE MILLER

Chills and thrills were some of the feelings and thoughts of the Decatur Community vocal students during the vocal trip last weekend.

Saturday, April 30, after state Music Festival, the vocal students loaded up in buses and headed to Manhattan to eat supper at the Manhattan mall. We had an hour to eat and shop. Sarah Olson and Allie Moore met up with some of the students to say "hi."

We loaded up again to head to Kansas City. It took around two hours to get to the Comfort Inn in Kansas City, where we stayed for two nights.

Sunday we woke up bright and early to get ready, and arrived at Worlds of Fun around 10:30 a.m. It was a very chilly day to be there, but we survived. We stayed at Worlds of Fun until 4:30 p.m.

"I enjoyed all the rides, especially the roller coasters," said Bethany Weishapl.

After we finished at Worlds of Fun we went back to the hotel to get dressed for "Aida," which was showing at the Kansas City Music Hall.

Carol Miller, a sponsor, said that she would love to sponsor another trip just to go and see a live musical again.

"I liked 'Aida' because it was a new experience for me," said Sharee Dempewolf.

After we watched "Aida," everyone went back to the hotel and headed for bed. We woke up around 6:30 a.m. and climbed back on the bus at 8 a.m. to travel back home.

On our way we stopped at the Rolling Hills Refuge in Salina.

"Seeing the animals that we don't normally see was awesome," said Kelsey Gallentine.

We also went to the Rolling Hills Museum

After a fun, educational trip, we arrived home around 6 p.m.

Voice of Decatur Community High School

# Decatur Dictator

By the DCHS Dictator Staff

# 15 superior ratings received at festival

By MARCIMATCHETT

State Music Festival was held in Concordia on April 30. Decatur Community High School received fifteen superior ratings, twelve excellent ratings, and one good rating.

Students receiving superior or I ratings for their vocal or instrumental performances were Karyn Jordan, clarinet; Rebecca Helm, flute; Marci Matchett, flute; clarinet trio consisting of Karyn Jordan, Jessica Bremer, and Aaron Helm; flute trio consisting of Marci Matchett, Rebecca Helm, and Jenny Hirsch; Anthony Marshall, trumpet; Chanté ensemble, "She Sings"; Andy Leitner, voice; Kenzie Fisher, voice; DCHS Singers; Jeremy Tally, voice; men's quartet consisting of Kellen Doeden, David Morris, Anthony Marshall and Jeremy Tally; David Morris, voice; and Anthony Marshall, voice.

Students receiving excellent or II ratings for their vocal or instrumental performances were Jessica Bremer, clarinet; Amie Ritter, flute,

Katrina Wentz, flute; saxophone quartet consisting of Jenny Hirsch, Andy Leitner, Andrew Dempewolf, and Sarah Marcuson; "Hope" ensemble; "Wateris Wide" ensemble; Jessica Bremer, voice; Molly Coleman, voice; Destry Jackson, voice; Tricia Dorshorst, voice; Anne Wasson, voice; and Jenny Hirsch, voice.

Receiving a good or III rating vocal solo, Kaitlyn Stapp

"I was very proud and excited at the students' accomplishments and performances," said Deanne Spanier, instrumental instructor.

Susan Nelson, vocal instructor, said, "State music challenged our students to perform their very best. All of the students made a great effort."

Awards for both vocal and band performances will be given out at the music awards assembly to be held Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium. This will be followed at about 7:30 p.m. with a vocal concert.

# School Menus

May 16-20 OBERLIN	PRAIRIE HEIGHTS
<p><b>Monday</b> — Lunch: chicken strips. <b>Tuesday</b> — Lunch: tacos. <b>Wednesday</b> — Lunch: beef and noodles. <b>Thursday</b> — Lunch: Salisbury steak. <b>Friday</b> — Lunch: cook's choice. Breakfast menu this month is cook's choice. Milk served with all meals. Choice bar served with all lunches.</p>	<p>Breakfast is served daily: toast, cereal, juice. Lunches: <b>Monday</b> — sloppy joes, Doritos, corn, Mandarin oranges, brownies. <b>Tuesday</b> — Crisпитos, green beans, peaches. <b>Wednesday</b> — Frito pies, refried beans, pineapple, cookies. <b>Thursday</b> — pizza, green beans, apple-sauce. <b>Friday</b> — Awards Day (no lunch). Milk served with all meals. Salad bar served with all lunches.</p>

# Mount Pleasant News

By Dianne Bremer

Elwood and Jeanie May and Wilma May attended commencement exercises Friday morning at the University of Nebraska at Kearney for Stephanie May who received a degree in Elementary Education and Early Childhood Unified. They left for Kearney on Thursday and returned home Friday after graduation ceremonies.

Norman and Joanne Wendelin drove to Seward, Neb., on Friday where they hosted a pre-graduation supper honoring Ladd Wendelin and guests Greta Wendelin and Jessica Kuhl. Later that evening, they attended Baccalaureate at St. John's followed by an organ and Acapella Choir concert. Saturday morning, they attended commencement exercises at Concordia University where Ladd received a Bachelor of Arts in Communications.

