



Calvin Gill, Norton, raked the last kernels of grain out of his truck load of wheat — the first load cut in the county. He and his son, Tim Gill, cut the load Sunday afternoon. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Poor root systems to blame for stressed wheat

MANHATTAN — Wheat producers in Southeast and Central Kansas may be experiencing the affects of too much moisture, but producers in the Northwest area of the state are facing an opposite concern.

In fields examined on June 5, much of the wheat appeared to be showing symptoms of drought stress although there is good moisture just four to eight inches below the soil surface, said Jim Shroyer, Kansas State University agronomist. While wheat roots at this stage of growth would normally be deep enough to reach moisture at this depth, the plants showing symptoms of stress also had very limited root systems.

In some instances, the distribution of plants with poor root development was consistent with the areas where there were snow drifts, resulting in uneven thawing during the winter. Researchers cannot be sure, however, that the excess snow was the only cause of the poor root systems.

Some of the affected plants also show signs of root disease, said Shroyer, who is the agronomy state leader for K-State Research and Extension. It is unlikely, though, that root diseases represent the full explanation either. K-State researchers are studying

samples in the Department of Plant Pathology's Diagnostic Laboratory to confirm the role of root disease.

"It appears that some or maybe most of the 'drought stress' on wheat in northwest Kansas is actually the result of whatever has caused the reduced root systems," Shroyer said. "Although it didn't rain much in May, drought symptoms were showing up quite earlier than anticipated because the root systems are simply not deep enough to reach moisture, although the depth of moisture is not that great."

Many of the fields examined were very uneven in appearance and in some instances there were also patches of white heads beginning to appear, he said.

"There are a number of things that could have an affect on the wheat in Northwest Kansas this year," Shroyer said. "Individually these factors may not have an impact on yields, but when they're grouped together like this, it creates the potential for the yields of some fields to be affected."

At this point, there is nothing that producers can do about poor root systems, Shroyer said, but he recommends that they watch for shattered grain during harvest and for volunteer wheat later this summer.

First load of wheat weighed at co-op

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
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Nobody expected a load of wheat to be cut this week. But, at about 1:30 p.m. a 600 bushel load was weighed in at Norton Ag Valley Co-op Monday. Calvin Gill

and his son, Tim Gill had cut the load Sunday.

The senior Mr. Gill said it came from a field about a quarter of a mile west of Prairie Dog State Park. He said he had intended to cut again Monday, but the early

morning shower put that plan on hold. He was pleased with the moisture content of 14.1 and it weighed over 61 pounds per bushel.

Mr. Gill said the Jaggar variety was averaging about 30 bushels

per acre. "It was some of the best we've ever raised — and it would have been better if it hadn't been hailed."

Mr. Gill said he had another 40 acre field left to cut. It, too, had suffered some light hail damage.

HONOR ROLL

Norton Junior High School has released the names of students listed on the fourth nine weeks honor roll.

Highest Honor: Seventh Grade — Brae Bigge, Rhees Carlson, R.J. Ellis and Mariah Farber; Eighth Grade — Troy Bainter, Melinda Becker, Dakota Dreher, Sophie Mills, Spencer Shirk and

Dustyna Sprigg.

Honor Roll I: Seventh Grade — Abby Bainter, Eric Becker, Kurt Douglas, Alexis Henson, Dillon McConney, Taylor Medler, Mitchell Shelton and Brooklyn Winkler; Eighth Grade — Jade Braun, Melissa Byler, Maia Carlson, Kyra Fulton, Taylor Gordon, Diedre Kramer, Josiah Laughlin, Kaid McKenna, Nicquel McVey, Zoey Meyers, David Mizell, Andrew Otter, Kaylen Rossi and Rebekah Streck.

Honor Roll II: Seventh Grade — Cayleb Campbell, Fayth Davenport, Sady Keilig, Ashley McMullen, Andy Nickell, Tye Nickell, Kylie Nuzum, Shylo Paxton, Erin Terrell, Caren Thomson, Jordan Wahlmeier; Eighth Grade — Cole Archer, Morgan Baumann, Bill Broeckelman, Matthew Carlton, Allison Gass, Justin Griffith, Landon Keiswetter, Caleb Laughlin, Ashley Millan, Jacob Mizell, Kelsie Morel, Tanner Morel, Meaghan Peterson, Kaitlyn Ross, Shelby Schaefer, Katie Scott, Rachel Shepard, Sharrelle Shinn, Brett Terrell and Kegan Vanover.

Norton Correctional Facility chooses employees of the year

The Kansas Department of Corrections chose its employees and volunteer of the year at an annual ceremony in Topeka on May 21. Chosen from the Norton Correctional Facility (NCF) were Kevin Harper, Sara Collins, Janet Ratliff and Cindy Villarreal.

The facility's uniformed employee of the year is Corrections Specialist II Kevin Harper.

Mr. Harper began his employment with the Department of Corrections at Norton Correctional Facility in August of 2003. He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant (Corrections Specialist II) in March 2007. Mr. Harper is very energetic, has a near perfect attendance record and is courteous and professional in conducting all of his duties, said Warden Jay Shelton. His co-workers say he approaches his job with a positive attitude and that he is always ready to assist them in learning or conducting their duties.

