

Corn gets boost from rain, cooler temps

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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Rains the past few days and cooler temperatures mean the area could have a respectable to good corn and milo crop come fall.

The rainfall over the weekend varied, said area elevator representatives. The Traer area got .20 of an inch, while Norcat reported 1.4 inches, Jennings about half an inch and Oberlin 1.47 inches.

Brian Olson, area agronomist with K-

State Research and Extension, said the corn is just starting to fill the kernels, so it needed a drink. Some areas got more rain than others, he said, but any amount was good for the corn and the grain sorghum, especially at this point in the growth process.

The yield potential for both the corn and milo is there, said Mr. Olson.

There is a little soil moisture left and the rains will help.

Some farmers planted their corn a little earlier, he said, and if they caught this last

rain, they probably have their crop made.

The area had a respectable wheat harvest, he said, and now there's the possibility of a good fall harvest, too.

Besides the rain over the weekend, said Mr. Olson, the 85- to 90-degree weather has helped. It isn't common to have weather this cool at the end of July, he said, but it is really good for the crops.

The average yield for good dryland corn is 70 to 80 bushels per acre, he said, but he's seen some that has the potential to make 120

to 130 bushels. That goes the same for grain sorghum, or milo, as well, he said.

After the kernels fill, the agronomist said, the plants need to dry down. If the area continues to get decent weather over the next few weeks, he said, the yields will just get better.

If everyone harvested 80-bushel corn, said Mr. Olson, they would probably be happy, especially compared to the last few years.

The timing for fall harvest is a little dif-

ferent than summer harvest, he said. It can start at the end of September and stretch into October.

It usually lasts longer than the wheat harvest because when wheat is ready, everyone is in a hurry to get it cut. That isn't the case with the fall harvest.

Farmers will be planting wheat for next summer this fall, too, and Mr. Olson said it seems they are a little more optimistic about the future and about this year's corn and milo crops.

Fair events start this week, go into next

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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Early events for the Decatur County Fair start this week with the clothing revue, where the judges get to see 4-H kids' work, scheduled for Tuesday and the horse show and competition on Saturday.

The clothing construction, buymanship and fashion revue are held before the fair so judges can see the work. During the fair, the same kids will put on a public fashion revue. The revue on Tuesday, scheduled to start at 9 a.m. at the United Methodist Church in Oberlin, gives the kids time to talk to judges about clothing they have purchased or made.

At 9 a.m. on Saturday, the 4-H and Open Class Horse show will kick off at the horse arena at the fairgrounds. The horse show is open to riders of all ages, featuring a variety of events.

By Tuesday, events at the fair and the home-owned carnival will be in full swing at the fairground just west of town. Kids will show animals, bring in baked goods and vegetables and exhibit every other kind of project imaginable.

Adults will also bring in projects, including fresh produce, photography, arts and crafts and more.

All 4-H and open-class exhibits need to be at the fairground between 9 a.m. and noon on Tuesday, except floriculture.

Throughout the week, the home-owned carnival, run by the Decatur County Amusement Authority and other volunteers, will be open nightly from 7 to 11 p.m.

The county Fair Board has several events planned for the grandstands, including a Gospel Hour show, at 7:30 p.m. next Wednesday, a roller demo derby and farm truck races at 8 p.m. Thursday, the demolition derby at 8 p.m. on Friday, a tractor pull at 8 p.m. Saturday.

Feeds set to raise money

Volunteers will be serving steak sandwiches and barbecue next Wednesday to raise money for the finishing touches on the new livestock building at the Decatur County Fairground.

Donations will be taken at each meal, with all the proceeds going for the livestock building put up this spring.

The first feed starts at 11:30 a.m. and goes until 1 p.m. at the Oberlin Jaycee pork burger stand. The Jaycee will serve rib eye steak sandwiches after the beef show that morning.

Everyone is invited to come eat lunch at the fairgrounds. The 4-H Food Building will be open for additional seating.

That night, a barbecue beef and pork dinner is scheduled for the dedication of the new livestock building.

The meal, served by the 4-H livestock and FFA families, will help raise money to finish concrete, remaining electrical work and buy additional fencing for the building.

Beef for the dinner was donated by Loyd Moore Inc. and the pork by Joe and Lolita Metcalf and Farm Credit of Northwest Kansas.

At 7 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 12, the High Plains Sprint Car Shoot Out (See FAIR on Page 10A)

Water use jumps well above trigger

Water use in Oberlin surpassed 700,000 gallons three times last week, the first week residents were on watering restrictions enforced by the city.