The Oberlin high school speech team placed 5th in the State Speech competitions in Newton on Saturday. Among those attending were Rory Wendelin, Jessica Bremer, and Kelly Olson. Jessica competed in extemporaneous speaking, Rory broke into semi-finals in her humorous solo acting, and Kelly Olson and

David Morris placed 5th in duet acting.

Robert and Diane Muirhead, Alex, Rachael, and Erin, Colby, were Saturday guests of Karolyn Muirhead to celebrate an early Mother's Day. Rebecca Muirhead was unable to attend since she was competing at State Speech in Topeka on Saturday in the 4-A high schools division.

Zach May was a Friday overnight guest of Kade Brown, and they enjoyed golfing both Friday and Saturday.

Alvina Unger, Bob and Shirley Gaede, San Antonio, Texas, Duane and Lois Unger, Colby, Ralph and Norma Unger, Butch and Colleen Rittmann, Christian and Rielly, Ryan Unger, and Darci Zweigard, St. Francis, enjoyed a family dinner together and an afternoon of visiting on Mother's Day.

Willard and Irene Shaw, California, and his sister, Laurene Van Otterlou, were Wednesday evening dinner guests of Ralph and Violet Shaw.

Wayne and Lois Larson visited Jay and Suzanne Cooper and Ian Crane in Wichita on Saturday where

they took in the Riverfest activities. Sunday, they all enjoyed Mother's Day dinner at the home of Bill and Bonnie Condit in Winfield. Also attending was Eowyn Crane, also of Winfield.

Mother's Day dinner guests of Ralph and Violet Shaw were Thelma Spiers, the Richard Shaw family, and the Joel Shaw family.

Mother's Day dinner guests of Lois Carlson were John and Edith Tate and the Jay Tate family who brought dinner with them.

Arthur and Alice May enjoyed Mother's Day dinner at the John Bremer home and later attended a spring piano recital by Cheryl Metcalf's piano students.

The students of Cheryl Metcalf presented a spring piano recital Sunday afternoon at the Oberlin Gateway Center. Among those playing solos were Hannah and Zach May, Ryan May, Elizabeth and Hunter Nedland, David, Michael and Britta Noren, and Jessica Bremer.

Greta Wendelin left Monday for a two-week London-Paris study tour with 26 other students from Concordia University, Seward, Neb.

# McGraw News

By Quincy Scott

Gerald and Sines, McCook, and Mr. and Mrs. Bart Snyder visited George and Carolyn Launchbaugh on May 7.

On Sunday, Steve and Kathy Launchbaugh traveled to Detroit, Mich. Their son, G.G., will be graduating from college there on May 13 with a degree in Industrial Engineering. Congratulations, G.G.!

# Traer News

By Maralyn Courange

Maralyn Courange attended commencement exercises on Friday morning at McCook Community College for her granddaughter, Sara Jo Ware, who graduated with an Associate of Arts degree. Becky Wolcott, a great-niece of the late Irvan Courange, was also a graduate and earned a degree in Child Care and Development.

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# Midway News

By Mary Lou Olson

Edla Olson will be honored by her family with an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday at the Good Samaritan Center in Oberlin, in observance of her 90th birthday. Hosting the event will be Steve and Arian Arnold, Mike and Nione Rhodin, and Galen and Lynn Olson. Mail will reach her at 108 East Ash, Oberlin, Kan., 67749.

Confirmation was held Sunday morning at the Herndon Covenant Church during morning worship services. Confirmands were Bill Reuther, son of Pastor Keith and Sandy Reuther; Sarah Grafel, daughter of Kyle and Cindi Grafel, and Elijah Jones, son of Greg and Gwen Jones.

Bob and Sally Olson accompanied Bob and Annette Frenzl of Salina to Mulvane, where they attended the confirmation of Amalia Marks, daughter of Larry and Deb Marks, on April 27 at the Catholic Church.

Jack and Mary Gutchewsky, and Sarah Uerling and Adyson of McCook were Mother's Day supper guests on Sunday of Kendal and Tammy Gutchewsky in Oberlin.

Maurine Barenberg has moved to a nursing home. She is the former Maurine Olson, daughter of the late Harry and Esther Olson and is a

former resident of this community. Mail will reach her at Western Hills Nursing Home, 1625 Carr Street, Lakewood, Colo., 80214.

Larry Gilbert of Omaha was a Thursday overnight guest of Dave Bergling. His wife, Sherry Bergling, returned home Saturday from Lake Tahoe, Calif., where she enjoyed a week's vacation with her sisters, Vernetta Leikam of Denver, and Leila Wasinger, Hays, and a niece, Lean Ross, also of Denver.

Jim and Jan Gilbert left last Monday for their home in Vero Beach, Fla., after spending three weeks with his mother, Doris Gilbert, and helping her get ready for her farm

sale, which was held April 30.

Frank and Margaret McEvoy met his sister, Janet Lee, of Anchorage, Alaska, at the airport in Denver last week. She is visiting relatives in Kansas and Nebraska.

Wesley and Eulaine Benda, and Keith and Mary Lou Olson were Mother's Day dinner guests of Mark and Barbara Olson, Kurt and Mary Rachel on Sunday at the Frontier Restaurant in Oberlin, after which all attended the piano recital of students of Cheryl Metcalf at The Gateway, in which Mary Rachel participated. Joining them were Gerald and Patti Benda.

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