



COLBY FREE PRESS

This year's area corn harvest is a story all its own

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Despite an abysmally dry summer and the prospect of low yields, corn is being harvested.

Roger Stockton, soil and crop specialist at the Northwest Research-Extension Center in Colby, said the harvest got underway about three weeks ago and will last for several more.

"It's been kind of stretched out," he said. "A lot of it's not even being harvested."

Some of the dryland corn is still standing for insurance purposes but Stockton said the dryland crop that is being harvested is yielding 30-40 bushels an acre.

Irrigated corn yields are significantly higher and he said he's heard of some fields as high as 240 bushels an acre.

Others are lower at 150-170 bushels.

Stockton said it's not unusual for irrigated corn yields to be all over the place because of water availability.

The dryland corn yields aren't the only thing that's down. Stockton said the kernel size on the dryland crop is small because of the high temperatures and little moisture last summer.

Stockton said he has run across

one interesting sidebar to harvest.

While visiting with a Co-op agronomist from Brewster, he found out a producer in the county had vastly different yields in one of his fields.

Stockton said the producer was harvesting corn from an irrigated circle that had a 10-acre spot burnt out by a lightning strike last year. The field was planted in wheat last year and he said the corn in the field was seeded directly into the stubble, with the exception of the burn spot.

There was a yield monitor on the combine and the yields were 220-230 bushels of corn an acre. On the burnt spot, the yield dropped to 150 bushels an acre.

Stockton said the wheat stubble afforded good cover and an increase in 70-80 bushels an acre.

"That's pretty impressive," he said. "It's a point I've been trying to make to producers out here."

Seeding the corn into the wheat stubble makes a difference in the yield and also saves five to six inches of water, Stockton said.

John Strecker of Hi-Plains Co-op in Colby said the harvest on irrigated corn is just starting to get into full swing and they've taken in very little dryland corn.

He also said the market has been depressed of late.

' Thanks, big guy!'



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Jonah Thompson, a student in the afternoon class of Head Start, was one of 18 youngsters who toured the Colby Fire Department on Tuesday. Thompson and his classmates had an opportunity to see how long it takes a firefighter to get ready for the real thing. Tom Benson, one of the volunteers, showed the students step-

by-step what it takes to get ready in a fire call. Although apprehensive at first, Thompson and the other students, gave Benson a big hug in appreciation for all he and the other volunteers do to help when a fire disaster arises. More photos and story on page 3.

Unusual walk awaits Colby school kids Thursday

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Imagine walking through a giant ear or inside a huge brain. That's exactly what children at Sacred Heart School and Colby Grade School will be doing on Thursday, said Tami Brown, one of the coordinators.

"We are also still looking for volunteers to help us at one of the many stations," she said. "Tours begin at 8:45 a.m. and continue until 2:15 p.m. on Thursday, and those volunteering would be at one station." The work is not difficult, but would be appreciated.

As for the grade schoolers participating in "Body Walk," the event will offer them a way to remember good nutrition and fitness in a whole new way.

Brown said the tour begins with a student walks through a giant ear into a brain. Once inside the brain dome, she said, students will experience "brain waves" and how the brain functions.

After they leave the brain, students are each given a tag designating them as a food.

"It can be anything from a carrot, hamburger or piece of cheese," she said. The "foods" step into the

exhibit's larger-than-life mouth, are "swallowed" through the esophagus tunnel and move into the stomach dome.

From the stomach, the students travel through the small intestine where they are "absorbed" into the blood and then they follow the path of the nutrients to the heart, lung, bone, muscle and skin stations.

"Students will leave the body through a cut in the skin and proceed through Power Panther's Pathways to life. In this final stations, Brown said, there will be a recap on the key health concepts from each of the 10 previous stations.

At each of the "Body Walk" stations, a volunteer presenter talks with students in a five-minute activity focused on healthy choices.

The purpose of the "Body Walk" system was in helping students to learn more about healthy living.

"The exhibit was also developed to address increasing national concerns about the lack of physical activity and the declining nutritional status of young people," said Joyce Kemnitz, Body Walk project director.

