

Corn, milo harvests fill elevator bins

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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The flow of harvest trucks started to become a little more steady over the weekend as more farmers finished up wheat planting and started to bring in a bumper harvest of fall crops.

Elevators, while working hard to ship out a big wheat harvest, already are storing milo on the ground, managers report.

In Norcatur, harvest actually started a couple weeks ago, said Clint Johnson, Norcatur Grain manager, but it has been pretty slow. Guys have wanted to get their wheat in the ground first.

So far, farmers who have brought loads in, said Mr. Johnson, have been pretty happy. Yields for corn have been anywhere from 50 to 100 bushels per acre, he said, and as of Monday morning, Norcatur Grain had a total of 197,000 bushels.

At Hansen Mueller in Oberlin, the company is using both their elevator downtown and the new one off of U.S. 36. Janice O'Hare said they have taken in about 100,000 bushels of corn already, but she hasn't heard anyone talking about yields.

Although the elevator started to receive corn on Sept. 28, it didn't actually start getting busy until over the weekend.

At the Decatur County Co-op, said grain merchandiser Dalene Horton, the company had brought in 970,000 bushels up through Saturday. She, too, said she hasn't heard any yields, but the test weights and moisture have been good.

It is really hard to tell about the yields, said Ms. Horton, because farmers are just getting into harvest.

Ms. Horton said she has heard that some farmers were making over 100 bushels per acre on dryland corn. Lots of people are just starting to pick corn since they wanted to finish planting the wheat, she said.

Although the co-op received the first of

the fall crops back at the beginning of September, it hasn't been until the last week and a half that the elevator started to be busy.

The facility in Kanona, said Ms. Horton, is full already.

In other locations, the co-op has started to pile milo on the ground.

Over the summer, the co-op took in the largest wheat crop ever, she said. Although a lot of that grain has been shipped out, it is unusual to have two good harvests in the same year.

The co-op takes all fall crops, she said, including corn, milo, soybeans and sunflowers.

At D&S Grain in Traer, Dan Grafel said most of the space at the elevator is contracted out for corn already, meaning that if someone doesn't have a prior arrangement, they won't be able to haul to that location.

Mr. Grafel said wheat drilling is about 90 percent done in the Traer area, so he has seen a lot more combines moving.

He said he has seen a range of 80 to 115 bushels per acre on dryland corn, which is really good. Farmers hope for 80 bushels an acre on corn, he said, with 100 plus being a bumper crop. In dry years, those numbers are closer to 40 bushels per acre, he said.



ON A JOHN DEERE tractor (above), a participant in the Mini Sappa Antique Thresher and Engine Show drove up and down the aisles of the parking lot at the county fairground on

Saturday. Jim Marshall (below) waited for his turn during the garden tractor pull.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Reclassification mixes around football teams

By **JIM MERRIOTT**
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The Decatur Community High School schedule will look different to fans next fall as smaller enrollment and reclassification of the state's high schools force the end of old Northwest Kansas League rivalries in football.

The 2008-2009 Kansas high school classifications were announced last Thursday, based on enrollment counts from grades 9-11 this year.

A drop in enrollment caused several schools in the league, including Oberlin, to be reclassified from Class 3A to Class 2A-1A for football the next two years. Goodland High slipped from Class 4A to Class 3A at the same time.

Teams from the Northwest Kansas League and the Mid-Continent League will play each other, based on size and records. For football, Oberlin will not be scheduled to play St. Francis and Colby, where enrollment climbed.

"We will not play St. Francis, but regain Norton in the trade," said Oberlin Activities Director Joe Dreher. "All other sports will remain at the 3A level for now."

Football classes are determined for two years at a time, using the

number enrolled in the three grades. Classification for other sports is based on total enrollment for each school in grades 10-12, and those did not change this time. Football is the only sport that is counted differently, as enrollment is counted on upcoming classes for the following year.

Hoxie took the biggest hit in enrollment, dropping from 78 to 64, making it the smallest 2A-1A school in Kansas still playing 11-man football.

Oberlin dropped from 112 in the three grades two years ago to 102 this fall, while Oakley dropped from 113 to 108. Quinter's enrollment went from 79 students to 75, causing the Bulldogs to be the only school to drop out of the Northwest Kansas League in football. Quinter will play eight-man football for at least two years.

Colby High's enrollment increased from 238 to 249, but with the Eagles being on the low end of enrollment in Class 4A, officials there say it will be difficult to compete against larger schools in the eastern half of the state. Bishop Miege, with 552 boys, is at the top end of the 4A classification.

