

Rain puts brakes on wheat harvest

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Rain Saturday night and early Sunday put the brakes on wheat harvest, but not before area farmers could get several loads in.

Kurt Anderson, general manager of the Decatur Co-op, said Monday afternoon that the Oberlin harvest is probably half done. In Lenora, he said, farmers are close to done, while in the Danbury area north of the state line, harvest hasn't yet started.

The company has taken it around 2.4 million bushels of new wheat, he said,

while last year the harvest totaled over 4.5 million bushels.

It's been a little different kind of a harvest, he said, with very few lines at the co-op's nine elevators. He said they will get busy and have several trucks and then not have any for a while, and then another rush.

There is a lot of different maturity in the fields, said Mr. Anderson, based on when the farmers were able to plant around the fall rains last year.

Test weights have been good, he added, anywhere from 58 to 63.5 pounds per

bushel. With the recent rains, those could go down.

Mr. Anderson said he thinks there could be some people out cutting by this evening in the Herndon area. Farther to the east though, more rain was received. Out that way, they probably won't be going until Thursday.

At Hansen Mueller Grain in Oberlin, office manager Janice O'Hare said harvest is going very well so far.

The company took in half a million bushels in three days. Actually, she said, they had

one of their biggest days on Saturday, taking in 140,000 bushels in Oberlin and 30,000 in Cedar Bluffs.

There hasn't really been lines, with the average dump speed at 7 to 10 minutes a truck.

Mrs. O'Hare said she thought things would start moving again on Thursday – if it doesn't rain again. Some people had up to two inches of rain, leaving things pretty muddy.

She said they are seeing good test weights, 60 to 61 pounds per bushel average.

Farmers are just getting started in the Cedar Bluffs area, said Mrs. O'Hare, but they normally start a little after the Oberlin area.

So far things are running fine, she said. Most of the farmers, she said, are waiting to sell their crop. In the last week or so, the wheat price has rallied and come up a little.

On Monday, the market closed at \$3.69 a bushel.

Council passes resolutions for water plant

The Oberlin City Council passed resolutions allowing the city to use either revenue or general obligation bonds, or both, to pay for a proposed water treatment plant.

At a meeting on Thursday, June 17, the council had tabled the resolutions until the entire council could be present. (Mayor Joe Stanley and Councilman Bill Riedel were absent.)

Passing the resolutions, said City Attorney Steve Hirsch, gives the council the authority to use either kind of bonds, but doesn't actually tie it down.

So why not do both? asked Councilwoman Rhonda May, until the council decides what will work best.

Revenue bonds, noted Councilman Bill Riedel, don't go against the city's debt rating and the general obligation ones do.

Debt is debt, said Mr. Hirsch, but revenue bonds might not go against the debt rating the same as general

obligation bonds do.

By the definition of revenue bonds, said Ms. May, the city will be using water revenue to pay back the borrowed money. The city could be forced or required to bring water bills up to a high level to pay the bonds. What good is a good debt rating, asked Ms. May, if no one can afford to run the dishwasher because the water bill is too high?

Mr. Riedel said the way it was explained to him, general obligation bonds count against the city's debt limit. With the airport project and maybe others coming up, it might be a good idea for the city to be able to borrow if needed.

Another project to look at, said Ms. May, is that the city has needed a new pool for at least the last 10 years. The old one is sort of patched together, she said. How long is that going to last?

In order to proceed, said Mr. Hirsch, one or another of the res-

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Families celebrate Independence Day

Kids wandered around the park playing on the swings, trying their hands at volleyball, getting their faces painted and searching for coins in a tank full of corn.

Oberlin's sesquicentennial Fourth of July Celebration lasted all day Sunday, kicking off with a packed house for a community church service at the Golden Age Center and ending with a spectacular fireworks show at the fairgrounds.

Organizer Kem Bryan said there were around 180 people at the community church service. Although it had been scheduled for City Park, organizers decided to move it inside with the forecast for a chance of more rain.

