

# Corn field to help with research

By Karen Krien

"People keep asking me what I'm doing with that corn field," said Gary Yonkey, who has a special corn field just west of Wheeler along U.S. 36.

As it was growing in the early stages, it was obvious that the corn was being planted differently. A special research planter was brought to the acreage and it plants a different hybrid every 1/1000 of an acre — in other words, there is a different hybrid planted every 17 feet.

In the 8-acre plot, Mr. Yonkey reported that there are at least 2,400 different varieties planted.

This small piece of land is a research plot and Pioneer Hi-Bred International is developing new inbred corn lines which are eventually cross pollinated to make new hybrid corn lines commonly grown in most producers' fields.

One of the key steps in developing new hybrids is to determine their resistance or susceptibility to key disease strains.

"Gary is cooperating with us to screen our corn for susceptibility to head smut, a devastating disease on the increase especially in Kansas," said Troy Bauer, Ph.D., with Garden City Corn Research.

Shane Wurm, the crop consultant for Mr. Yonkey, had recommended that the Yonkey land be used as a research plot because he had several years where the crop had head smut.

Head smut is a soil-borne disease that infects the plant shortly after germination and consumes the entire reproductive system of the plant, not allowing it to produce any grain.

"So if your field is 1 percent infected with head smut, you will experience 1 percent yield loss — if it is 5 percent infected, you will experience 5 percent yield loss — the disease can be disastrous for a producer," Mr. Boer said.

From the first part of July to the first part of August, workers for

Pioneer go into the fields to perform the inbred germination. Each worker has his/her designated area and they bag the top ear of the plant and bag the tassel with a paper bag. At about 10 a.m., when the temperature is 85 degrees, the pollen begins raining. That is when those working the field take the bag and beat it by hand which gently shakes the pollen from the tassel into the bag. After tapping the pollen in the bag, it is carefully placed over the ear so that the silk and the pollen mingle. That way, the plant can pollinate itself.

"Our ultimate goal is a better hybrid for the producer," Mr. Bauer said.

The goal at the Garden City Corn Research Station is to develop greater than 105- to 120-day hybrids for the entire western half of the United States.

At the Garden City Research Station, corn is being developed for drought resistance. It is picked and shelled, and the seed is shipped to three of Pioneer's warm climate nurseries in Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Mexico. There the seed is grown again the same year, is harvested and shipped back to Kansas where it will be planted next year.

In the instance of the Yonkey research plot, those at the research station are screening a specific disease. They will be collecting the data and from that information, they will decide which seed will be sent to Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Mexico.

Mr. Bauer remarked that Mr. Yonkey is an excellent producer who has "stepped up to the plate to help screen the company's corn lines for susceptibility to this disease."

Mr. Yonkey feels like this is a win-win situation because not only is he helping develop better hybrids but the company furnishes and plants the seeds and he will reap the yields.

"Finding a seed that would be



GARY YONKEY points out one of the division lines in his research plot.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

'smut free' would be great help to myself as well as other farmers," he said.

"If we can develop better hybrids for producers, it helps our product line and it helps our customers' bottom line," Mr. Bauer said.

Mr. Yonkey has dedicated the plot to research for the next few years so when people turn their heads and stare at the Yonkey corn plot, keep in mind, it might look a little different but it is going to help area farmers grow better corn which will produce better yields.

## Sign-up continues for crop disaster program

Sign up for the United States Department of Agriculture's Crop Disaster Program is continuing at the Cheyenne County Farm Service Agency office, and County Executive Director Angie Berens said contrary to rumors that producers may have heard, no application ending date has been announced.

"I understand how the rumor started," she said. "The regulations state that applications must be received by Aug. 25, or 'such other later date that may be announced.' This is a case where we've decided to go with the later date, and that date has not been announced by our national office."

Although the program deadline is not imminent, Director Berens said producers should not wait until the last minute to gather their documentation and contact the Farm Service Agency county office for an appointment.

Under the Crop Disaster Program producers will be reimbursed for qualifying crop production

and quality losses to crops for either the 2001 or 2002 crops.

Payments will be issued for losses exceeding 35 percent of expected production at: 50 percent of the established price for crops that were covered by crop insurance; 50 percent of the established price for crops for which crop insurance was not available; and 45 percent of the established price to producers for crops that could have been insured but were not.

Payments for Crop Disaster Program will provide some \$2 billion in aid nationwide for producers suffering from natural disasters. The Crop Disaster Program payments are limited to \$80,000 per producer. Just in the past two months, Kansas producers have received over \$95 million in crop disaster payments.

The Farm Service Agency has developed a Web site that provides producers with one convenient location for details on new and existing disaster assistance. Producers can access the Web site at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.



