



For 132 years,
The Voice of Clark County

Clark County Courier

Wednesday,
September 19, 2012

\$1.00
Includes
Tax

Vol. 132, No. 12

www.clarkcountypublishing.com

Clark, South Dakota 57225

Frost and soybean harvest are both probably happening this week

The drought and high temperatures in the summer of 2012 have in turn, jumped up the row crop harvest times.

Plus, it's that time of the year when temperatures hit that freezing mark, causing frost in some areas whereas other areas don't show any effect of a freeze. The soybean harvest is about two weeks ahead of the norm and corn is closer to a month ahead for some.

The drought brings back memories of last year's high fire conditions during harvest. "With the static electricity generated by combines a chain drag is a good idea to help ground the combines," says Extension Agronomy educator Paul Johnson of Watertown. "Just an old log chain or machinery chain hooked to the back of the combine somewhere on the frame or the hind axle and dragging on the ground will help to additionally ground the combine and is a good idea. Not too long to cause damage when turning, but long enough to touch the ground 95% of the time to help keep static electricity from building up. West River, some farmers are bringing a spray wagon to the fields to put out fires should they start.

"High winds right now would be more detrimental than a frost to the corn crop. The plants have pretty much used themselves up just trying to make a crop this year and are not as strong. High winds can make the stalks lean making for a



Soybean harvest is going full throttle in Clark County this week. Above, Maken Farms, with Brian Anderson as farm manager, takes out a bean field two miles north of Clark.

Clark County Farmers Elevator manager Jeff Olson said the 2012 difficult harvest. As a precaution a guy should keep watching the corn closely. It's been stressed this year and is weaker from the drought. If one wants high moisture corn, they had better do it quick as it's drying up fast."

Mark Rosenberg, extension educator from Aberdeen added that he's noticed too that the corn harvest is about two weeks earlier this year on average.

"A challenge this year is to get the combine set right because of the shorter and smaller ears. The

ears may not feed in as well and speeds may have to be adjusted. A big problem is ears falling off of the shank because they are too dry and we could see more harvest loss this year."

Rosenberg continued that there is a lot of truck traffic in the Redfield area and crop activity is two weeks to a month ahead of normal. "Results have been better than anticipated so far."

Johnson added that in his area (Watertown), the bean harvest is also two weeks ahead of schedule.

soybean crop is "better than expected". Yields are about 10 bushels per acre higher than previously thought, in the 30-40 category. Test weight is good, with very few problems existing, overall.

The bean field he commented on by Hazel turned out to be eight to nine percent moisture and was a 50 bushel an acre field. "I thought it was going to be a 30 bushel field as dry as it is, but it was running better than it looked. The consensus is that it is drier than it looks.

"We're fortunate compared to some areas. Down by Beresford, it's never been drier in their history, they say the southeast part of the state seems to be the driest. We're all just getting started up here with the bean harvest.

The recent rains slowed things up for those who were under the rain clouds last Wednesday.

"Concerning the alfalfa, those who were under our few showers got in a third cutting, others didn't. At this point, we need to wait until it freezes off so the alfalfa plants can build up all the root reserves they can for next spring. Cutting it now would increase the winter kill factor. It could use some more time for root reserves.

"Our top soil is very dry, we're out of moisture. What's out there

is what we're going to get," ended Johnson.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor released on September 6, 2012, 83.30 percent of Clark County was in the moderate drought range the week of August 28, 2012. One year ago, the week of August 30, 2011 Clark County was only .44 percent according to Brian Fuchs report through the National Drought Mitigation Center.

On average this area receives its first frost from mid September on. The very dry conditions in the atmosphere can allow frost/freezes to occur fairly quickly with low lying areas freezing earlier. The lack of moisture in the air allows temperatures to cool quickly even on very warm days. The hard freeze (28°F) averages about a week later than the average 32°F freeze.

WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Sept. 11	81	55	0
Sept. 12	68	42	0
Sept. 13	73	42	0
Sept. 14	75	45	0
Sept. 15	84	44	0
Sept. 16	77	45	0
Sept. 17	59	33	.12
2012 precipitation to date	14.44"		
2011 precipitation to date	20.61"		

Seventy-five years ago it was Marshal Alvah and Queen Velma

On Friday, October 8, 1937 at 10:00 a.m. was the coronation of Marshal Alvah Macer and Queen Velma Morey at the Homecoming of Clark High School.