Under the watering restrictions, people with odd-numbered addresses can water only on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Those with even-number addresses can water on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. All outdoor water use is supposed to be between 8 p.m. and 9 a.m., with

no outdoor use allowed on Mondays.

- Last week, the city pumped:
- 716,300 gallons on Monday, July 23.
 - 809,000 gallons on Tuesday, July 24.
 - 626,800 gallons last Wednesday.
 - 832,100 gallons on Thursday.
 - 540,000 gallons on Friday.
 - 573,900 gallons on Saturday.
 - 300,000 gallons on Sunday.

Student enrollment planned at schools

It may seem hard to believe, but summer is almost over, and it's time to enroll the kids in school again.

The first day of classes in the Oberlin School District is Friday, Aug. 17, just 16 days away.

Enrollment for students going into seventh, eighth and ninth grade will be from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday at the high school.

Those going into 10th, 11th or 12th grades should register Monday

at the high school.

At the grade school, registration will be from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. Students with the last name starting with A to M will register Thursday, while those with the last names starting with an N-Z can register on Friday.

Some of the dates and times were wrong in an advertisement in last week's paper. These are the correct dates.



AT THE CITY'S OLD waste water treatment plant, a worker (above) with Liquid Waste Management cleaned out the old holding pond while (below) another man spread the sludge on a nearby city field. — Photos by Gary Shike

Sewer pond cleaned

A crew started work last week to clean out the sludge holding pond at the old city waste water treatment plant south of town.

Workers with Liquid Waste Management out of Longmont, Colo., started the work last Monday, said City Administrator Gary Shike. He said the job will probably continue through this week and could go longer, depending on rain.

Basically, said Mr. Shike, the crew is removing the sludge and applying it to a nearby field that the city owns.

Some people at the south end



of town might be able to smell some of the sewage, said Mr. Shike, because the holding pond

hasn't been disturbed in years and is inactive. It is now getting stirred around with a tractor.

When the old pond is empty, said Mr. Shike, another contractor will doze it in.

County moving forward

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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From a new airport runway to technology classes, economic development is happening here, the Decatur County commissioners and Oberlin City Council heard at their meetings this month.

Oberlin-Decatur Area Economic Development Corp. President Greg Lohoeferer gave both the council and the commissioners an update on what his group and the Decatur Tomorrow strategic planning group have been doing over the last few months.

Mr. Lohoeferer told both boards that he planned to update them quarterly on the progress of both groups. (See PLANS on Page 10A)

Road work starts south of town

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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Road crews are stationed at just about every entrance to Oberlin doing some kind of work on the state highways.

South of town, a contractor started a one-inch surface recycle on Thursday, heating the pavement and rolling it smooth. Workers were still working on it in the rain Monday morning.

With one-lane traffic through the area, people should expect delays waiting for a pilot car to bring others through.

The project, which starts just south of the city limits and goes about eight miles out on U.S. 83, is expected to be done by the middle of August, said Eric Oelschlager, area engineer for the Kansas Department of Transportation. By next Monday, he said, another crew should be putting down an asphalt overlay. That will be done by Monday, Aug. 13, weather permitting.

For the recycle, the road surface is heated in a "scarification" process, said Kristen Brands, district public affairs officer for the department. Basically, the contractor

Concrete poured on U.S. 36

Work on U.S. 36 in Oberlin is moving right along, with concrete pouring finished last week on the north half of the highway near the U.S. 36 and U.S. 83 intersection. Travis Scott, project manager with the Kansas Department of Transportation, said this week, the workers will work on the curb and gutter from the intersection to Pizza Hut, about five blocks. After that, they will lay asphalt and then switch to the next phase, which is the south half of the roadway.

Traffic will be switched to the

new pavement on the north half, and workers will begin tearing out the south half.

Mr. Scott said the project should be completed by late October, at the earliest, depending on the weather.

A bridge project east of Oberlin on U.S. 36, where the department is replacing the approaches, is about half done. Mr. Scott said the traffic flipped to the south part of the bridge after the south side was done. The project is five to six weeks from completion, he said.

Dustrol Inc., out of Towanda, has four large burners run by propane that are heating up the road, making the pavement easier to work with. Then a device plows up the softened pavement so it can be rolled out smooth, eliminating most bumps and cracks.

"This is the first step in the process," said Michael Terry, construction engineer for the department

"The final step in the construction process will be to apply a ultra-thin bonded overlay This material will provide for a smoother driving surface."

The estimated cost of construction is \$720,453, he said.

When that project is done, said Mr. Oelschlager, Venture Corp. out of Great Bend will start an overlay. (See ROAD on Page 10A)