

Ellinwood Farmer’s Market provides bountiful harvest

By Karen La Pierre

The Ellinwood Farmer’s Market, open Tuesday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Wolf Park, provides residents with a bounty of healthy, fresh produce. It will continue each week until mid-September.

At the end of June, potatoes, turnips and squash were all ready to be purchased. There were all kinds of fresh jam and jelly ranging from sand hill plum, deep red choke cherry to the purple elderberry. Canned beets and pickles were available.

Potatoes were going for \$1 a pound, said Dan Zink, who had freshly dug potatoes. The fact that he had too many potatoes was the reason he became a merchant.

Debbie Zink had fresh bread for sale, along with her canned goods. She grew up on a farm where they always had a big garden and she enjoys continuing that tradition.

“If you didn’t grow it, you didn’t eat,” she said. “I still kind of have that philosophy.”

Tim Watts sells every summer at the Farmer’s Market. “Part of it’s for the money, but it gives me something to do,” he said.

He also cans produce, and sells baked goods made by his neighbor. Watts has been gardening for 40 years.

Wayne and Terri DeWerff started the farmer’s market in Ellinwood approximately eight years ago when interest in fresh produce ramped up. Wayne had been selling in Great Bend, but a market in Ellinwood was a goal.

“It was a place to go to sell our produce,” he said. “We’re supporting our local community.

“It has worked out pretty well.”



Elijah Clark helps out his neighbor selling produce at the Ellinwood Farmer’s Market. (photo by Karen La Pierre)

As a school teacher, he taught agronomy in school for 24 out of his 28 years of teaching. At the school, he had an ag garden situated in wasted space and produce was sold to the grocery store. The students worked the plot, giving them something to do and to develop a work ethic.

Wayne started out planting five acres of watermelon to sell at the market as a second job while he was teaching. Now, he has downsized, but plants at least two acres with at least one acre of watermelon.

“I’ve always enjoyed gardening,” Wayne said. He started out gardening on his parent’s dairy farm.

He works a full eight hour day weeding and caring for the crop, starting early in the morning. Wayne hoes and hand weeds to minimize the use of chemicals.

“It takes continual mainte-

nance,” he said. Occasionally, he has to use chemicals when the pernicious squash bugs attacks.

Wayne also rotates crops and will plant fast growing crops after one is harvested. “Everything is utilized until freeze time,” Wayne said.

Plus, it provides sellers the opportunity to chat with old friends and neighbors.

“I love to talk to people,” Wayne said. “It’s a good opportunity to meet new people and share some knowledge.”

The DeWerffs eat a lot of fresh produce, although they typically try to sell it first. If it isn’t sold, Terri freezes or cans it.

“We give a lot of it away to senior citizens because it’s the right thing to do,” Wayne said. “You sell the best and eat the seconds.”

“Fresh produce is always better in the long run.”

Pests, fungi can take the fun out of farming

By Ryan Carlson

This year’s wheat harvest is a bumper crop, but there are some pests that, if left uncontrolled, could quickly turn acres of wheat into a graveyard of barn straw.

One of these pests is the Russian Wheat Aphid. Central Prairie Agronomist Branden Warner said a few fields this year had to especially watch for this dangerous pest. The aphid is an invasive species originating from Russia and came to the United States in 1986.

Though spring time is a key focus for farmers in dealing with pests, fall is not to be overlooked. Warner said army worms have a small affect on area crops but are not prevalent in this area.

Another minor insect that affects wheat is the Hessian Fly, also known as the Barley Midge. The fly was transported to the United States in the straw beds of Hessian troops during the War for Independence in 1775, hence the name. Warner said the fly can be controlled by delaying planting.

Diseases can also be devastating to a wheat crop. Most of these come in the form of fungal infections. Tan Spot is one of those fungal infections that causes literal tan spots on wheat leaves. Head Scab is another



HESSIAN FLY

major fungal infection of wheat. It can be noticed because of a bleaching of the wheat head. Head Scab causes yield loss, low test weights and contamination of wheat with mycotoxins. Warner said though Head Scab has been an issue in the past, it can be prevented by spraying fungicide after the wheat heads.

The most prominent fungus is rust. In this area, Yellow Stripe Rust is the most prevalent strain. Warner said the rust can decimate a crop. He has seen farmers lose up to 40 percent of their crop potential due to the disease because they did not protect their investment. It can take up to 10 days before wheat shows any symptoms of the fungus.

A good way to prevent any wheat pests is controlling volunteer wheat. Warner said volunteer wheat can become a haven for grain infections and insects that will later spread throughout a crop area. “It’s a good first step to protect you’re wheat crop,” said Warner.