That is 75 years ago this year. Velma (Morey) Bruffat recalls, "We rode in the parade in a buggy pulled by two horses." Alvah Macer added, "It was one of those racing carts where the driver is right by the horse's tail," he chuckled. "The other thing I remember is that we didn't win any football games that year."

The Clark Comets played Webster for their homecoming in 1937 but Alvah recalls tougher teams like Brookings and Sisseton were also in the conference. "Doland too, it seemed there was always a little fun rivalry there."

"We had 38 in our senior class," recalls Velma. "I think there are

just a few of us left from the CHS Class of 1938 graduating class."

The candidates that year were: seniors - Velma Morey and Lois Foss; juniors - Betty Erling and Lorraine Rasmussen for queen. For marshal, seniors - Alvah Macer, Lawrence 'Junior' Myers and juniors - Harland Christenson and Walter Clausen.

Velma remembers being a little older than Alvah as her birthday is in February and his is in July. Both were born in 1920.

Velma's parents were Lester and Anna Morey and Lester worked at a gas station in Clark. Alvah's parents were Charles and Esther Macer and they farmed north of Crocker. Alvah's parents paid room and board to Mrs. Parkhill in Clark where Alvah stayed to be able to go

Seventy-five years ago
(continued on page 3)



Velma (Morey) Bruffat and Alvah Macer of Clark were Clark High School's Homecoming royalty 75 years ago this fall. They rode in the Homecoming Parade in a racing cart pulled by two horses. "I think it was a fun day but we lost the football game," recall the royalty who both still reside at their respective residences in Clark.

A large deficit spending budget brings talk of opt out

▲ Clark School will deficit spend by \$297,000

The Clark School Board held a special session on Monday, September 17 at 5:30 p.m. in the high school library, to finalize the 2012-2013 school budget.

By codified law, this action has to be done by October 1 and as there was a transition in the business manager position, Clark School used the summer and early fall to put together this finished product.

The bottom line is that the Clark School is projected to deficit spend by \$297,000 and that greatly concerns new business manager Heidi Sigdestad.

Clark superintendent Brian Heupel then complimented the business manager on the budget work that has been done so far and then visited with the board about the budget situation.

Heupel did not want to downplay the graveness of the \$297,000 deficit spending situation, but added, "What we proposed to deficit spend

- we usually don't - and if history repeats itself there will be revenues we didn't expect and other variables working in a positive direction, but as we've been talking for some time, we have to talk opt out."

Opt out talk

An opt out of the tax freeze will not be pursued at this time, but serious consideration will be given this matter going forward. "We are holding off on an opt out but will be monitoring the budget as the year goes on. Plus in the November election, if Initiated Measure #15 passes, we then have another stream of income coming in," said Heupel.

Many schools have opted out of the tax freeze in recent years and every year Clark seems to get closer to that point, but has always 'dodged the bullet'.

This opt out discussion has been an annual item and every year it

Clark School
(continued on page 3)

Hector Serna will be the technology integrationist at Willow Lake School



Hector Serna is the new Tech Integrationist at Willow Lake School starting in the 2012/2013 term. He will be working on bringing new technology to the school working with and testing out various applications (Apps) or programs on the computer for the staff to use.

He collaborates with Jim Felberg, working as a team in technical support. Serna is also middle and high school principal and athletic director and teaches several classes.

Earlier this month, the new educators at Willow Lake were featured. New to Willow Lake this 2012-2013 term, Serna will work as a team with part-time tech coordinator Jim Felberg, collaborating in helping the teachers and staff and

even the students with their computers, programs and hardware issues.

His title represents integrating new computer technology to the classroom and onto their computers and showing the teachers how to be comfortable using a particular program or application - (app).

"I want the teachers to understand that they are a stakeholder in technology and how it is used. Also in the battleground of dealing with students and in the real world sense. If they want a new app - they let me know and then we can discuss it and see how it works for them. I want them to be able to use it easily," says Serna.

He continued, "In trying new ways on how to bring things in, I like to be able to test it out myself, then work with the teachers and students, making sure they are comfortable with the apps., or programs in which things are done."

Computers are second nature to Serna as his father bought him one when he was in the first grade. "The younger generation is born into the

Hector Serna
(continued on page 2)



Big day Friday for Dorcas' retirement

A retirement open house for long-time city of Clark librarian Dorcas Protexter was held Friday at the city library. It was also a time to welcome new librarian Samantha Hensley, right.

In the back row, left to right, are library committee members Marlys Moritz, Carolyn Harding, Joyce Warren and Patti Lamb. Library board members Bev Kluess and Belinda Hanson are missing from the picture.