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Rain slows fall harvest in county

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
k.davis@nwkansas.com

Fall harvest is just around the corner, although the rain last week might have slowed things down a little.

At least one Decatur County farmer cut some of his dryland corn crop prior to the storms. At Hansen Mueller grain in Oberlin, General Manager Joe Derauf said they took in 10,000 to 12,000 bushels two weeks ago Sunday before rain halted that operation.

Mr. Derauf said the corn was dry at 15.5 percent moisture or less and had a good test weight, ranging between 55 to 56 pounds per bushel. Industry standard on dryland corn is 56 pounds per bushel, he said, though earlier corn sometimes is a little different.

The grain brought in, said Mr. Derauf, was all from the same farmer in the county.

Although Hansen Mueller does still have wheat in the elevator, he said, they are ready to take the fall harvest.

The rain, he said, has slowed things down, but allowed farmers some more time for maintenance and to get things cleaned up and ready.

In another 10 to 12 days, said Mr. Derauf, he anticipates harvest will be going good, depending on

the weather and the location. Some farmers are going to drill their wheat first, once the fields dry up, then start harvesting, he said.

Downtown at the Decatur Co-op, General Manager Kurt Anderson, said he, too, thought harvest is still a couple of weeks away. This year is unlike other years, he said, with summer's wheat still in the elevators. He said they are making room for the fall crops, including sunflowers, corn, milo and soybeans.

Although the co-op doesn't get a lot of soybeans at the Oberlin elevator, he said, they do in Danbury, Norcat and Lenora, where more farmers have planted them. It's the same with sunflowers, except that crop is mostly planted around Oberlin.

The co-op, said Mr. Anderson, will have all its locations open for fall harvest with the exception of Ludell, which is still full of wheat.

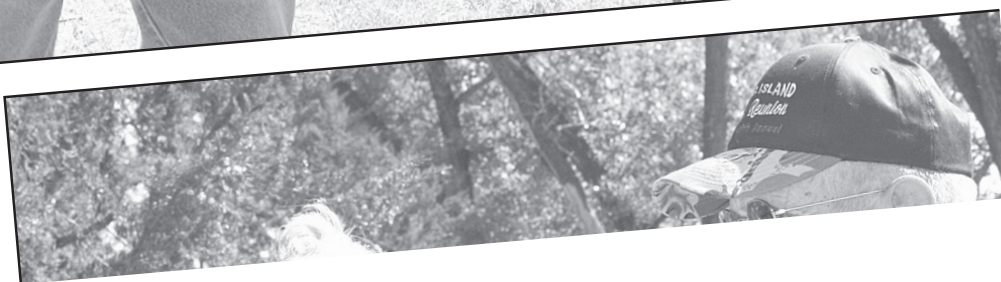
The elevator has seen a sample of corn come in, he said, but they haven't received any loads yet.

With corn, said Mr. Anderson, they are looking for 15 percent moisture or less, while with milo, it's 14 percent moisture or less.

The forecast, according to the National Weather Service in Goodland, shows a 30 percent chance of rain or thunderstorms tonight and a 20 percent chance on Thursday



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