

# Clark County Courier

The voice of Clark County since 1880

**Pheasant hunting season begins on Saturday**



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The hometown newspaper of Jerry Bachman, Zell, SD

## Dry Lake #2 discussions ongoing

Dry Lake #2 information and discussion was an hour-long agenda item at last week's Clark County Board of Commissioners meeting.

Dry Lake #2 is located in southern Clark County, north of Willow Lake and after being a dry lake until a little over 25 years ago, has grown substantially over time and lake levels have risen nearly 6.5 feet in the past four years and has impacted the surrounding property and infrastructure.

This aforementioned sentence came from a U.S. Geological Survey report about the potential of high resolution mapping of Clark County in support of characterizing drainage flowpaths.

The paper went on to explain: The hydrologic conditions of a closed basin are unique. In most cases changes in lake levels are due to changes in groundwater levels. As groundwater levels increase, lake levels will increase as groundwater discharge contributes (inflow) water to the lake. As groundwater levels decrease, lake levels will decrease (outflow) as the lake discharges to the groundwater. Understanding the connections of groundwater and surface water interactions will assist in effective resource management. The location and rate of groundwater discharge to (or from) surface water many vary seasonally and with

**Dry Lake #2**  
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WEATHER				
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer				
	HI	LO	PR	
Oct. 6	74	49	0	
Oct. 7	81	51	0	
Oct. 8	70	45	0	
Oct. 9	71	44	0	
Oct. 10	82	44	0	
Oct. 11	69	43	0	
Oct. 12	78	39	0	
2020 precipitation to date	16.98			
2019 precipitation to date	34.48			

## Neighbors helping neighbors

# Farming Bee held at Doug Hansen's soybean fields

It was a heartwarming sight last Wednesday in the Garden City area as friends, neighbors and fellow farmers harvested and brought in the soybean crop for the late Doug and Tina Hansen.

The Hansens lost their lives this summer in a tragic airplane accident near Groton and the community rallied together to help their surviving sons Jed and Caleb bring in their soybean crop.

Doug Hansen's lifelong friend since they were in grade school - Chuck Beving, his son CJ Beving and neighbor Russ Foster, all came together to organize an old fashioned farming bee to help the Hansens harvest the crop.

"My dad and Doug were best buddies from high school and were friends since they were 10 years old," stated CJ Beving. "They had a lot of the same interests."

"Doug had a lot of acres in soybeans this year," continued Beving. "We brought in about 700 acres worth of soybeans. There must have been about 35 trucks that came to help and 12 combines. It was just great that so many came to help."

Beving even had a birds eye view of the harvest flying a Citabria high winged two seater airplane above the harvesting crew for a short time.

Julie Foster, Holly Beving and Marilyn Foster were busy that day driving around and feeding a nice bag lunch to all of the volunteer crew. Dacotah Bank in Clark and Clark Community Oil furnished the noon lunch with Foster organizing the deliveries and Tresa Hemmingson helping in that department. "We had 50 bag lunches made up and only had one left that day," said Foster. "It was great how even more people showed up - they pulled off of the highway to help. All of them finished up within 20 minutes of each other. It went really smooth that day and everything fell together."

**Hansen**  
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This was the sight last Wednesday in Doug Hansen's soybean fields. A farming bee was held to bring in the soybean crop of Doug and Tina Hansen. The Hansens were tragically killed last month in an airplane accident and neighbors and friends organized a group effort to bring in his soybean crop.

Chuck and CJ Beving and Russ Foster came together to organize the effort. In the combines above, left to right are Scott Hansen, Tom Foster,

Russ Foster and Scott Campbell on the right. Jay Foster, Jody Foster and Logan Redlin were on grain cart duty in this field.

Approximately 700 acres of soybeans were harvested in about four hours by 12 combines according to CJ Beving who is shown above in his aircraft flying above the combines.

Photo by Amy Hansen

## Pheasant season opener is Saturday



Clark County Game, Fish & Parks Conservation Officer Zach Thomsen is shown on public land among good pheasant habitat southeast of Clark. The non-resident pheasant season opener starts this coming Saturday, Oct. 17, at 10:00 a.m.

With an earlier start each day and a longer season, the 2020 South Dakota non-resident pheasant hunting season opens this Saturday, Oct. 17.

For many years the starting time was 12:00 noon on the opening Saturday. This Saturday and every day of the pheasant season, hunters may begin shooting at 10:00 a.m.

The season ends January 31, 2021. "I'm happy to say that with everything going on this year, because of the forecast and the fact that hunters want to come outdoors to South Dakota, I think we will have a fairly normal opening weekend to the pheasant season," said Clark County Conservation Officer Zach Thomsen.