Officials of Ellinwood
After Harvest Festivals

AFH PARADE GRAND MARSHALS

1980 - Wally Lattimer-Lyons
1981 - LeRoy Zahn
1982 - Don Grant
1983 - Dr. Findley Law
1984 - World War I Veterans
H. Martin Glenn
Dr. C. R. Herald
Karl Kienzle
Ferd Johanning
1985 - Homer Eberhart
1986 - G. I. Robinson
1987 - Adrianna Dierolf
1988 - Dr. Harold Stone
1989 - Norbert Staab
1990 - Sam Stitt
1991 - Karl Kienzle
1992 - W.W. Rinker
1993 - Charles Sessler
1994 - Jack DeWerff
1995 - Mat and Mary Robl
1996 - Evelyn Miller and Robert Yarmer
1997 - Joe Hickel
1998 - LeRoy Thill
1999 - Jean Robinson
2000 - Iris and Alfred Pohlman
2001 - Roy Barber
2002 - Nick Loburgio
2003 - Helen Dickson
2004 - George and Phyllis Miller
2005 - Howard Wallace
2006 - Bernice Petz, Eloise Winkleman, and Joan Drees
2007 - Maxine Peter Gilmore
2008 - Warren O. Johnson
2009 - Leon and Linda Sobba
2010 - Mike Strobl
2011 - Marion and Vernon DeWerff
2012 - Terry Brown
2013 - Duane Schwab
2014 - Dr. Christopher Brown and Dr. Charles Joslin
2015 - Jack Bowman
2016 - Larry Panning

MAYORS

1878-1879 - F. A. Steckel
1880-1880 - O. M. Dotson
1882-1882 - R. W. Barr
1883-1884 - F. A. Steckel
1884-1885 - R. W. Barr
1885-1886 - V.S. Musil
1887-1888 - H.W. Bockermohl
1888-1889 - Gus Toepke
1889-1891 - Mat Dick
1892-1893 - E. L. Smith
1893-1895 - Mat Dick
1896-1897 - Ed Bochemohl
1898-1899 - Joseph Sprinkler
1900-1901 - Fred Steckel
1902-1904 - H.D. Back
1905-1906 - R. W. Barr
1907-1910 - Joseph Sprinkler
1911-1915 - G.O. Spears
1916-1917 - Ed Isern
1917-1918 - Joseph Sprinkler
1919-1920 - J.R. Zecha
1921-1928 - Joseph Sprinkler
1929-1934 - C.A. Kruger
1935-1938 - M.A. Isern
1939-1942 - Fred Wolf
1943-1944 - M.A. Isern
1945-1948 - E.H. Isern
1949-1950 - Homer Eberhart
1951-1954 - John Manning
1955-1956 - LeRoy Zahn
1957-1958 - John Manning
1959-1962 - I.J. Rader
1963-1968 - Kenneth Hetrick
1969-1974 - Carroll Manning
1975-1976 - Alfred Pohlman
1977-1978 - Alan Isern
1979-1981 - Joe Hickel
1981-1982 - Jerome Huslig
1983-1984 - Ron McCrary
1985-1993 - Jerome Huslig
1993-2003 - Joe Hickel
2003-2014 - Frank Koelsch
2015-present - Irlan Fullbright

ROTARY CLUB DISTINGUISHED
CITIZEN SERVANT AWARD

1976 - Lillian Dick
1977 - H. Martin Glenn
1978 - Leslie J. Lloyd
1979 - Evelyn Miller
1980 - G.I. Robinson
1981 - Nick LoBurgio
1982 - Alfred Pohlman
1983 - LeRoy Zahn
1984 - Stanley Ringerling
1985 - Homer Eberhart
1986 - Joe Hickel
1987 - Marian Isern
1988 - Dr. Harold Stone
1989 - Don Jensen
1990 - Art Huslig
1991 - Carl Adler
1992 - Larry Panning
1993 - Norbert Staab
1994 - none
1995 - Charles and Marilyn Frydendall
1996 - Robert Yarmer
1997 - Howard Wallace
1998 - LeRoy Thill
1999 - Jean Robinson
2000 - Cap Proffitt
2001 - George and Phyllis Miller
2002 - Glen Bredford
2003 - Walter Roth
2004 - Irlan Fullbright
2005 - Howard Herter
2006 - Larry Drees
2007 - Charlie Carmin
2008 - Jerome Birzer
2009 - Andy Detmer
2010 - George A. Meyer
2011 - Gerald F. Menges
2012 - Leon and Linda Sobba
2013 - Richard Kimple
2014 - Marilyn Sauber
2015 - Mike Westerman
2016 - Karen Kramp