TIA SAGER was a guest on the Air Force One jet in Denver, Colo.

Photo courtesy of Karol Seymour

## Local girl tours Air Force One plane

By Casey McCormick

Bird City's Tia Sager was a guest on a special jet last week: Air Force One. The pale blue and white Boeing 747, which transports the president of the United States of America, had brought the nation's leader to Denver for a fund raiser.

Seventh grader Tia said, "We saw the president being escorted to the hotel," as she arrived to where the plane sat. Before each visitor could board they had to pass a criminal background check, have an identification at all times and they were not allowed to bring cameras or purses on board.

"The president has most of the plane and you can only go forward if you are invited," she said. The back quarter of the jet is designated for guest and media sitting.

"From every seat except two you can see a television" said Tia.

There are three levels to Air Force One. On the upper tier is a flying

weather station.

"They now have their own Doppler radar system, on the plane," Tia said.

The guests were able to see President Bush's office. "It has enough room for a treadmill," said Tia, "and we got to sit in the president's chair."

There are two kitchens on the plane.

"Every plate and cup has the presidential seal and even the cutting boards have it," said Tia.

Tia was able to tour the cockpit which is manned by a crew of four. "When standing in the cockpit from your feet you're 28 feet above the ground."

She was especially appreciative of the honor of being a guest of the president and her neighbors who invited her for the tour. This was possible because of Karol and Garry Seymour whose nephew, Tony Alvarez, is the chief flight engineer on Air Force One.

## Farm Bureau holds annual meeting

The annual Farm Bureau dinner meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 27 in the St. Francis Community High School cafeteria.

Steve Baccus, Kansas Farm Bureau President, will be the speaker. He will be talking about the recent mutual insurance merger and the opportunities that it presents to the farm organization. He may also be talking about his December 2002 trade mission to Cuba and how it impacts Kansas Farms. Mr. Baccus knows about demo-

graphic changes underway in agriculture, along with the programs the organization is involved with and the future that awaits.

Roger Zwegardt, St. Francis, who was selected as the "Farm Family of 2002," will tell about the trip to California that Farm Bureau provided for his family.

Shawn and Shawna Blanka will speak as State Committee members of "Young Farmers and Ranchers."

## School Menu

Aug. 25 - Aug. 28

Monday: breakfast: sausage and cheese scones, cereal, toast, juice, milk; lunch: chicken fajitas, salad bar, vegetable, fruit, milk

Tuesday: breakfast: french toast or cereal, toast, juice, milk; lunch: sausage gravy and biscuits, salad bar, fruit, milk

Wednesday: breakfast: twirls, cereal, toast, juice, milk; lunch: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, bread, fruit, salad bar, milk

Thursday: breakfast: sausage gravy and biscuits, cereal, toast, juice, milk; lunch: ham sandwich, potato, salad bar, fruit, milk

# "Hello, Students!"

## CHEYENNE COUNTY FAIR BOARD

Thank you to all who helped with this year's 2003 Cheyenne County Fair. A full list of all volunteers, sponsors and friends will follow in next weeks paper.

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## ANTIQUUE and Personal Property AUCTION

Sat., Aug. 30, 2003 - 9:30 a.m. MT

Auction Location: 26975 Crites Ave., Idalia, CO

Seller: Elsie Lidke Estate

Antiques - Collectibles - Glassware - Furniture - Household Misc.