Power Panther, who is the mascot for the USDA Food and Nutrition Service, will also be there to

assist children as they take the opportunity to explore the human body.

"Body Walk" was developed by nutrition services within the Kansas State University department of education.

More than 400 students from Sacred Heart and Colby Grade School will be given the chance to see this project and get the firsthand look into remaining healthy all their lives, Brown said.

For questions about "Body Walk" or to become a volunteer on Thursday, call Brown 460-5100, ext. 1305.



28 this morning

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area forecast

Tonight...Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. East winds 5 to 10 mph.

Thursday...Partly cloudy. Windy. Highs in the lower 70s. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph becoming northeast 20 to 30 mph in the afternoon.

Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Breezy. Lows in the mid 30s. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph decreasing to around 10 mph after midnight.

Friday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 70s. South winds around 10 mph.

Similar conditions are expected to persist over the weekend. There is a chance for a turn to cooler weather by the middle of next week.

This morning's low did not set a record. The records low for this date was 20 degrees, set in 1966.

By the numbers
Tuesday's high, 68
Low this morning, 28
Records for the date, 93 in 1921 and 20 in 1966
Year ago today, 60 and 26
24-hour precipitation to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
Precipitation Oct. 13/14, 0.15
Month's precipitation, 0.21
Year's precipitation to date, 14.23
2002's precipitation to date, 10.64
Soil temperature, 58

The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby.

Bush bunch beating bushes to raise big bucks for re-election

WASHINGTON (AP) — A new network of volunteer fundraisers is paying off big for President Bush's re-election effort, collecting at least \$20 million of the roughly \$84 million Bush has raised so far.

At least 100 people have raised the \$200,000 required to become Bush campaign "Rangers" since Bush started the group in May, when he began his re-election effort. They include business executives, politicians and lobbyists.

An additional 185 volunteer fund-raisers have already collected the \$100,000 needed to become Bush "Pioneers," collectively soliciting at least \$18.5 million for the campaign.

Briefly

Commodity distribution Monday

The United States Department of Agriculture commodity distribution is scheduled for Monday from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at the 4-H Building at the Thomas County Fairgrounds in Colby. Eligible persons may receive commodities according to income guidelines on the above date and time only, said Laura Withington, coordinator. Eligible persons who are not able to attend the distribution may send a signed permission slip with another person to pick up their items. However, one person will only be allowed to pick up commodities for a total of two households, she said. For questions or guideline information, call Withington at 462-6744.

Fall concert is Tuesday

The choral departments of Colby Middle School and High School will present their fall concert on Tuesday beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Groups perform-

ing at the concert include the 7th and 8th grade mixed choir, 6th grade vocal, Colby High School Women's Chorus and the Concert Chorus. The event is free to everyone. For questions, call Amanda McGee, 460-5300.

Food drive planned Sunday

The Colby Girl Scouts annual "Trick-or-Treat so Others-May-Eat" food drive is planned from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Girls will be going door-to-door in Colby collecting non-perishable items for the Thomas County Genesis Food Bank. Organizers ask that residents please leave their gifts on the doorstep for easier pickup.

Red Cross sets November class

The Thomas County American Red Cross has scheduled an adult, infant and child CPR class starting at 6 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 3.

The class will be held at the Red Cross facility, 350 S.

Range Ave., Colby, and is open to everyone. In addition, this class will benefit many people to include teachers, bus drivers, daycare workers, construction and utility workers who need to have current certification for employment.

For questions, costs and registration information, call 462-7161.

Seniors to hand out candy

Residents of Prairie Senior Living Complex will hand out candy to trick-or-treaters on Halloween evening from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Some will dress up in costume and wait for kids to drop by for treats.

For information, call 462-8295 and ask for Activities.

Music booster cards available

Music Booster Cards are on sale now until Oct. 23 for \$5 each. If you have not been contacted by a vocal or band student, you can purchase one by calling Shelly Bielser at 462-7492.

