

Continued from Page 1A

money, David Stephens took fourth place and earned \$250 in prize money. Austin White earned the Mad Dog award of \$500.

The truck competition, had only two trucks but was an exciting duel between Tony Vandyke and Trent Kinen, with Troy coming out on top.

The lawn mower tractor pull was held Thursday night. There was no information available as to the winners.

The 4-H premium sale had more 4-H'ers with premiums and more buyers. This year's sale brought in \$86,600. Look for more details in the After Fair section.

The Tuff Trucks competition was Friday's grandstand entertainment. This was the third year for the event and there was a total of 19 drivers racing around a track of short

COSTS

Continued from Page 1

have to charge as contract billing. It would also require hiring a new physical therapy employee.

Great Plains Health Alliance leases the county hospital and the lease contract is up for renewal. The commissioners suggested that maybe it was time to review management options. Ms. Rockwood agreed that it is good to review other options.

Editor's note: The above article was taken in part from the unapproved July 31 commissioners' minutes.

turns, humps and bumps. There were some vehicles that just didn't want to travel the track, stopping ever so often only to be coaxed in to starting again by their anxious drivers. A few didn't make it that far and had to be pulled out with the county's loader. The overall winner was Joshua Thomas from Haigler. He took home prize money of \$380. Adam Peter, was very pleased with the crowd turn out and the number of entries. He plans to make next year's event even more challenging for the drivers.

Saturday's parade was long with a number of entries. St. Francis' Main Street was lined with people including lots of children just waiting for candy and other treats to be tossed their way. The Once Again Sound Band went through the parade twice as did the band on the Unger Chiropractor float. There is nothing like music to make a parade.

The overall grand champion went to the St. Francis Equity with a huge birthday cake on the float. The Equity is celebrating 100 years in business.

Taking first in the organization/church division went to Eastern Star. In the commercial division, Tri-State Irrigation was the winner, and the Andrist-Schultz family took home the first prize in the family division.

The 4-H and open class results along with articles and photos of the events and happenings at the fair will be inserted as the After Fair section in both *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times* on Aug. 22.



— Ag Talk with Jeanne

By Jeanne Falk

Agronomy Specialist

Should your seed wheat be seed wheat?

Did you save some wheat for seed? Have you checked the germination on it to make sure it will be quality seed wheat for this fall? There are two main options for germination testing – an at-home test or testing by a laboratory.

If you do a home germination test too soon after harvest, you will be shocked at the low germination percent. That's because wheat has a post-harvest dormancy requirement (some varieties more so than others). Even high quality seed will not germinate right after harvest in most cases.

It's important to make sure the wheat is pre-chilled before taking a germination test. Any reputable seed lab will do that on a routine basis. Producers testing their seed at home should also pre-chill the wheat by putting it in the refrigerator at about 40 degrees for five days and then moved to room temperature for an additional five to seven days. If the seed is not pre-chilled, producers should wait a month and a half after harvest before testing for germination.

There is some difference among varieties regarding how long their summer dormancy requirement is and even that can vary from year to year. Hard white wheats with poor sprouting tolerance, for example, have almost no summer dormancy requirement. They will germinate almost as soon as the seed is harvested.

Other varieties have a relatively long summer dormancy requirement, and may not germinate well for five or six weeks

after harvest unless the seed is pre-chilled. Unfortunately, there is no routine testing of varieties for their summer dormancy requirement, so we have no way of knowing which varieties will germinate shortly after harvest and which will take a longer period of rest.

By Labor Day, all varieties will have lost their summer dormancy and should germinate unless the seed is defective in some way. In addition, if seed is tested soon after harvest, it would still be a good idea to test again prior to harvest to be sure the germination has not been compromised due to heating or insect damage.

If there is any question about the viability of the seed, it is well worth the \$15 it costs to have the seed tested for germination by a professional seed laboratory. To the untrained eye, seeing some amount of shoot and root development would seem to be sufficient proof that the seed is in good condition. But that alone does not always mean you have a seedling that will develop into a healthy plant. A trained laboratory analyst evaluates each seedling to be sure that all essential parts exist and have sufficient development at the end of the test to, in fact, establish a normal, healthy plant.

The lab that K-State sends tests to is Kansas Crop Improvement Association in Manhattan. Samples can be dropped off at the Extension Office or at the K-State Experiment Station in Colby for shipping. The Extension Offices will have the form to fill out to send in.

