

Clark County corn harvest is getting wrapped up

At the time of this mailing, the corn harvest in the county should be pretty much completed was the consensus of area farmers, elevator managers and agronomists last week.

"Phenomenal" was the word Greg Janisch used when talking about this year's corn harvest. Especially when comparing to the year before with wet conditions that continued on interfering with a timely harvest.

Corn is the most planted crop in South Dakota and a strong partner in the production of livestock. Two of every three rows of corn becomes ethanol, stated the South Dakota State University iGrow website and it's estimated that nearly one out of every three dollars generated by South Dakota agriculture starts in a corn field.

"Producers were working hard last week to get everything done before the weekend forecast of more moisture coming our way," stated David Karki, SDSU Extension Agronomist from the Watertown regional center.

"The harvest season is almost wrapped up now. Unless there were machinery breakdowns or other inconveniences, I'd say producers in the area are about 90 percent done with their corn harvest."

According to Karki, the conversations in the fields are that yields are anywhere from 155 to 215 bushels per acre. These are the field averages not the farm total averages."

With farm averages, Karki said that it's safe to say 175 to 180 bu. per acre are the averages.

Moisture counts are coming in at 15.5 to 16 percent, which is neither too low or too high.

"The whole harvest season has been ideal weather wise, once we got past our snowfall a couple weeks ago," continued Karki. "I've been hearing that prices are better than in the past.

"It really varies from field to field. Growers usually say a bumper crop is usually 200 bu. per acre plus. In our test plots, we estimate a 175-180 average. That's the coffee talk anyway, it's kind of hard to accurately predict."

"Having a drier August affected the soy beans more than the corn this year, although the first week in September some corn fields showed some drought symptoms."

"Many were optimistic about this year's crop and were happy with what they got," ended Karki.

To reiterate a story previously on the soybean harvest, producers

Corn harvest
(continued on page 4)



This was the scene last Friday in the corn field belonging to Greg Janisch. This was his last corn field to bring in this harvest season, "It's been the most phenomenal week weather wise for our harvest this year. The fields are dry and yields are above average. It's a stark contrast to last year's harvest, which we finished up going into the spring of 2020,"

stated Janisch.

Above, Tim Steffensen drives along Janisch as he unloads after another round. Janisch's John Deere combine had quite a workout last week, going daily to bring in the harvest in ideal conditions.

General Election 2020 is one for the record books

▲ Clark County continues to vote heavily Republican

The 2020 General Election in the United States will long be remembered as the presidential election during a pandemic, with Democratic challenger Joe Biden defeating incumbent President Donald Trump. The election wasn't even called (a winner) until the Saturday following the Tuesday election day. At press time, at least three states remained too close to call for the presidential election.

The presidential election becomes official when the Electoral College meets in mid December. At least 270 Electoral College votes are needed to become president and Biden has received 279 and that number could grow.

In South Dakota and Clark County, President Trump gained at least a 2-1 majority. In Clark County Trump received 1,373 votes compared to 437 for Biden. Libertarian Jo Jorgensen received 40 votes.

Turning to Election Day on the local, county level, auditor Chris Tarbox reported that it went super smooth. "It went well," said Tarbox. "We had 72 percent of the eligible voters either going to the polls, voting absentee at the courthouse or mailing in an absentee ballot. For the District 2 commissioners race the turnout was 79 percent. It worked out well using the American Legion Hall in Clark as well as the Ulyot Building."

On the county level for District 2 county commissioner, voters chose Chris Sass with 229 votes over Eric Caulfield with 172 votes. Both candidates ran as Independents.

In South Dakota Legislative District 2, all three Republican incumbents ran unopposed. Sen. Brock Greenfield, Rep. Lana Greenfield and Kaleb Weis will all represent District 2 in the State Legislature for two years.

On the state level, incumbent Republicans were the winners in both the U.S. Senate and U.S. House

in the Senate race Republican Michael Rounds with 66% of the votes defeated Democrat Dan Ahlers with 34%. Clark County voters also chose Rounds 1,397 to 450 over Ahlers.

For the U.S. House of Representatives, Republican Dusty Johnson collected 81% of state votes to defeat Randy 'Uriah' Luallin with 19%. In Clark County, Johnson collected 1,571 votes to 222 for Luallin.

Gary Hanson (R) defeated Devin Saxon (L) and Remi W. B. Bald Eagle (D) for Public Utilities Commissioner, 68% to 5% to 27%. In Clark County, Hanson had 1,382 votes to 95 for Saxon and 275 for Bald Eagle.

S. D. Supreme Court Justice Steven Jensen was retained with an 81% retention 'yes' vote. In Clark County it was 1,368 to

226.

Ballot Measures

Marijuana will become legal in South Dakota, beginning July 1, 2021. Constitutional Amendment A, passed 54% to 46%, legalizing marijuana and allowing the State Legislature to pass laws regarding hemp as well as laws ensuring access to marijuana for medical use.

In Clark County, Constitutional Amendment A had 751 in favor of marijuana and 1,058 against.