The enrollment decline sent (See SCHOOLS on Page 5A)

Large donations will help to finish livestock building

The Decatur County Fair Foundation has received donations for \$5,000 and \$10,000 to help finish the new livestock building at the fairground.

Commissioner Ralph Unger and Treasurer Jean Hale held a foundation meeting during the commissioners' meeting last Tuesday. Greg Long, president of the fair board, who also serves on the foundation, was absent.

The \$5,000 gift came from Lynn Anderson of Texas and the \$10,000 from Claude D. and Dorothy Graham of California, said Mrs. Hale.

Mrs. Hale asked if she should start making receipts and sending thank-yous to anyone who gives \$200 or more to the foundation. Mr. Unger said he thought that was a good idea.

What about people who give under \$200? asked Mrs. Hale. Since the organization is tax exempt under federal law, said Mr. Unger, they need to ask County Attorney Steve Hirsch about the receipts.

Mr. Unger said Mrs. Hale should only do the thank-yous and receipts to people who have donated since the reorganization of the founda-

County roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Approved the 2008 budget after talking with three people who had questions about money being raised for the airport runway project. Story below.

- Worked on a specification sheet for the ambulance director, who will be asking for bids for a new used first-response vehicle. Story on Page 2A.

- Heard that the Decatur County Fair Foundation has received two large donations, one for \$5,000 and one for \$10,000, to help finish the new livestock building at the fairground. Story at left.

tion, unless someone comes in and asks for a receipt.

Commissioner Stan McEvoy said (See MONEY on Page 5A)

Commissioners OK 2008 county budget

The Decatur County commissioners approved the 2008 budget, including a 10 percent increase in the property tax levy, at their meeting last Tuesday with only three people there to ask questions.

Connie Grafel, marketing director with the Oberlin-Decatur

County Economic Development Corp.; Greg Lohoefer, chairman of the corporation's board; and Vickie Bailey, a board member, all asked about the county raising money for the city airport runway extension. (See COUNTY on Page 5A)

Tractors, old cars show off

By **MARY LOU OLSON**
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Nearly 40 tractors and 25 cars were entered over the weekend at the Mini Sappa Antique Engine and Thresher Show at the Decatur County Fairground, along with nine engines, seven mowers and four cycles or scooters.

Entries came from Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas. Demonstrations of antique equipment throughout both days included corn shelling, threshing, saw milling and straw baling.

Rodney Marshall won a John Deere pedal tractor and Albert Ritter a John Deere tractor quilt, given in a raffle.

The top five tractors on Saturday included a 1931 Massey Harris, entered by Ray Rexford, Montezuma; 1947 John Deere Model D, George and Donna Brown, Jetmore; 1959 Minneapolis Moline 4-Star, Bob Virgil, Norton; a 1942 McCormick Farmall H, Toby Griffith, Glade; and a 1965 David Brown Selectomatic 880, Bill and Peggy Anderson, Superior, Neb.

The top five on Sunday were a 1935 IHC W-30, Lonnie McEvoy, Oberlin; 1946 IHC W-6, Cecil Lafferty, McCook; 1942 John Deere H, Donald Lafferty, McCook; 1947 John Deere D, Natalie Hawkins, Atwood; and a 1946 Empire, Art Wilkins, Stockton.

Top five car winners on Saturday included a U.S. Navy Ford GPW,



Gary Allen, Oberlin; 1927 Chev Landau Coupe, Jim and Reva Marshall, Oberlin; 1963 Chevy 1/2 ton pickup, Kay Martin, McCook; 1931 Model A Ford, Melvin Smalberger, Oberlin; and a 1973 Chevy C-10 pickup, Everett Shuler, Oberlin.

Taking honors for the top five cars

Sunday were a 1949 Diamond T201, Art and Jim Wilkins, Atwood; 1930 Ford A Coupe, Charles Vap, Ludell; a 1927 Ford Courier, 1930 Ford pickup and 1941 GMC pickup, all owned by Gleason and Kelva Dryden, Oberlin.

Harvey Wright, Atwood, took

first in the garden tractor pull with his Craftsman. Other winners were Bill Anderson, Superior, Neb., Case, second and White, fourth; and Allen Palmateer, Bartley, Neb., 1955 Dinamark, third.

Pedal tractor pull winners were (See PRIZES on Page 5A)