

2012 wheat harvest has begun

By Tim Burr

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The first load of wheat for the 2012 harvest was delivered to a Cheyenne County grain facility on Saturday. Jon Waters delivered the first load to the Wheeler Equity, harvested from land owned by the Ramsey Trust. Producers have been watching the crop mature at a rapid, and very early pace. Normally, farmers expect to begin harvest toward the end of June.

Many believe that this is the earliest in June that wheat may have been harvested in the county.

Managers of county grain facilities and local producers' expectations are that this will be a good harvest, although a lack of moisture this spring and some disease pressure, has lowered estimates. At this time, there has been little storm or hail damage reported.

Sean Cravens, manager of Frontier Ag in Bird City, stated that they had been moving grain in preparation of the harvest. Frontier received their first loads late in the day Saturday.

Shirley Zweygardt at the St. Francis Equity said they also had been preparing for the harvest by moving grain as transportation allowed. The Equity received their first load on Sunday afternoon.

Doug Ross of Bartlett Grain said they had been preparing for, and were looking forward to a good harvest. Dale Weeks of the Wheeler Equity felt that harvest, now that it has started, will come on hard and fast.

The quality of the early loads received has been good, with moistures acceptable and test weights over 60 pounds per bushel. The grain dealers caution that it is too early to judge the overall crop quality, but are encouraged by the early loads.

Harvest continues all the way from near the Oklahoma border, and has now reached extreme



READING THE information in the program given out at the Wheat Field day are Ken Beougher and Norm Dorsch.

Times staff photo by Tim Burr

Northwest Kansas. There is some concern that custom crews may not be able to keep up with the harvest, and may be stretched thin.

Bud Erskin at the Majestic in St. Francis is operating a private harvest information office for the benefit of local producers

and harvesters, and has received several inquiries from both farmers and crews.

Harvest, by coming this early, probably has caused a number of people to adjust plans made months ago. Shirley Zweygardt, the coordinator of the annual alumni banquet to be held this

weekend, has had a challenge, and has been able to assemble help to get the job done. Doug Ross's daughter, Lauren, decided months ago to pick this weekend for her wedding, because "it will be well before harvest, Daddy!". Arrangements have been made, and the father of the bride is

expected to escort his lovely daughter down the aisle.

Harvest should be in full swing by this weekend. Trucks will be traveling the roads and highways, lining up at the scales, implement and parts dealers will be supplying repairs and supplies, and lots of lunches and

cold drinks will be delivered to the hard working harvesters. Expectations for a good harvest are here.

We should know how good it is after a couple of weeks of hard work, long hours, and hopefully, a little good luck.

Fair board members tie-up last minute details for fair

By Karen Krien

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The Cheyenne County Fair is set for Aug. 1 through Aug. 4, with the 4-H Style Revue to be held on Monday, July 30. With only seven weeks left before the fair, the fair board, on Thursday, June 7, spent much of the meeting trying to tie up last minute details.

The roping, which is held on Wednesday during the fair, honors ropers, cowboys and supporters of the sport. Earlier, they had agreed to honor Marv Zweygardt, who had died in 2009. However, Tom Grice died in May. Mr. Grice had been a strong supporter of the roping, by not only adding money to the prize money but also proving belt buckles and carried posters to other towns.

The board voted to put both Mr. Zweygardt's and Mr. Grice's name on the memorial board and they both will be honored.

They discussed prize money hoping that there would be some donations which helps attract more ropers to the event. Last year, the prize money was \$1,000.

Gary Cooper, one of the Roping Committee, asked the board if they had any suggestions for solving the problem of not having the matching number of headers and heelers in the round robin roping? After a brief discussion, the board president, Dick Bursch, said that whatever the committee decided would be OK with the board.

Thursday night grandstand entertainment

Thursday night's entertainment was finally set. There had been several suggestions but none of them materialized.

After the last meeting, Shawna Blanka had contacted the board to see if they would be interested in having the Kids Tractor Pull. The tractor pull is held in May during the car show held in St. Francis. However, rainy weather hampered the tractor pull and the sponsors

agreed to help with the pull during the fair.

The fair board were in favor of having the tractor pull on that evening. The board will be responsible for providing coupons for a treat at the Shriner's booth to all kids entering the tractor pull.