Initiated Measure 26, which legalizes marijuana for medical use passed 70% to 30%. In Clark County, 1,157 were in favor of medical marijuana and 662 against medical marijuana.

Constitutional Amendment B also passed 58% to 42%. Amendment B authorizes the legislature to allow sports wagering in Deadwood.

The sports betting ballot was close in Clark County. Eight-hundred and eighty nine voted for Deadwood sports betting and 890 against sports betting.

Alaina Wellnitz hired as Clark Finance Officer

A special session of the City of Clark Council was held Monday, at noon, at the Ulyot Building.

After a 10-minute executive session, the Clark City Council hired Alaina Wellnitz as the new city

finance officer, at \$20.00 an hour. She will begin her duties on Monday, November 23.

The meeting lasted until 3:45 p.m., with no further motions from the council.



Patriotism is alive and well at Merkel residence

With Veterans Day on Wednesday - this red, white and blue wrapped hay bale showed the patriotism of the Nate and Megan Merkel family who live north of Clark.

Along with their children, Kolby, Taylor, Katelynn and Alayna, the family added United States and military flags to the bale so it wouldn't be missed.

Their neighbor Heath Heiman brought over the red, white and blue wrapped bale. "We really appreciated that," stated Nate Merkel. "It turned out just the way we wanted. We wanted to honor all of the Veterans as well as the ones in our family, Grandpa Albert Merkel, Danny Merkel and Josh Merkel."

On top of the bale is Taylor Merkel "who enjoys wearing red, white and blue and is very patriotic", stated his grandmother - Connie Merkel of Bradley. In front of the bale which sports flags from the branches of service as well as a POW/MIA flag are, left to right, Kolby, Alayna and Katelynn Merkel.

Clark School continues to deal with COVID-19

▲ Resignations accepted from football coaches Huber, Nesheim

The COVID-19 school district update was the major topic item at the November meeting of the Clark School Board, held Monday, at the high school library.

Before delving into the hour-long COVID discussion, the board also accepted the resignation of long-time head football coach Joel Huber. Huber has been in charge of the Comet/Cyclone football program since 1986. He submitted his resignation from the football coaching position, as did assistant football coach Jerome Nesheim. Cheer coach Mary Nelson also resigned her coaching duties. The school(s) will begin filling these positions.

COVID

The Clark School Board amended the current COVID policy with two amendments. Basically the policy follows CDC guidelines and quarantine policies, with updates pertaining to school on the school webpage and keep those who need to know, informed.

The two amendments include:
1. In order for someone to return to school after a positive testing, following a minimum of 10 day absence from school, student/staff member must be symptom free for 24 hours, have a doctor clearance, OR negative results of COVID-19 testing.

2. Students or staff who exhibit COVID symptoms may take the Abbott BinexNOW Rapid antigen test at the high school. Questionable negative results or positive results will be referred to medical personnel for further treatment.

This Binex/NOW Rapid antigen test at the high school will be performed by superintendent Luanne Warren.

The Clark School has enough tests for staff and each student in the entire school. To do this test the school will need respective parental permission. The parent has the ability to refuse the test.

As of Monday, 15 staff members, one elementary student and nine middle/high school students have acquired the virus.

In the past two weeks, because of close contacts, there have been 23-40 absences, which include positive cases as well.

Superintendent Warren and middle/high school principal Travis Ahrens discussed COVID with the school board, with Warren describing that the school went hybrid (1/2

of the enrollment at one time) because eight staff members were out of school.

"Our goal is to get back to full time," said Warren and the school is anticipating full time for next Monday, Nov. 16, if all goes well.

"Every day is a new adventure," Warren continued and the administration talked use of masks, tracing and quarantine.

Board member Greg Marx who also is the head wrestling coach talked of close contact guidelines, and with an athletic cooperative, wanted to make sure one and all are on the same page.

Marx also stated the importance of social distancing and asked that the staff be reminded to "stay out of the teacher's lounge".

Warren also handed out a school survey of 86 South Dakota superintendents regarding COVID.

The results include:

1. Did your school district start the school year requiring the use of masks? 79.07% said no.
2. Is your school district currently requiring the use of masks at one or all of your school or grades? 69.77% said no.
3. Has your school district's COVID plan progressed to require masks at one or all your schools/grade levels? 73.49% said no.
4. Does your school district have a set number of student/staff cases that would trigger the use of mask-wearing? 90.59% said no.
5. Does your music department use bell covers and/or other mitigation? 68.6% said yes.
6. Is your district purchasing copyrighted material to livestream events? 61.18% said no.

In other business:

▲ A 52-year-old hot water storage tank needs to be replaced. Superintendent **Clark School**
(continued on page 5)

WEATHER

**Robert Cole - Official
Weather Observer**

	HI	LO	PR
Nov. 3	65	34	0
Nov. 4	71	44	0
Nov. 5	76	42	0
Nov. 6	68	41	0
Nov. 7	78	51	0
Nov. 8	70	56	0
Nov. 9	69	28	.27
2020 precipitation to date	18.07		
2019 precipitation to date	35.12		