Thomsen said he knows we are in the middle of a pandemic and that the number of birds is down from say five years ago, but he feels hunters will be coming to get away from their jobs and city life to shoot birds and enjoy the pheasant hunting tradition and experience.

"Outdoor recreation this past spring and summer show a trend for this fall - that makes me think pheasant hunter numbers to be up. What's better for social distancing than hunting?" stated the game warden.

Weather-wise, the high temperature Saturday and Sunday is to be in the high 50's with the low in the upper 20's, good hunting weather.

"Yes, the weather is to be conducive to hunting this weekend," said Thomsen. "It will be good for dogs. The weather should allow the dogs to pick up the scent and be able to retrieve, without overheating."

**Pheasant season**  
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## Soybean harvest is going strong this week

It's harvest time in Clark County! The soybean harvest is about done in most of the county with area elevators and agronomists estimating about 85 to 90% of producers having their soybeans out of the field.

"The bean harvest is getting close to being wrapped up now across the whole state as well as the county," stated SDSU Extension Agronomist David Karki from the Watertown regional center.

"A lot of farmers were expecting lower yields than what they got at the end. The crop dried down ideally this year. Last year was a struggle with all of our moisture. This year, people didn't have to wait."

On average Karki estimated from the low 40s to mid 60s for bushels per acre from random reports so far. "Nothing higher than the mid 60s has come in. From the Clark area farmers I've heard from, it's been about 45-50, give or take," continued Karki.

"I haven't heard of any soggy beans this year. Right now we're hearing 12-13% moisture in the soybean crop. The August heat we had this year might have hurt the beans more than the corn on yields."

"Environmentally it's been dry in the fields making it easy for the combines to get around and producers are starting on the corn right now. The corn is pretty much mature and more is being harvested every day," ends Karki.

### Willow Lake

In Willow Lake, the report from elevator manager Chad Kruger stated that in his area the average is around 48-50 bushels per acre for soybeans.

"I'd say about 80% of the harvest is done," stated Kruger last Friday of last week's activity. "It's going good

in comparison to last year. The challenge lately has been with combine fires due to the dry conditions. We haven't had rain for quite a while."

Early sampling on the corn crop in his area has 16.5 to 18.5 moisture so far as of last Friday. A few producers have started on corn and this week should see a lot more coming out of the field.

"By the looks of things, we're expecting some above average yields," ended Kruger.

### Henry

Soybeans were expected to be 90-95% finished by the weekend in the east end of the county. "Results were all over the board," added John Guest Jr., elevator manager at the Henry location. "Where it was drought stricken it was as low as 20 bushels per acre, to the areas with good moisture bringing in 60-65 bushels. Averaging it all out, 40-45 bushels per acre are the totals."

From start to finish 11-12% moisture was the average for the soybeans.

The corn samples that have come in so far read from 16-20% for moisture.

Producers around here are holding off on the corn until the soybeans are completely finished.

"It's been an enjoyable harvest this year compared to last year," ended Guest.

### Carpenter

Mike Madsen of Agtegra in Carpenter estimates that the soybean harvest in their area is 80-85% complete.

"As time goes on, the crop is drier. It started at the beginning with 13-15% moisture but lately it's been down to the 9-11% range," stated Madsen. "Our yields are running 45-55 bushels on average." Corn harvest is just getting start-

ed with only 10% at the most coming in. Madsen estimates it to be in the 170- to 200 range with 14 to 17% moisture.

"We could use some rain, even a half inch would help," continued Madsen. "There's been several fires in the countryside with it being so dry. There's been a couple combine fires in the area. That's something one needs to pay attention to this year."

State climatologist Laura Edwards predicted drier than average conditions are more likely than wetter conditions in the month ahead.

The drier than average conditions have provided a favorable climate for the dry down of corn and soybeans in the field noted Edwards.

Being the middle of October, it is time for a hard frost. To date, that has not occurred, but will this week. This week's forecast is for fall like temperatures, highs in the 40's to low 50's and lows at or below 32'. A hard frost happens when the temperature is at 28° or lower for at least three hours. According to the forecast that will definitely happen this week.

**Soybean harvest**  
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## Mystery Snowperson Clue

### 52nd Annual Snow Queen Festival

### Mystery Snowperson Contest

"Born and raised in Clark County am I, along with my three siblings. Big Twins & Steelers fan."

Send guesses to: Erin Heiman, 17746 426th Ave., Clark, SD 57225 or email: clarksnowqueen@gmail.com