

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 maintenance," 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 Bochermohl
- 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 Ringering
- 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