

Corn and beet harvest progressing

Written by Chris Lee

Following the area's first snow, local farmers are back in the fields and diligently working to harvest corn and sugar beet crops.

Steve Bahnsen of Paoli Farmers Co-op said Tuesday morning that corn harvest was around 75 percent complete. Steve Young of Grainland Co-op reiterated and said things were 75-80 percent complete on the east side of the county.

Both cooperatives reported a better than expected crop when it comes to the irrigated corn crop. Farmers were reporting around 200 bushels an acre or better with test weights coming in around 59-60 pounds.

Young said as long as farmers could keep water on the corn, the extreme heat didn't affect it much—in fact, corn likes warmer temperatures. As long as water could be kept running, things turned out well. "Excellent," Bahnsen said of the irrigated corn they were receiving.



Sugar beet harvest kicked back off in recent weeks and the pile north of Holyoke continued to grow. Above, beets are harvested from a field southeast of Holyoke last week. □ □

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—Enterprise photo



Corn harvest occurred much earlier this year than in previous years due to drier than normal conditions. The combine pictured above was busy collecting the golden crop east of Holyoke last week. □ □

—Enterprise photo

The dryland crop wasn't much of a surprise. With very little rain and extreme heat, the crop was poor. Of course it differs throughout the county, but both Bahnsen and Young reported expected poor condition of the dryland acres.

The bulk of harvest should be wrapping up within the next week to 10 days, both cooperatives said Tuesday morning.

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Normally, Oct. 16 is when farmers are just getting into the fields for the first time. This year, some farmers are done with harvest and others aren't far behind. Young said it is sort of a repeat of wheat harvest which happened much earlier than normal.

Sugar beet harvest picked back up in recent weeks as trucks began rolling through town. The pile north of Holyoke has been growing by the day and trucks can be seen hauling the crop west to the Western Sugar location in Fort Morgan.



This grain cart was patiently waiting at the end of a field just south of Holyoke last week. Farmers were busy wrapping up corn harvest. Local elevators estimated harvest was around 75-80 percent complete as of Tuesday, Oct. 16.□□

—Enterprise photo

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