- Original Idalia Western Electric phone Switch Board complete w/ headset - Great Condition!
- Antique Wood Telephone Operators Chair
- Original First State Bank of Idalia Teller Window, good condition
- Original Idalia Post Office mail window, oak. Manufactured by the Postmaster Supply Co., Baltimore, MD. Excellent Cond.
- Burroughs Bank Machine w/ Stand
- Idalia Postal Records & Letters from 1895-1907
- Friend, Colorado post office records 1895
- Old payroll schedules, ledgers, letters, etc. pertaining to post office & telephone company
- Old Phone line maps of Idalia
- 1889 Records of district meeting of Idalia School Dist. #68
- 1944-45 Life Magazines - Good Condition
- 1946 Eads Lehman Weather Reports
- Lots of Idalia advertising memorabilia from 1926 and many years from businesses such as Esch Lumber, Idalia Oil Co., George Conrad, Eads W. Lehman, Idalia Flour Mills, Brenner Hardware, Clark's Construction, Edmund Ebeler Motor Co., 1930 Edith Finch Calendar, 1958 Prairie Vista Motel, Midway Garage, First State Bank, Farmers Union Coop, Wray, CO, Colorado Cafe, Stratton, CO, some from Kirk, WY, Wray, CO, and St. Francis, KS - Calendars, Mirrors, Postcards, Yardsticks, & much more
- Servel Electrolux Refrigerator advertising fan, OLD
- Penns Chewing Tobacco Tin, Old
- Mortons Salt Carton, Old
- Swift Premium Dried Beef Box
- Ilens Graham Cracker Tin
- Antique Wall Phone, Good Condition
- Fairbanks Morse Platform Scale w/ Weights
- Carnival Glass Pitcher & Glasses, OLD
- Many collector glass pieces
- Royal, Copley, Fenton, Hobnail, Milk Glass, Deft, Lead, Crystal Glassware, Cut Glass & Pressed Glass
- Ruby Glassware
- Pink Depression - Cups, Saucers & Plates
- Green Depression Glass - plates & saucers
- Candle Holders
- Several Shot Glasses
- Several Pieces of Japanese art "Sent from Japan"
- Japanese Hand painted Glass Globe
- Several Carnival Glass pieces
- English China - Several Pieces
- William Rogers Silverware
- Nautilus Eggshell China
- Copper Bowl
- Several Guardianware pots
- Coal Buckets
- 2 - Oak Buffets - Good Condition
- Writing Table Desk
- Large Oak Display Case
- Butter Mold
- Antique Popcorn Popper
- Many Old Manuals
- 1929 CU Band Hats
- Lucas Cemetery Plot Map - OLD
- Many Decanters
- Lots of Avon Bottles
- Lots of Glassware
- Old Glass Lamps
- Alabaster Jar
- Pressed Glass
- Brass Lamp
- Old Oval Picture Frame
- Old Floor Lamp
- Old Silverware
- 4 Drawer Dresser
- Antique Wardrobe
- Glass washboard
- Kraut Cutter
- 2 - Antique Night Stands
- Sev. ornate Wood Chairs
- Leather Satchel
- OLD Shaving Mugs
- Several Salt & Pepper Shakers
- Old Hat Pins
- Old Time Magazines
- Old Saws
- Lots of Old Books 1925 & up
- Misc Wall Hangings
- Many Whiskey Decanters
- White Hobnail Glassware
- Lots of Pottery from Italy & New Mexico
- Large Wooden Basket
- Buffet
- Dollies, Linens
- Several OLD Rugs
- Old Wringer Washer
- Magic Chef Advertising Sign
- Copper Horse ashtray & pipe holder
- Magazine Stand
- 1921 Tri-City Radio Electric Supply Co. Serial #929
- Sheet music
- American Beauty 55-AB Adjustable Electric Iron. Manufactured by American Electrical Heater Co., Detroit, USA, in original box - OLD
- 2 - Union Pacific, 3 - Dietz Lanterns
- Misc Lanterns
- Old Metal Luggage Rack
- Several Telephone Insulators
- Old Phone Ringer
- Old Radios
- Old Radio Tubes
- Crosley Trirclyn Special Type No. 1122 Phonograph
- Several Old 2 Way Radios
- Octagon Table
- Queen Size Bed w/ Mattress & Box Springs
- 4 piece Full Size Bedroom Set w/ Bookcase headboard, dresser & chest of drawers
- Couch
- 2 - Wall Mirrors
- Rocker recliner
- Ceramic Kilt
- Many Ceramic Molds
- Cornet Stand
- Electric Organ
- Dinette Set w/ 4 roller chairs
- Kirby Heritage II Vacuum
- Audels Carpenter and Builders Guide #3 Manuals, Copyright 1923
- Camping tins
- 8 Records 33, 78
- Reel to Reel Projector
- Old Tape Player
- Johnson Floor Polisher
- Wood Planes
- Black & Decker 18" Cut Electric Mower
- Several Motors
- Tap & Die Set
- Several Lawn Tools
- Misc. Hand Tools
- Shop Miscellaneous
- Pots & Pans
- Towels, Blankets, Bedspreads
- Kitchen Utensils
- Misc. Dishes

Lunch Will be served day of sale. Not responsible for Theft or Accident. Announcements made day of sale shall take precedence over printed material. Western Auction & Real Estate, L.L.C., Clerk. TERMS CASH OR GOOD CHECK - NO CREDIT CARDS WILL BE ACCEPTED. All items to be settled for day of sale - before removal from premises.

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Auctioneers Note:  
The Elsie Lidke Estate auction offers a fantastic collection of more than 80 years. Elsie was an Idalia pioneer, having been active in many areas of community and historical happenings. The items being offered at this auction have much of Idalia & Eastern Colorado history — from the phone switch board, the Bank Teller window to the Postal Mail window — these items are rare and in great condition. Plan to attend this auction and take a walk through time. This is only a partial listing of items to be sold. Don't miss this auction!