The area received around 2 inches of rain the night before, shutting down harvest a few days and leaving the lawn at the park damp.

Although the Golden Age Center was packed, said Mrs. Bryan, no one seemed to care. She said she hadn't heard any complaints.

After a potluck lunch, families moved to City Park for face painting, volleyball and the corn tank.

Oberlin graduate Anthony Marshall, a graduate of K-State, took his time painting motorcycles, butterfly masks, American flags, tiger faces and much more on kids' faces while parents milled around talking.

In the afternoon, several teenage boys and girls tried their skills at using one hand to push mowers half a block down Main Street. While one hand was on the mower, the other held a bottle of water that was used to spray the opponents. Three teens raced at a time.

Following the push mowers, two

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Fun day planned at Sappa Park

The Decatur County Helping Hands group plans a "fun day" next week at Sappa Park to raise money.

The group gives 100 percent of the money raised back to Decatur County residents for help with medical expenses, said Chris Dempewolf, president of the group.

Ms. Dempewolf said people have to meet some criteria before any money is given out. No money, she said, is given to the applicants. The group pays bills directly to the health providers. Helping Hands also has gift certificates to gas stations in case of an emergency.

Last year, Helping Hands helped six families with medical expenses and travel, she said.

"We hope to double that for this year," she said, "but can only do so with the help of donations."

Applications for the group are available at the Decatur County Hospital, the Oberlin Clinic and

the Norcatour City Office. People can also contact her, Lynn Doeden or Regina Stanley, who all serve on the group.

Helping Hands plans to hold one main fund raiser, the fun day from 4 p.m. to midnight Saturday, July 17. The event will include adult and kids games, a disk golf tourney, a raffle, a hog roast, a dance and more.

The schedule includes:

- 9:30 a.m. frisbee golf registration with beginners start at 10:30 a.m., intermediate at noon and advance at 2 p.m. The entry fee is \$10.

- 1 p.m. registration for the washer tournament with a 2 p.m. start. The entry fee is \$10 and prizes will be given.
- 4 p.m. games start with a \$5 wristband good for all games.
- 7 p.m. hog roast.
- 8 p.m. dance starts with Mobile Music Express.



IN THE FIELD on Friday, Gene Gallentine (above) sat behind the steering wheel of his Case IH combine, while his father Norman (below) climbed out of the tractor.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Farmer harvests wheat

A broken combine part didn't hold the spirits of Gene Gallentine back much during the third day of harvest for his family last week.

He just jumped in the pickup and headed to the implement store in Hoxie. The idler pulley had never been replaced, he said; it was the original and he needed a new one.

Within a few hours, the Case IH combine was up and running with Mr. Gallentine behind the wheel.

While cutting a field close to Kanona, he said he is a fourth-generation farmer. He's been farming on his own for over 30 years now.

His father, Norman Gallentine, still joins him on the job. His dad, now 83, was in the field for harvest, driving the grain cart.

Mr. Gallentine said he and his father hardly need to communicate. His dad just knows when the combine is full and when to pull the grain cart up along side.

The Gallentine men are joined by a harvest crew out of Missouri that's been hired by the family for the last four years. Gary McEaneld, said Mr. Gallentine, helps with summer and fall harvest.

Dean Forbes and Von Johnson of Norcatour also help, driving the grain truck back and forth from the elevator.

Mr. Gallentine said they started cutting last Wednesday, but it was still a little wet. By Thursday, they were going.

By Friday afternoon, the grain was running around 13 to 13.5 percent moisture, he said. While they had two combines and his and the custom cutters going all morning, shortly after lunch the Case broke down and it was off to Hoxie for the part.



The straw is tough and ropery on this year's crop, said Mr. Gallentine. It's kind of slow going and takes power to get through.

From the field just a couple of miles east of the Jennings road,

the grain was being hauled to the Decatur Co-op elevator in Jennings. Mr. Gallentine said he takes grain there and to Norcatour, and to elevators in Clayton and Reager.

In a normal day, he said, they

are in the field and cutting by

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