

Southwest Family Farms News

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Wheat Harvest

The 2010 wheat crop was very good this year due to higher yields and ideal weather during harvest. We were able to harvest all of the wheat without any interruptions from Mother Nature.

Typically wheat is drilled in October in Seward county before moving out west to drill wheat in Morton county. However, due to extreme dry planting conditions in Seward county, we elected to plant in Morton county first. The wheat matured quicker out west as well, forcing us to harvest there first. Starting harvest away from our main head quarters is not ideal, but all of the equipment operated smoothly.



Yields in the Kismet area were 50-65 bu/ac. We experienced dry conditions when the wheat was heading out, but around the end of May we received two 2" rains that helped the wheat fill out. We did lose one quarter of wheat to hail damage and suffered some loss on several other fields.

The yields in Richfield were slightly lower due to less rainfall. Yields fell in the 40-60 bu/ac range. Overall, we were very blessed with another beautiful wheat crop this year!



Fast Fall

The 2010 fall harvest didn't last long this year. We started harvesting corn on September 5, and we were done with all crops by October 20. The combines did not stop once due to rain. Including custom harvesting, our combines harvested over 13,000 acres over a span of 45 days. Corn yields were average to 10% below average, while the soybean yields were very good given the dry summer. Our dryland milo crop was below average but a few fields surprised us with good yields. We dusted in most of the dryland wheat, and luckily most of it came up. We still need moisture to survive the



Fall Fertilizing

The dry fall weather has allowed us to get all of our fall field work done. We started fertilizing on October 28th and finished November 9th. Once the soil cooled off enough, we started applying anhydrous ammonia (N_2) and phosphorus in the form of MAP with the rig shown below. When applying N_2 , it is advisable that the soil temperature be at 50 degrees at a four inch depth. Microbes that break down N_2 tend to be more active in warm soil. These microbes cause the nitrogen to become unstable and be lost into the atmosphere or leached down through the soil. We received .50" of rain on November 11, just two days after we finished fertilizing. This moisture will help break down clods and provide some much needed moisture for the winter wheat.

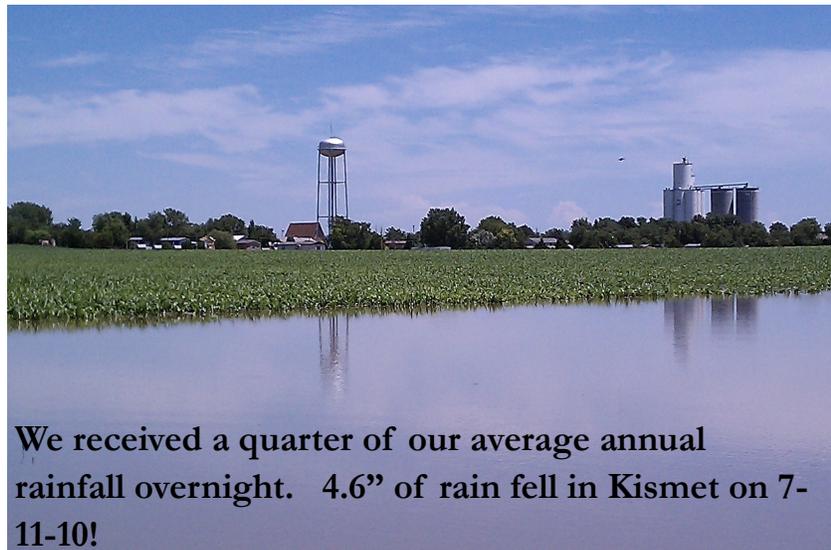


New Neighbors!

Hansen-Mueller, a grain handling and processing company, just completed construction on a grain handling site at the intersection of the Highway 160 and County Road T (Kismet Blacktop). The facility is capable of storing 3.5 million bushel of corn in a ground bunker. There are in-bound and out-bound scales and a grain leg capable of moving 60,000 bu/hr. This site will help reduce the long truck lines and waiting everyone experiences at local elevators. Future plans for the plant include doubling its capacity in 2011 or adding 2.5 million bushels of grain bin storage.



Fixing a Flat



We received a quarter of our average annual rainfall overnight. 4.6" of rain fell in Kismet on 7-11-10!



Right on Track



*May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
And the rains fall soft upon your fields*



Check out our website and YouTube channel to see more pictures and videos!

www.southwestff.com

www.youtube.com/southwestfamilyfarms

We wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!