

## Crop sets record for Co-op elevators

By KIMBERLY DAVIS  
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A bumper crop? With wheat harvest winding down, some elevators in the county report a record-breaking year.

At Decatur Co-op, General Manager Doug Claussen, said the old record was 3.26 million bushels in 2003. This year, though, the elevator has brought in 4 million bushels and harvest probably won't be done until today.

The harvest would have ended earlier, he said, but the little bit of rain Sunday night

slowed things down some.

Things went well this year, he said. Besides the amount of wheat, there weren't any accidents and none of the employees suffered from heat stroke. The co-op didn't experience any major equipment problems, said Mr. Claussen.

The biggest challenger was that they had to put wheat on the ground at elevators in Ludell and Herndon because both filled.

The co-op bought and sold about 25 percent of the wheat with forward contracts and cash sales, he said, adding that that number will probably increase as the futures mar-

ket continues to hold the value over \$5 a bushel. On Monday, he said, it was at \$5.26, a high figure for the end of harvest.

Now, said Mr. Claussen, the biggest challenge will be getting enough rail cars to ship wheat out to make room for what could be a big fall harvest.

Although the co-op has loaded cars steadily throughout harvest, there are lots of elevators in northwest Kansas that had record crops and they all need the cars to move that grain out. It's difficult for a shortline railroad to get all of the cars they need, he said, although the co-op does have

some scheduled.

To steal a quote from Kansas State University experts, he said, "We are in the golden era of agriculture, in my opinion."

It was a long time coming, he added. Mr. Claussen said they appreciate all the farmers who chose to use Decatur Co-op as their delivery point and will continue to provide the best service possible.

At D&S Grain in Traer, co-owner Dan Grafel said this harvest had been probably twice as big in bushels compared to last year. The elevator took in right around 300,000 bushels, he said, with the last customer

dumping Monday morning.

Mr. Grafel said he thought everyone seemed pleasantly surprised with the yields, although there was some hail and other damage in some fields.

The average on the yields was probably in the low 50s per acre, with the average on the test weights right at 59.

Now, he said, they will need to get the wheat sold and shipped, based on the space they think they need for corn. Traer didn't catch the recent rains, he said, but farmers in the area are going to need one for their dryland crops.

## Cool air, rain keep water in city's tower

With timely rains and cooler temperatures, the City of Oberlin has avoided watering restrictions so far this summer, although water users have met the 700,000-gallon trigger.

Last year, even/odd water restrictions started at the end of May when the trigger was met for several consecutive days. Although the trigger for a warning has been met at least once since the middle of June, use hasn't stayed above 700,000 gallons a day for long enough for the city to go to its emergency water plan.

City Administrator Gary Shike said even if the council hasn't declares a water emergency, people should still conserve water.

Use good judgment, he said, when dealing with water. Don't water in the heat of the day or when it is windy, because most of it will be wasted. Mr. Shike added that people should be careful not to water the street, sidewalks or driveways.

Also, he said, don't water when it isn't needed. A yard doesn't need to be watered every day.

On the even/odd system, people get to use outdoor water every other day with the exception of Mondays, when no watering is allowed. People with even addresses can water Wednesday, Friday and Sundays and those with odd addresses can water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. People can water from midnight to 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. to midnight on their designated days.

Sunday night, a storm rolled in, dropping about .4 of an inch of rain in town. The forecast from the National Weather Service in Goodland showed a chance of rain on Monday and Tuesday this week, with the highs staying under 90 degrees most days.

Mr. Shike said the city used:

- 691,000 gallons on Monday, July 2.
- 643,600 gallons on Tuesday, July 3.
- 307,900 gallons last Wednesday.
- 559,000 gallons on Thursday.
- 469,000 gallons on Friday.
- 540,000 gallons on Saturday.

## Contractors open new part of U.S. 83

Work on U.S. 36 at the U.S. 83 intersection and on a bridge east of town is moving along.

Travis Scott, construction engineer with the Kansas Department of Transportation, said at the U.S. 83 intersection, traffic has been moved off the shoofly and back onto the new concrete on the intersection. The workers are now repaving the north side of U.S. 36 with new concrete east and west of the intersection, he said.

That will take two to three weeks, he said, depending on the weather. Before things are done in the late fall, traffic will shift around about five times. When it's time to do the south side of the intersection, drivers on U.S. 83 will have to detour around The Gateway.

East of Neill Avenue, the road will be repaved with asphalt to Penn Avenue.

Things are going smoothly, Mr. Scott said, and are ahead of sched-

ule.

The project east of town on the bridge over Sappa Creek is also going well, the engineer said. Workers are pouring concrete on the approach panels now and then traffic will be switched in the next couple weeks so they can do the north side.

In another few months, he said, the project should be done. One-way traffic is being controlled by stop lights, but there have been problems with those.