He has been a member of the Special Security Team (SST), the Special Operations Response Team (SORT) and the facility's sharpshooter team.

"Harper is a valuable asset to Norton Correctional Facility," said Mr. Shelton. "He is very responsible, adaptable and takes his job very seriously regardless of the task. He is quick to respond to duties that come up during the course of the day without hesitation. Corrections Specialist II Harper is a valuable component of the facility's security forces and he possesses all the qualities to make a fine security supervisor."

Mr. Harper and his wife, Pam, reside in Beaver City. His mother, Julie, also lives in Beaver City. His father was the late Jim Harper.

Corrections Counselor I Sara Collins was chosen as the non-uniformed employee of the year at the Norton Correctional Facility.

Ms. Collins began her career with the Kansas Department of Corrections in September of 2004. She is an Advanced Communication and Motivational Strategies trainer and is heavily involved in risk reduction and community re-entry initiatives. Ms. Collins is a leader in the area of release planning, developing resources for release planning and sharing those resources with coworkers, said



K. Harper



S. Collins



J. Ratliff



C. Villarreal

Mr. Shelton.

"She is an effective counselor, who appears to develop good working relationships with both staff and inmates assigned to her caseload," Mr. Shelton said. "Corrections Counselor I Collins can be counted on to maintain a positive attitude and goes about her work in a no-nonsense fashion. She is also active in other facility activities that support NCF employees, including the Employee Activity Committee and the Wellness Committee."

Ms. Collins and her family reside in Norton.

The Norton Correctional Facility Contract Employee of the Year is Food Service Supervisor Janet Ratliff.

After a brief time as a Corrections Officer, Ms. Ratliff started employment with Aramark Food

Service at the Norton Correctional Facility in the spring of 1999. "She is a very positive and dependable food service employee who goes out of her way to help fellow employees," said Mr. Shelton. "Ms. Ratliff always supervises and instructs her inmate workers in the correct way to do a specific job. She always seems to be aware of her surroundings; making sure she knows where her inmates are and that her tools and supplies are properly accounted for. Ms. Ratliff is an employee who always has a smile for other employees and seeks to do what she can during her shift to ensure security is addressed and that inmates receive nutritious meals that look and taste good."

The Norton Correctional Facility Volunteer of the Year is Cindy Villarreal

Ms. Villarreal is a dedicated volunteer providing services to both NCF Central and East Units. Her services include providing monthly seminars to offenders nearing release which outline various employment opportunities. Inmates receive a list of Kansas Workforce Centers and a job search workbook. The workbook goes over planning your time, exploring career opportunities, matching experience to jobs, where to find job information, applications, and cover letters, resume preparation, interviewing, testing, thank you letters, job

search checklist, and useful web sites. This is a popular callout with inmates and some even request to attend more than once.

"Ms. Villarreal's enthusiasm for her work spills over to those interacting with her," said Mr. Shelton. "She has proven to be very adaptable and flexible; working around facility operational and training schedules, and departmental meetings which she has presented information in. Ms. Villarreal is well known for her kind and caring demeanor, she always has a smile on her face and is a positive person in all that she does."

EXPERIENCED HOME FOR SALE



If you want a home, not just a house, take a look at 603 Sunset Drive. Roomy living area and dining room have hosted many a family dinner, holiday party, bridge party and Bible study group as well as evenings of cozy conversation and music. The kitchen has lots of cupboards and counter space plus a generous pantry. A kitchen bonus is a brand new Kenmore electric range with black glass top. Kitchenaid dishwasher makes cleanup easy. Bright breakfast area looks out to the east. View of sunrise, flowering trees, blue spruce and daffodils included free! Ground floor utility room adjoins kitchen. Two generous ground-floor bedrooms, one with a big walk-in closet. Bathroom has a roll-in or step-in shower stall with large fold down bench.

Other good stuff: hall closet, linen closet, dining room closet, double-pane windows (no storm window hassles), drapes and carpets in neutral shades, metal security door (red!), whole-house fan in wide stairwell, ceiling fans, southeast patio with gas grill, low-maintenance brick and ColorLok siding, low-maintenance plantings, established lawn with watering system (no hose dragging).

Finished, carpeted basement has large family room, two more bedrooms, and a full bathroom with tub/shower. Unfinished workshop and storage area has workbench with good lighting, lots of shelves, recently replaced hot water heater, central air and heating units.

House is used to antiques, computers, lots of books and pictures. It would enjoy a family but is ideal for a couple looking for a retirement home. Workshop area in one-car garage. Handicap accessible features can include a wooden ramp that fits the front steps. (Optional)

Call Jim at Gordon Realty for details and negotiable pricing.

House is lonely; would like to be a home again.

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BENEFIT

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SPAGHETTI DINNER

11:30 A.M.-1:30 P.M.

Sunday, June 24

4-H Building, Norton, Kansas
— FREE WILL DONATION —
PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE HAVEN



The Haven

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