

Harvest kicks into high gear



KENT BANISTER is busy getting the wheat out of the field which is located 4 miles north of McDonald.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

Harvest underway around the county

By Karen Krien

Farmers are running the combines as long as possible in order to get the wheat harvested before anything can happen to it. Northwest Kansas is producing good wheat this year with good yields and the price has been the highest ever.

"It's the best harvest of the century," Tim Burr, Equity manager

said. Definitely better than it has been since 1999.

Mr. Burr said it is probably not a record breaker but it will be so much better than it has been. Last year, the average bushel per acre was 15 to 20 bushels and this year, there have been 50 to 60 averages.

Both Wheeler and St. Francis Equity elevators are full, taking only

a few contract loads. Dale Weeks, Wheeler Equity manager, said they had loaded out 10 rail cars on Monday. The St. Francis Equity had around 25 cars.

They are waiting on more cars but Mr. Burr figured since the wheat is very good in this area, they may not have to wait long.

Frontier Equity manager, Mark

Howerton, reported the Bird City elevators are full and they are starting to pile on the ground.

He said that about 50 percent of the wheat is harvested in that area. Yields are good, he said, however, there is a little insect damage.

Manager Weeks said the protein is "all over the board" ranging from levels of 9 to 13 with the last load

going out by rail averaging 12 — good milling quality.

Wheat in the Wheeler area is about 80 percent harvested. North of St. Francis there is still some green in the fields and the irrigated wheat is still in the fields.

The price on Tuesday was averaging around \$5.25 but Mr. Burr said, that in a day, it can fluctuate as

much as 25- to 30-cents a bushel in a couple of hours. Mr. Weeks said the price started at \$5.62.

After seven years of drought and low-to-nothing yields, farmers are happy to have a crop.

"I think this crop is going to be good for the community and there are going to be a lot of smiling farmers," Mr. Burr said.

Plans for 911 system to be installed by the first of the year

By Karen Krien

Plans to have the 911 system for Cheyenne County installed by the first of the year were at the top of the commissioners' agenda when they met on Friday.

Troy Gardner, sheriff, and Jim O'Loughlin, Allied Information Solutions, talked about the grant process and said there were some other contracts that needed to be signed. One contract was for the call logging and the other contract was for the computer dispatch software. Mr. O'Loughlin suggested that the commissioners give the sheriff permission to sign them after they had been approved by the county attorney.

Mr. O'Loughlin thought the equipment could be installed in November so the system could go online in December. He noted that, if necessary, they could maybe get an extension but didn't foresee any problems to cause a delay.

Funding the project was again discussed. He said the biggest challenge will be funding personnel. They talked about the aerial maps

which are in the process of being completed. Mr. O'Loughlin said Cale Rieger, engineering student, had worked on the maps and had done an excellent job.

He said that, while it was separate from the 911 process, the maps could also be purchased for the appraiser's office. Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, was against the maps for the appraiser's office and the commissioners discussed that they might have computer capability to produce the needed maps.

After Mr. O'Loughlin left, Sheriff Gardner asked for 5 minutes executive session to discuss personnel. When coming out, they talked about hiring Danielle Gardner as part-time clerk providing it was okay with Justin Barrett, county attorney. Mrs. Gardner also works part time in the attorney's office. After discussion, the commissioners approved.

Sheriff Gardner said the state patrol is offering a 911 dispatch class which is free. He would like to send the two dispatchers now employed by the city of St. Francis. The board approved.



FOURTH OF JULY — Joslyn and Jacquelyn Ketzner help Ty and Teryn Carmichael pick out fireworks.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick