

Corn harvest much earlier this year

Written by Chris Lee



This new grain bunker located just west of Holyoke was finished just in time for the early corn harvest. Steve Young of Grainland Co-op said the bunker will hold just around two million bushels of corn and holds an estimated one million bushels in the photo above. The pile was part of an expansion project which also included a bin at the east location. —Enterprise photo

The sights of harvest are everywhere. Piles of corn and beets are spread throughout the county, and grain dust can be found floating down Interocean Avenue.

As of Monday, Oct. 25, corn harvest in the area was nearly 75 percent complete, according to Grainland Co-op grain merchandiser Steve Young.

Young said this year's harvest is complete opposite to last year's which didn't really get going until December.

Young said some farmers who didn't get into the field until Dec. 15 last year are finished picking this year—nearly two months before last year's harvest.

Farmers have been blessed with good weather and the opportunity to get into the field and harvest. Young added the corn has dried down nicely, partly due to the fact there hasn't been a real freeze yet. Temperatures are estimated to duck down below freezing later in the week.

Young estimates harvest will near completion later next week. He said many of the area farmers will wrap things up by Halloween, weather permitting.

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The moisture received Friday and Saturday, Oct. 22-23 was just enough to slow farmers down a bit. Another small shower Monday, Oct. 25 slowed things down as well.

Young said yields have been good on this year's corn crop. "It is about what farmers expected," he noted.



Piles of corn can be seen east of Holyoke at Grainland's state line site. ☐☐☐

—Enterprise photo

Beet harvest nears completion

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Numerous beet trucks have been seen rolling through Holyoke in the past few weeks. The pile north of Holyoke is growing on a daily basis.

Jerry Darnell, Nebraska and Colorado Ag Manager for Western Sugar, said the beet harvest in Colorado is around 92 percent complete as of Tuesday, Oct. 26.

Darnell said northeast Colorado has seen a little higher sugar percentage than the rest of Colorado beets. The beets in northeast Colorado are producing around 17.48 percent sugar while the rest in the state are around 16.9 percent.

“It’s been a real good crop,” Darnell said. He also noted prices are at an all-time high, which the growers will benefit from greatly.

Justin Herman, agriculturalist for Western Sugar, said harvest is about 95 percent complete in Holyoke and hopes to see things wrapped up around Thursday, Oct. 28.

“This is close to a record crop,” Herman noted. He said the weather was a direct influence.



The pile of beets north of Holyoke is growing by the day. Trucks will haul the crop to Fort Morgan to be processed in the coming weeks. —Enterprise

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