

## Wheat prices jump to record highs

By KIMBERLY DAVIS  
kldavis@nwks.com

Wheat prices are well over \$8 a bushel, maybe the highest they have ever been, which could make a positive impact on farm income and the area's whole economy.

Dalene Horton, a grain merchandiser for the Decatur Co-op, said back in the 1990s, the price was up to \$6 and change, but she doesn't remember the price per bushel getting much past \$7.

On Monday, the market closed at \$8.61. Mrs. Horton relates the price increase to two

factors: the need for export wheat and a lack of rain in Argentina and Australia right now. The southern wheat crop hasn't been harvested and they are needing moisture in both countries, she said, and that has helped boost the prices.

The majority of the wheat here, she said, has already been sold. A lot of people sold their wheat around harvest time because it was a good price — around \$5 — and they didn't know it would get this high.

She said she really doesn't have any predictions about what the price will do, but the

new-crop bid for next year is around \$5, which is over \$3 less a bushel than people are selling at now. Ms. Horton said that is based on a number of factors, one of which is weather now and how much wheat officials think will be available by next harvest.

She said she doesn't know how much longer the \$8 plus price will last. At some time the price will have to reach its top, but she said, she doesn't know what that might be.

One day last week, she said, the market went up 20 cents during the trading session

and then closed 30 cents lower. That means the price varied by 50 cents in one day.

It is just a volatile market, said Ms. Horton, and no one knows what it will do.

Dan O'Brien, an agriculture economist with Kansas State University in Colby, said the high prices help boost farmers' income. Wheat prices aren't the only ones up, he said. As of Friday, corn was at \$3.47 per bushel, milo \$3.37, soybeans \$8.35 and wheat at \$7.70. Last year at this time wheat was \$4.50 a bushel, milo \$4.19, corn \$2.50, soybeans \$4.60 and sunflowers \$11.15.

If someone is bringing in average to higher yields, he said, these prices will help a lot. For the most part, these are historically high prices, he added.

The corn prices, said Mr. O'Brien, aren't quite as high as the futures were, but the government rate for corn is lower than the price farmer can sell at.

If farmers in the area are fortunate enough to harvest some good crops to go with the price, that would be great. It is always good to be cautious, said Mr. O'Brien, until the (See WHEAT on Page 10A)



## Antiques, cars, engines, quilts to be displayed

By KIMBERLY DAVIS  
kldavis@nwks.com

Antique engines, vehicles, threshers, quilts and more will be on display at the Decatur County fairgrounds this weekend for the 27th annual Mini Sappa Antique Thresher and Engine Show.

The event kicks off at 9 a.m. Saturday with displays and booths open. Buttons for the two-day show cost \$3 for adults and 50 cents for kids. Anyone who wants to camp at the fairground can pay \$3 per day for hookups or \$5 for the two days.

The show is packed full of events, with something for everyone in the family, organizers say, including a quilt show both days in the commercial building.

People can vote on their favorite quilt. Penny Fringer, one of the organizers, said they are still taking quilts for the display.

Breakfast and lunch will be cooked and served both days at the 4-H building. On Saturday, the group will hold a hog roast, which costs \$6 per person. This meal is free to exhibitors and vendors.

At 11 a.m. that day, a poker run will leave from the fairgrounds with people collecting cards around town, trying to find the best hand. Exhibitors will offer antique machinery demonstrations. At 12:30

p.m., a stock garden tractor pull will start. The parade starts at 4 p.m. on Saturday, featuring the antique vehicles, hot roads, customs and other entries.

At 8:30 a.m. Sunday, a church service will be held in the 4-H building with Jim Plotts officiating. The antique machinery demonstrations will start at 11 a.m.

New this year, Mrs. Fringer said, are "kid games," which will begin at 1 p.m. on Sunday. Events will include old-time games such as gunny-sack and wheelbarrow races for kids of all ages, including adults. At 2 p.m., the kids' pedal tractor pull will start, with the second parade to follow at 3 p.m.

The group, said Mrs. Fringer, has been selling tickets to win a John Deere pedal tractor or a John Deere quilt. Both are on display in the window at the United Northwest Federal Credit Union in Oberlin. The drawing for those will be held after the parade on Sunday. Tickets are \$1 apiece or six for \$5.

