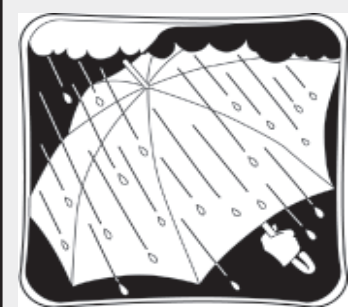


Weather
CornerColder weather
to continue

Tonight — Occasional rain. Low around 35. Northeast wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90 percent.

Tuesday — Occasional rain, mainly before 11 a.m. High near 47. North wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90 percent.

Tuesday night — Partly cloudy, with a low around 34. West wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Wednesday — A 20 percent chance of showers after 1 p.m. Partly cloudy with a high near 55. Breezy with a north wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Wednesday night — A 20 percent chance of rain before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy and blustery with a low around 28.

Thursday — Partly cloudy with a high near 49.

Temperatures
Sunday's high, 55
Low this morning, 40

Records for this date, 91 in 1928, 24 in 1970

Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 1.08

October's precipitation, 1.08
A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Briefly

Diabetes seminar deadline Tuesday

A seminar is scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 17, at Colby United Methodist Church, 950 S. Franklin, so people with diabetes can learn more about managing their condition and cooking healthier. "What's Cookin' with Diabetes" is a free, two-hour seminar. Organizers are requiring pre-registration due to limited seating no later than Tuesday. For questions, call Gerstner, (785) 460-4582 or by e-mail at diann@oznet.ksu.edu.

Mothers of Preschoolers to meet

Mothers of Preschoolers will meet from 9 to 11 a.m. Thursday at the Colby United Methodist Church. Guest speaker will be Nancy Talbott, who will give a presentation

on "Science with Your Kids." She was the Kansas teacher of the year in 1993. Childcare will be provided for a minimal fee. Also, a "Mom's night out" is planned from 7 to 9:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 19. The evening is a come and go and will feature a hobby night where moms can bring a craft to work on and visit with others. For information, call Michelle Mettlen at 460-3310.

Advance voting to begin Oct. 23

Registered voters can apply for an Advanced Voter application until noon Monday, Nov. 6, said Thomas County Clerk Shelly Harms. Voters can vote by either mail ballot or by coming to the county clerk's office in the courthouse. Mail ballots will go out Wednesday, Oct. 18. Voters can vote early

at the courthouse from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Oct. 23-27; from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Oct. 30 to Nov. 3; Nov. 3 from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Nov. 4 from 8 a.m. to noon and Nov. 6 from 8 a.m. to noon. For questions, call 460-4500.

Tootsie Roll Drive begins Friday

The Colby Knights of Columbus annual Tootsie Roll Drive is scheduled Friday, Saturday and Sunday. "When you see those friendly gentlemen in their bright yellow and red aprons, please be generous, said Dick Parnell, chairman.

Fair Board meets Thursday

The Thomas County Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m. Thursday at the 4-H Building at the Thomas County Fairground

Drought hits the soul of Colby/Goodland farmer

By John Schlageck

Kansas Farm Bureau

For some farmers in Kansas this fall harvest is going to be another one of those where there's just enough of a crop that you have to cut it but not enough to be profitable.

That's the situation Tony Horinek finds himself in. The 46-year-old producer from Thomas County is busy cutting dryland corn and sunflowers. He just finished sowing his winter wheat.

Harvest is going quickly for Horinek who farms between Goodland and Colby. The reason — another drought. The seventh year in a row.

His best corn yielded 45 bushels per acre while the lowest yield has been nine bushels per acre. Most of his land received about 10 inches of rain this year.

Crop insurance has helped and Horinek is thankful for that. However, with the seven years of drought his yield averages have dropped also. Insurance payments and crops aren't covering expenses.

Just looking at diesel fuel, his costs have gone up approximately \$25,000 this year. On one hand Horinek would like not to have to

“Man, I am just tired of watching my crops die.”

Tony Horinek,
Thomas County farmer

ask for disaster assistance from the federal government, but on the other hand, he believes he has little choice.

"I'm very disappointed in the way the disaster assistance is moving," the Thomas County farmer says. "Seems today like every piece of legislation that comes before Congress is sandwiched before or after an election and they can't get anything done."

Congressman Jerry Moran will be in his area this week and Horinek plans to visit with him about the drought situation he and his fellow farmers are facing.

"I run a solid, efficient farm but it's getting so you can't hardly keep it in the black," Horinek says. "I would like him to listen to what I have to say and help us."

Farming during this extended drought has not been easy. Drilling

this year's winter wheat crop was a challenge like others the last few years have been.

For one thing there was barely enough moisture to germinate the crop. Some of the Thomas County farmer's fields are spotty and the wheat will need a rain if it is to come up. Few things in life are more difficult for a farmer to endure than not having enough moisture to lay his wheat seed in. Fortunately a little more than two weeks ago Horinek received nearly one-half inch of rain.

"The roads out here are so filthy dusty," he says. "If we don't have a wind blowing sometimes in the evening there's just a haze all over because of the dust everywhere. The soil is nothing but powder."

Still Horinek and his fellow farmers in northwestern Kansas hope and pray for rain. There have

been small periods during this seven-year drought when they've received a little precipitation and thoughts race toward a break in the drought. Then the moisture shuts off.