Wheat plot results better than expected

Farmers and other interested people attended the Cheyenne County Wheat Field Day on Wednesday, June 17, at the wheat plot south of Wheeler. Each year, Sunny Crest Farms, operated by Junior, Tom and Matt Smull, furnishes the plot.

The results are in and are published with this article.

The K-State wheat plot results for Cheyenne County are pretty exciting when you think of all the challenges the wheat has faced this last year, said Jeanne Falk, Kansas State Multi-County Agronomist.

This year, she said, was really a test of drought tolerance and the ability of wheat to 'hold in there' in tough growing conditions. This was not a year of testing the top end yield potential of the varieties. I think that showed in the yields.

The spread of yields was less than 10 bushel per acre. The average yield for the plot was 31.7

bushels per acre and that was very similar to the rest of the field.

The top yielding wheat variety in the plots was a tie between SY Wolf from Agripro and Winterhawk from West-Bred with 35.4 bushels per acre.

SY Wolf is a new release and seems to do very well in high residue situations. Winterhawk is a medium maturity that has been out for a few years. In addition, it seems to be quite drought tolerant. T-163, T-158 and Redhawk rounded out the top five. The 'T' varieties are both from LimaGrain and are from the Trio breeding program from Wichita. Both of these varieties have T-81 in their background.

"We had pretty tough planting conditions on Sept. 24 when the plot was drilled," the agronomist said.

It was seeded at 1.5-inches deep into dry soil. In that next week, the plot received nearly

0.50 inches of moisture and that is what helped the plot get a stand.

In addition, the three rounds of cold temperatures in April had everyone concerned for the wheat. In many cases, the wheat was damaged cosmetically after the first freeze, but never really had a chance to recover before the next two freezes.

This did cause damage in some fields in the area, she said. Then the dry conditions during the spring and summer only added fuel to the fire of concern for the wheat. It was actually exciting to see the wheat rolling into the weigh wagon when we were harvesting this year!

Thank you to Sunny Crest Farms for being the wheat plot cooperator! Also, thanks to Yonkey Farms for harvesting the wheat test plot!

We are planning out the wheat plot for next year, she said. If you have any specific varieties

that you would like to see in the plot, please let me know! I can be contacted at the Extension office or you can email me at jfalk@k-state.edu.



Variety		Yield (bu/ ac)*	Moisture (%)	Test Weight (lb/ bu)	Protein (%)
SY Wolf	AgriPro	35.4	9.9	59.1	14.9
Winterhawk	WestBred	35.4	9.9	59.3	14.2
T163	Limagrain	34.8	9.5	58.3	13.2
T158	Limagrain	34.7	9.6	58.9	13.4
Redhawk	WestBred	33.1	9.7	59.4	15.0
Hatcher	Colorado State	33.1	9.8	57.8	14.6
T154	Limagrain	33.1	9.8	59.4	14.1
TAM 112	Watley	32.9	9.5	58.2	14.7
Grainfield	WestBred	32.8	9.8	56.6	15.2
PostRock	AgriPro	32.7	9.5	58.6	14.9
Byrd	Colorado State	32.4	10.1	57.6	14.2
Brawl CL	Colorado State	31.8	10.3	58.6	14.8
TAM 113	Agseco	31.8	9.8	58.7	14.5
TAM 111	AgriPro	30.7	9.7	58.2	14.2
Denali	Colorado State/ K-State	30.6	10.0	57.5	14.4
Everest	K-State	30.2	9.7	57.9	15.0
1863	K-State	29.9	10.5	59.1	14.5
Hitch	WestBred	28.6	9.8	58.0	14.5
SY Gold	AgriPro	28.3	9.8	58.7	15.3
Cedar	WestBred	27.5	9.9	57.2	13.9
Armour	WestBred	27.2	10.0	56.8	14.6
Fuller	K-State	26.0	9.9	57.8	15.5
Winterhawk	at 75 lbs/ ac	36.7	9.9	59.6	14.0
TAM 111	at 75 lbs/ ac	35.7	9.7	58.5	14.3
TAM 111	at 30 lbs/ ac	26.7	10.0	58.1	14.5
Plot Average		31.7	9.8	58.3	14.5

Wheat drilled on September 24, 2012
 Plot planted at 60 lbs/ ac (unless otherwise stated)
 Seed drilled at 1.5 inches into dry soil
 Plot Harvested: July 9, 2013
 Plot Harvested by: Yonkey Farms
 * Yields are adjusted to 13% moisture.

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