As a good will gesture, the board voted to have free admission to the Kids Tractor Pull on Thursday.

Safety inspector

President Bursch said a government safety inspector had checked the fairgrounds as well as the county shops and courthouse. The inspector had found several areas at the fairgrounds that needed to be fixed including electrical receptacles, the refrigerator plugin and the need for two fire extinguishers. They have until Aug. 1 to get the work down and signed off on. Mr. Bursch will see to hiring Lampe Hardware to do the work.

Extension agent report

Marty Fear, extension agent, reported that the Cheyenne County Spring Livestock Show went well and thanked the board for getting the grounds cleaned up. The 4-H horse show will be held on July 15.

Drew Flemming, board treasurer, said there were several small checks for ribbons, most below \$5, that were never cashed. Mr. Fear said that in other areas, this problem is avoided by giving cash for the ribbons. When 4-H'ers come to the office, they can pick up their ribbon money, he said. Mr. Flemming will provide him a form which the auditor requires when cash is used.

He said that he was sure that a person had been hired to run the 4-H food booth during the fair.

He also noted that the fair book was done.

New chairs

Shay Realty had donated 20 new folding chairs which the board needed and appreciated. John Finley noted that they will not fit on the storage racks. He was asked

to talk to Greg Walz, welder, about either adjusting the present racks or making a new one.

Mr. Finley also suggested having a hydrant installed so it will be easier for Jeanne Dunn with the District Conservation office to water the grass and trees. The board agreed that this could be done.

In other business

In other business:
• Mark Mills, board member, will get the handicapped signs up.

• Mr. Mills will talk to the firemen about washing down the grandstands. He will also talk to the firemen and emergency medical technicians about being on the grounds during most of the grandstand shows.

• Mr. Bursh wondered if the firemen still planned to have a fire truck on the grounds and talk about fire safety during the fair.

• Linda Ketzner had donated awnings to the food stand. Nick Ketzner said he would put them up again this year.

• Mr. Mills said he would order new paper towel dispensers for the restrooms.

• Mr. Flemming said the didn't have time to work the arena for the 4-H horse practices. There was also a problem of finding the needed equipment. Adam Peter, board member, said he would be willing to work the arena each week if equipment could be found. Mr. Flemming said he would see what he could do.

Next meetings

The July meeting has been changed from the first Thursday to the second Thursday, July 12. This meeting, set for 7 p.m., will be held at the fairgrounds and clean up will be held following the meeting. Everyone who has one is encouraged to bring their weed whips.

On July 24, the 4-H'ers will be cleaning the grounds. Mr. Bursch said fair board members need to be there to help.



WANDA DOWDY shows the Heirloom Keepsake Journal project to the other members of the group. Dorthy Mast is also pictured.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

Historical society preserves past

By Norma Martinez

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The Bird City Historical Association met on Friday, June 8, at the Center with an attendance of eight. Many readers are not aware of what the Historical Association is doing, and accomplishing toward preserving the history of Bird City. At the present time a lot of the old-time history of the development of Bird City is about to be lost as the older residents are dying and the records that have been maintained are scattered about. The association has been working to research and combine these records. Once this has been accomplished their goal is to maintain them in one spot for future reference to the generations that are interested in the history of development of Bird City.

At their last meeting Dorthy Mast handed out a list of projects

the Historical Association has completed, ongoing and possible future projects.

They put together workbooks for the school to use on the history of the past for youthful readers. These workbooks are ongoing with eight issues completed. The group has also compiled a list of the banking institution in Bird City from 1885-2002.

Besides the books for young readers, they have five other ongoing projects which are: Blocks and lots consisting of a map of early Bird City businesses, and a resource guide of Bird City early newspapers including births, marriages, and deaths.

During each meeting the members have been bringing pictures of heirloom keepsakes they have from past generations, and telling the history and description of the item.

They have also been working together to develop a booklet of impressions by young adults of the early settlers of the Bird City area.

The historical group has provided the historical hands-on crafts at the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher shows. This year they will be helping the children make windmills.

A lot of progress is being made by the historical association toward preserving the Bird City history by using the library and other sources. In the future they are looking forward to obtaining special equipment specifically designed for their needs and aide them in their ongoing projects.

Next meeting will be July 13. They would welcome any new members who are interested in helping them out in their ongoing projects.