This event is great for the whole family and is low cost, said Mrs. Fringer. It shows people equipment and skills from the past seldom seen today, including threshing wheat, sawing wood for houses and making cornmeal. And, she said, the food is always great.

## Taking a shot at targets

**HIS GUN RESTED** into his shoulder and propped up by his left hand, Darrell Morrow (above) of Burlington, Colo., looked through the sight at one of the rubber duckies in the field. Mr. Morrow was out for the weekend at the twice-yearly black powder shoot at Sappa Park sponsored by the Beaver Creek Muzzleloaders. He said he has been coming here for 20 years for the shoots. Ron Baker (left) loaded his gun Saturday morning before taking a shot. Mr. Baker said this is his second time at this shoot.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

## Museum celebrates 49 years of service with Mini Sappa

Food, entertainment, crafts and activities are in store for anyone who plans to attend the Decatur County Last Indian Raid Museum's Mini Sappa Day celebration this Saturday.

This is the 49th year for the celebration, said Director Sharleen Wurm. She said the museum will be open free of charge from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

The celebration kicks off at 7 a.m. with a pancake feed for two hours in the museum's Old Bohemian Hall. A bake sale will run from 8 to 9:30 a.m. in the Land Office building.

A craft fair, said Mrs. Wurm, will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., offering doll clothes, beaded wall hangings and angels, designer purses, metal art, quilts, denim bags, jellies, jams, pumpkins and dried and fresh flowers and plants.

The museum will have six games for kids from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mrs. Wurm said she knows they will have a fish pond, plinko and tattoos, plus other activities.

Lunch will be cooked by the Faith

Lutheran Church Youth Group from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For entertainment, the DCHS Singers will perform from 8 to 9 a.m. Country singer Terry Rose will be in the Bohemian Hall.

Mr. Rose, who lives in Decatur County, will launch his "Bustin' Out" tour at the museum. Mrs. Wurm said he will perform during lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and then give a concert from 2 to 3 p.m.

She said his tour will last a year, culminating with a concert at The Gateway in 2008. Mr. Rose plans to do a recording session later in 2008 at Chapman Recording Studio in Missouri.

Mrs. Wurm said everyone should come out to the museum and see the 14 historical buildings, the craft fair and take part in the big celebration.

While in town, she said, she encourages everyone to shop at the antique stores and attend the 27th annual Mini Sappa Antique Thresher and Engine Show out at the county fairground.

## Council sends wind company a new letter

After an hour and 10 minutes in a closed session, supposedly to discuss attorney-client privilege, the Oberlin City Council agreed to send a letter to Sunflower Wind LLC saying the city will negotiate with the firm as long as a right of first refusal is taken out of the proposed contract.

In early August, the company offered the city a contract to sell power at 5.6 cents per kilowatt hour, with the agreement that the council

would cancel the city's current contracts with Sunflower Electric Power Co. and for federal hydro-power. When the city balked, Sunflower Wind offered the city an agreement giving the firm a right of first refusal, which would have allowed it to meet the price of any other supplier. The city never signed.

The council did send a letter of intent to the wind company saying

it would work with the firm to reach an agreement.

At a special meeting last Wednesday, the council agreed to send a letter saying it will negotiate with Sunflower if the right of first refusal is taken out of the agreement.

City Administrator Gary Shike said he e-mailed the letter to Brice Barton with Sunflower Wind on Thursday. He said he hasn't heard anything back from Mr. Barton.

Although the city hired Joe Herz, an independent consultant, to look at the original contract offered from Sunflower Wind, Mr. Shike said, he hasn't been hired to continue working with the city. At the meeting on Thursday, Sept. 27, Mr. Herz did say that if the agreement was for a right of first refusal he didn't want his name attached to it. Mr. Shike said he did call Mr. Herz to tell him what the city had decided.

## Volunteers needed for recycling board

The Decatur County recycling program needs people who want to volunteer to serve on an advisory board now being formed.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn said they need eight to 10 board members. Anyone who is interested should call her office at 475-

8102 to put their name on the list.

The program started in July 2005, she said, through the Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Organization Program. Since then the county, she said, has recycled 170,000 pounds of material (See COUNTY on Page 10A)