The sensors on the traffic lights aren't working properly, said Mr. Scott. For some reason, the sensors haven't been able to tell when a vehicle was at the light. Because of that, the lights were switched to straight time, which means someone could sit on the west or east side of the bridge at the light, even though there isn't a car on the other side.

Mr. Scott said they are trying to get new sensors put in.

## One shopper will win \$1,000 in annual spree

One lucky shopper has the chance to win \$1,000 by entering the annual Shopping Spree sponsored by Oberlin businesses and *The Oberlin Herald*.

Anyone 18 or older can enter the spree without making a purchase. Just fill out the small entry form at participating businesses and drop it in the box.

The last time to enter is 5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 14. At that time entry boxes will be brought back to the office.

The drawing for the money will be at the Chamber of Commerce Back to School Picnic in City Park at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 15. In case of bad weather, the picnic will move inside to the high school cafeteria. The drawing will also be in the cafeteria if that happens.

The winner must be present to win. Names will be drawn until a winner is present.

The one lucky person who will receive \$1,000 in scrip money and have from Thursday, Aug. 16, until Friday, Aug. 24, to spend the money. The shopper has to notify *The Herald* so a photographer can go with them while making purchases.

Sponsors for this year's Shopping Spree include Prairie Petals, the LandMark Inn, Flowers by Lee, Stanley Hardware, R&M Service Center, Raye's Grocery, Ward Drug Store, Culligan Water Conditioning Co., Addleman Drug Store, Dale's Fish 'N' Fun, Countryside Veterinary Clinic and *The Oberlin Herald*. All of the money must be spent only at sponsoring businesses.



AT THE DECATUR COUNTY HOSPITAL, Administrator Lynn Doeden (above) welcomed about 25 people before Chuck Banks, state director for Rural Development,

gave a big check to the hospital board. Connie Grafel (below), board president, and Mr. Banks talked about the hospital expansion. — Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

## Hospital gets big money

### Government loan will finance wing

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Surrounded by a group of about 25 people, the hospital administrator and board received a giant check for \$650,000 to pay for the building expansion at the Decatur County Hospital on Friday.

The audience included U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, county commissioners, Oberlin City Council members and city officials and others, all there to celebrate the financing for a specialty clinic expansion underway at the hospital.

Administrator Lynn Doeden said they appreciate the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Administration helping with the loan, which she called "a needed service."

The hospital broke ground early in 2007 for the expansion, which includes 11 rooms on the east side of the hospital, by the emergency room entrance.

This money is important, said Chuck Banks, state director for Rural Development, because it supports rural hospitals and communities.

Rural health care is a key component to quality of life, he said, urging everyone to celebrate the



opportunity the department has to help pay for projects in Kansas towns.

It is a pleasure to be back in Oberlin, said Congressman Moran, particularly at the hospital. He said he had stopped by about six to seven months ago and heard about plans about the expansion. Congressman Moran said he was happy to see those plans coming to fruition and Rural Development helping to fulfill that vision.

It is clear that health care is important to our towns, he said. If a community loses health care or its hospital, it loses people and businesses.

Congressman Moran said he had heard Mr. Banks say Rural Devel-

opment is interested in business ventures. If the department has any large grants for runways, he said, that would be great, referring to Oberlin's push to lengthen the airport runway to accommodate business jets. The comment met with laughter from the audience.

When someone sees good things happening in rural communities, said Congressman Moran, it's because of good leaders. Oberlin and Decatur County have people who care enough to make a difference. They want to see a future here, he said, so congratulations to them on this project.

"It is the people who make a difference in rural communities," added Mr. Banks.

After the presentation, Mrs. Doeden invited everyone to stay for refreshments and a tour of the expansion site. She said they are waiting on steel and lumber for the project to move forward.

The presentation was moved last minute to the basement because a helicopter was scheduled to arrive to take a patient to Kearney, Neb. The presentation and refreshments were suppose to be held in the lobby, but the patient was going to come through that area to be put on the helicopter.

By the end of the presentation, the helicopter had still not arrived, so refreshments were served in the hall outside the conference room.

## Congressman tours bus plant at Jennings school

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Congressman Jerry Moran used a day off last week to tour the Bus and Coach International headquarters in the old Jennings school.

Rep. Moran who was in Oberlin for a check presentation at the Decatur County Hospital, headed to Jennings to meet with Lois Heilman,

office manager with the bus firm, and get a tour of the building.

Mrs. Heilman, who said she had been school board clerk for 30 years, started working for the bus firm in 2006, the year after the school closed. The school district, she said, disorganized, splitting the land among the Hoxie, Oberlin and Norton districts. Congressman Moran

asked where the kids go to school now. Mrs. Heilman said the families get to decide, with some going to each of the larger districts.

Mrs. Heilman showed him the offices on the main floor, the newly remodeled bathrooms, the technology office and the cafeteria area, decorated in pictures of planes. She said the cafe- (See REP. MORAN on Page 8A)