

Wheat looks better near state line

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**

kldavis@nwkansas.com

As the weather warms up, fields of wheat seem to be greener and greener every day, leaving a lush covering over the ground, although, depending on the part of the county, some of the fields aren't so lush.

Stands of wheat, said Brian Olson, regional agronomist with Kansas State University Research and Extension, seem to be better near the Nebraska border than those farther south.

Some of the wheat seems to have just come up, leaving erratic stands in the south

of Decatur and Norton counties, he said.

There isn't as much moisture compared to what the area had received last year to this time, said Mr. Olson. The winter just didn't bring as much snow or precipitation as came last year.

There is some decent potential in some fields established last fall, before the winter hit, he said.

Yields come harvest, said Mr. Olson, will depend on what Mother Nature gives the area in temperatures and moisture in the next couple of months.

With the price of wheat so high, he said,

farmers could have a good year. The thing people have to remember about the price, said Mr. Olson, is that even if it's over \$10 a bushel, the costs for farmers is up quite a bit, since prices for fuel and fertilizer have shot up. Although the crop might be sold for more, he said, it will cost more and more to grow the crop.

The wheat, he said, is just weeks away from jointing, which will probably happen around April 10 to 15. That means farmers need to start this next week putting top-dress fertilizer on the crop. They want to get that on before the wheat starts to joint, he said.

People are going to see a mix in the fields, from good stands to those that are thinner. With wheat that just came up, said Mr. Olson, there's no telling what will happen. Since the crop needs cold weather to go through its reproductive stage, it wouldn't be worth tearing those fields up and replanting them.

Those fields with a more erratic stand could take five to six days longer to be ready to harvest, but that will really depend on when the temperature gets to 100 degrees and stays there, he said. At that temperature, the wheat will ripen quickly whether the

plant is ready or not.

In Thomas and Sherman counties, said Mr. Olson, the wheat doesn't look as good and there are more fields with erratic stands. Although Colby got a half inch of rain recently, he said, there wasn't much before that and there just isn't much moisture in the soil.

The area has good soil, he said; there just isn't any moisture.

For both Oberlin and Norton, the weather is expected to stay in the high 50s to low 60s all week, with no rain or snow in the forecast.

Officers hear changes

By **CYNTHIA HAYNES**

c.haynes@nwkansas.com

Township board members learned about the county's new addressing system when they had their annual meeting with with county officials last Tuesday.

Officers and residents of 17 of the county's 25 townships showed up for the meeting in the courtroom on the third floor of the courthouse.

Representatives from Olive, Garfield, Lincoln, Sappa, Roosevelt, Allison, Logan, Pleasant Valley, Prairie Dog, Jennings, Center, Lyon, Oberlin, Summit, Cook, Harlan and Custer townships listened to Decatur County commissioner Ralph Unger explain how the countywide addressing system will work.

"We're one of the last counties in the state to implement (a county-wide system)," he said, adding that the commissioners had hoped to avoid problems by learning from others' mistakes.

Commission Chairman Doyle Brown said that the system would allow emergency workers and delivery people to find any occupied house in the county.

"I know we can't find Bin Laden, but we'll find you," he told the audience.

The commissioners said that the system has not been implemented and a few wrong addresses are still being fixed. They suggested people watch *The Oberlin Herald* for news on when the system is ready to go, since the county isn't sure when it will be ready to change.

Some audience members wanted to know how they had gotten calls to (See BOARD on Page 10A)

Address system explained

By **CYNTHIA HAYNES**

c.haynes@nwkansas.com

Figuring out rural addresses has provided headaches for residents and officials as Decatur County moves to put its new so-called emergency address system into effect.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman wrote up the rules for township board officials and handed them out during their annual meeting with county officials last Tuesday.

For figuring the addresses, he said:

1. Incorporated cities keep their addresses except residences with rural delivery, which will go to street addresses.

2. Unincorporated cities will be addressed on the county grid. Local street addresses will not be used.

3. Residences directly off a highway will have that highway as their road number.

4. North-south county and township routes will be roads. East-west ones will be lanes.

5. North-south roads will be numbered from west to east. East-west roads will be lettered from south to north.

6. The west county line is Rawlins Road and the east one Norton Road. All other north-south roads will progress in increments of 100 on the section line. For instance, the north-south road six miles east of Rawlins Road is the 600 Road

7. East-west roads will go from A Lane on the south county border to EE Lane at the state line. (See ADDRESSES on Page 10A)



Kids celebrate Easter

CHECKING FOR EGGS, Bryant Gillund

(top) was scanning for goodies Saturday at the annual Oberlin Easter Egg Hunt. Shakira Cook (left) found something for her basket. Jenna Fortin, 1, (below) was more interested in eating than finding.

— Photos by Kimberly Davis



Health fair nears

Low-cost tests available to all

Plans are in the works for the Decatur County Health Department health fair at the beginning of May, with blood samples to be drawn for the event next week.

Health Administrator Marilyn Gamblin said the health department will be drawing blood from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Tuesday and next Wednesday at the office on West Columbia Avenue, next to the clinic.

Anyone who wants to have a low-cost blood screening, she said, needs make an appointment with the department at 475-8118.

She said they will be doing two tests, including a blood profile will cost \$25 and test cholesterol, thyroid, blood count and liver function. The other is a prostate cancer test for men for \$20. Ms. Gamblin said the draws aren't covered by insurance, so people will need to pay either by check or cash that day.

Anyone who wants the tests needs to be fasting after midnight, she said, with nothing to eat.

The results will be handed out during the health fair on Friday, May 2, said Ms. Gamblin. People can stop by The Gateway from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to pick up the lab work.

The health department, said Ms. Gamblin, used to hold a health fair every year, but a few years back switched to every other year, in even years only.

With the event only a month away, Ms. Gamblin said, she has started to sign up agencies to have booths. So far, these include the Heartland Lions Eye Banks, Living Independently in Northwest Kansas, Apria Health Care, Kelly's Home Medical, Hospice Services, Smart Start in Northwest Kansas, Valley Hope, (See FREE on Page 10A)

Papers to become teaching aid

The staff at *The Oberlin Herald*, area merchants and the National Newspaper Association have teamed up to provide a Newspapers in Education program for Oberlin students starting today with eight weeks of stories about the President Harry S. Truman.

Each week, the sixth graders at Oberlin Elementary School will integrate the stories into their school work. The story, "A Familiar Face," was written by Kay Hively and produced by the Missouri Press Foundation, and offered through the national association.

Each week, a merchant will be asked to sponsor the story, which will be printed in the newspaper. Sponsors will be paying for paper delivered to the grade school for kids to read.

The Herald wanted to offer this series for the students at the grade school to help boost interest in reading, said Steve Haynes, publisher of the paper, who is president this year of the National Newspaper Association.

"With more distractions all the time, kids need incentives to read," he said. "We hope to help the classes at Oberlin Elementary find the fun of reading."

This week, the story is sponsored by Ward Drug Store. It is printed on Page 6A in today's paper.