Horinek admits these have been stressful times. Moods can turn bad and it's depressing.

"You try to keep in good spirits, but boy it wears on you," the Thomas County farmer says. "It's like gosh do I even want to plant this crop because I know what the results are going to be because I've seen it so many years in a row."

In the clutches of this seven-year drought, Horinek planted fewer fall crops this year. He was planning to put out more sunflowers but with this year's small yields, he planted less acres. Most of his sunflowers made approximately 400 pounds per acre. During a normal year — whatever that is anymore — his sunflower crop averages 1,200 to 1,500 pounds per acre.

"Man, I'm just tired of watching my crops die," Horinek says.

The family farming operation is still "getting by" right now. If the drought continues the Thomas County farmer says it will become more and more difficult to continue

farming without rain.

Horinek says he knows other producers around the state are raising some good crops and he says he's happy for them. He only wishes one day — and soon — he'll receive some moisture and he can do what he's dedicated his life to — raising abundant crops again.

Putting talk of the seven year drought aside, Horinek said that even though it is dry, he believes he is so blessed with so many things including health, a great family, a new granddaughter — he even donated a kidney to his wife's cousin last winter.

Talk about changing lives. Talk about having priorities in order

Editor's note: John Schlageck has been writing about farming and ranching in Kansas for more than 25 years. He is the managing editor of "Kansas Living," a quarterly magazine dedicated to agriculture and rural life in Kansas.

For the Record

The following arrests or incidents have been provided by either the Thomas County Sheriff's office or the Colby Police Department. All suspects were booked into the county jail and are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

The Thomas County Jail is used by the towns of Colby and Oakley and Logan and Thomas counties.

Colby Police Department
Thursday, Sept. 28

• **Recovered property:** A wallet was found on a driveway in the 1000 block of East Eighth Street.

• **Dispute:** Individuals complained at 2:02 p.m. of a problem with someone at the Thomas County Learning Center, 350 N. Franklin Ave.

• **Theft:** Police were notified at 5:54 p.m. a customer had failed to pay their bill at the Kansas Quick Lube. The individual returned later saying he accidentally forgot to pay.

Friday, Sept. 29

• **Recovered property:** A wallet was found at Cleveland and Webster Streets.

• **Traffic complaint:** Police were notified at 2:55 p.m. about a box of shotgun shells scattered at Pine and Franklin Streets.

Saturday, Sept. 30

• **Noise complaint:** Police went to the Living Center North on the Colby College campus after receiving a call at 4:03 a.m. about drunken

students making noise.

• **Fire complaint:** Police were called at 10:35 p.m. about a backyard fire in the 1100 block of West Seventh Street. The fire was put out.

Sunday, Oct. 1

• **Property damage:** Police were advised at 12:18 a.m. a motorist had hit a gas meter in the 800 block of South Garfield. Midwest Energy was called to fix the meter.

• **Property damage:** Police were called at 3:05 a.m. about a vehicle that hit a concrete pillar at Love's Country Store, 265 W. Fourth St.

• **Criminal damage:** A resident called at 3:10 a.m. advising police of damage to Halloween decorations in the 400 block of South Mission.

• **Gun shots fired:** Police were advised at 10:33 a.m. of possible gun shots near the 700 block of West Eighth Street, but officers discovered the noise was from a blown

transformer.

• **Suspicious incident:** Police were called at 9:53 p.m. with a request to speak to an individual in the 1100 block of South Franklin Avenue regarding a stalking incident in Sherman County.

• **Criminal damage:** A resident called police at 10:01 p.m. to report a broken car window in the 700 block of East Eighth Street.

• **Service rendered:** The administrator at Fairview Estates, 1630 Sewell Ave., called police at 10:04 p.m. requesting an officer help find a strange odor in the dining room.

Monday, Oct. 2

• **Dispute:** A caller at Citizens Medical Center, 100 E. College Dr., requested police at 9:31 a.m. to speak with their daughter and an ex-boyfriend. The officer reported the couple said they would work it out.

• **Criminal damage:** The owner of a white Honda called police at

2:40 p.m. stating the car was vandalized in the Colby College parking lot.

• **Juvenile complaint:** A caller at 4:43 p.m. requested police investigate a juvenile disturbance in the 1000 block of Court Terrace.

• **Burglary/theft:** A call at 4:43 p.m. sent officers to the 200 block of North Mission Ridge in reference the theft of food from a refrigerator.

• **Suspicious incident:** Police were advised at 4:44 p.m. of a man carrying a gun by Villa High Lake. It was later determined to be a paintball gun.

• **Criminal threat:** Police were called at 10:58 p.m. of someone threatening with a gun at Love's Country Store, 255 W. Fourth St.

• **Prowler:** Police were advised at

11:35 p.m. of someone who was inside a house in the 800 block of South Grant.

Tuesday, Oct. 3

• **Burglary/theft:** A woman advised police at 1:58 p.m. of a cell phone taken from a car Monday in the Dillons Store parking lot, 1605 S. Range Ave.

• **Suspicious incident:** Police were advised at 3:26 p.m. of someone handing beer to young girls in the Dillons Store parking lot. Authorities were unable to make contact.

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Saturday October 14

8:00 - 11:00 am

Monday October 23

5:00 - 8:00 pm

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460-8000

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