

# Local Wheat Crop Is Mostly Being Stored In The Bins

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the acre,” Bjertness said. “Quality is questionable with the vomitoxin that is in the grain. Our farmers are probably done with over three-quarters of the wheat and were hoping to wrap it all up by Labor Day, if the weather had cooperated. We’re just simply hoping for better things from our corn and soybeans but those crops are two to three weeks behind,” Bjertness concluded.

In a “normal year” wheat would all be harvested and the fields chisel plowed black again by this time. But due to the wet ground and high moisture content of the wheat seeds, the remaining crop can not be harvested until we get some good drying conditions.

Those dry conditions have been hard to come by. Most farmers hoped to be done with wheat harvest before Labor Day. But showers have been moving through the area on a regular basis, delaying the harvest. We got another inch of rain late in the day on Labor Day, setting the remaining wheat harvest back another couple days, at least. Cool days, struggling to hit 70 degrees, are not conducive to drying. Every day seems to bring a few sprinkles if not a downpour.

The real “money” crops for the region, however, are sugarbeets, soybeans and corn. They will not be harvested to any big extent until October with corn stretching out into and likely past November.

This summer has produced good, timely rains with a shower or two nearly every week. What we have been lacking, however, is high heat days to spur the corn and beans along. Sugarbeet fields are already being opened and enough beets are being lifted to get the factories at Wahpeton and Moorhead up and operating.

The corn and soybeans look good from the road if you conduct a windshield survey. But it was a late spring for planting. Summer followed without much in the way of high heat to spur the crop along and make up for late planting. The bean and corn crops are there but they are going to need a lot more time to mature this year.

Typically we can expect a killing frost anytime after mid-September. That would be way too early this



It was just like the old days for a brief period during this year's wheat harvest. Trucks are shown here waiting to dump at Agassiz Valley Grain north of Barnesville. The wait was brief as high speed conveyors at the terminal quickly moved the wheat. Semis have mostly replaced the single or dual axle truck when it comes to moving product from the farm field to the terminal or farm bins.

year. Farmers are hoping that the cold mornings that signal the end of the growing season will wait until at least mid-October as they have the past few years.

While soybeans look tall, lush and green, they are lagging way behind most years as far as maturity. The fact that the soybeans look as lush and green as they do is actually an indicator of a problem.

Soybeans should be turning tan and dropping leaves by this stage of the growing season. The plant should be dying off and pods should be drying down. Combines should take to the field in September and the soybean harvest should be over in early October.

That will not be even close to the case this year. Soybeans are going to need a minimum of two extra weeks this growing season. There is also a significant infestation of aphids in the soybeans this year. Those aphids require at least one and many times more sprayings to control the bugs.

Corn is even more questionable. That crop is lagging way behind “average” when it comes to maturity. This year’s corn has shot up to incredible heights in many fields but cobs are small and not maturing and filling out as they should. By this time in the growing season, corn kernels should be deeply dented, the

corn cobs should be turning over to point towards the ground, the plant should be dying from the ground up and the leaves should be turning brown and dry. None of that is happening on schedule this year.

The corn plants themselves are growing tall but the necessary dry down of the corn kernels is not yet started. It is going to take an incredibly warm and dry September to pull this corn crop across the finish line. An early frost could be a real disaster this year.

Even if the corn crop does come through, harvest is going to be late. There is no way at this point in the growing season that the weather can speed the crop along. The days are simply getting too short.

The standing corn fields are going to give the deer a lot of places to hide when the season opens November 9. Many farmers can look forward to a December harvest of corn this year. Some farmers will still be looking at standing corn fields in April that need to be combined.

As for the wheat?! . . . Well, the trend has been away from the crop due to the volatile and dropping market prices. With the low yields plus dockage that will occur due to moisture content or vomitoxin, or both, the days of growing wheat at all may be numbered.

markets to purchase their basic needs.

The tariffs have not only blown up the wheat market, but they have put a damper on all other products grown locally. Elevators are purchasing grain from farmers this fall but where that grain can be marketed and sold is a big question mark.

The state of the present ag markets for the usual crops grown around here is dismal. That has many farmers considering alternative crops. Those farmers growing edible beans are having a good year. But that’s a fickle market at best. There are instances where alfalfa, grown and sold, has developed into a steady income for a few.

There has never been canola grown much this far south but it is being considered. Hemp grown commercially for the oil content has been tried in other states with varying degrees of success. Sunflower fields used to be a major crop a half century ago but disease, lack of marketing destinations and attacks from hordes of blackbirds have made that crop unattractive.

There are also some old, long shot crops from long ago that are being considered for planting. Those include buckwheat, millet, flax and even potatoes. Those crops are worthy of consideration but there is a reason farmers quit growing them decades ago and have no intention of going back to them.

After this year’s experience growing wheat, that crop too may soon become nothing more than a memory around here.

## Rothsay Fire And Rescue Train Using Lawndale Site



The Rothsay Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department practices securing a vehicle so that it will not move or tip over while extracting a victim from the wreckage. This was a training that they cover once a year to keep their skills sharp and up to date.

**By: Karen Carpenter**

Anyone who was driving by on Old Highway 52 in mid-August might have assumed there was some type of disaster in the metropolis of Lawndale.

Set your mind at ease, it was a training site for the Rothsay Fire and Rescue Department. It is an important process for the volunteer firemen to go through so they will be able to handle any emergency situation that may arise.

The equipment used is not new, but some that the fire department has had for years.

“The training we did was stabilization and vehicle extrication,” said Nate Johnson, a

Rothsay Volunteer Fireman. “We try to do this style training at least once a year, but this was the first time that we’ve had Rick Reep involved.

The training is mostly used when a car accident causes damage to a vehicle making it impossible to get the occupant(s) out in a normal manner. “We stabilize the vehicle for occupant and responder safety, then use the extrication tools to remove the vehicle from around the occupant(s),” said Johnson.

“Rick was generous enough to donate the vehicles and his time, for that we are greatly appreciative!” commented Johnson.

Reach out with a handshake or thank you to the fire and rescue

volunteers you meet. They give a great deal of time and effort to assuring that any disaster, accident or fire is handled expertly and efficiently.

Members of the Rothsay Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department are Fire Chief Patrick Jensen, Assistant Fire Chief Jorden Barry Darin Allmaras, Cale Brandt, Travis Braton, Shawn Christ, Nick Curtis, Joe Hanneman, Nate Johnson, Scott Kern, Eric Larson, Brian Marquardt, Donny Marquardt, Mark Messerschmidt, Gene Nord, Travis Olson, Daryl Schleeter, Greg Umlauf, Kacey Waterud, Kevin Waterud and Wes Zilner.

## Last Show ‘n Shine Of 2019 Slated For This Thursday



We have been bombarded lately by reminders that summer is behind us and fall weather is moving in. Last week’s cool mornings with kids back in school put the final nail in the coffin for Summer 2019. In addition to the chill in the air there were trucks transporting freshly harvested potatoes into bins in Barnesville spud houses.

All of the summer events are now memories with nothing to look forward to except some great fall weather in September and October before we see any signs of a lasting snow or heavy frost.

The last summer event of 2019 is the September Show ‘n Shine classic car show set for Thursday, September 12. That event is held the second Thursday of each month, May through September. It is a fun event sponsored by the Barnesville Main Street Program and organized by the Main Street Director Bailey Thompson.

There is no charge for anything unless you care to eat at one of the downtown locations serving food during the event. The Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW have some casual dining available in the clubrooms. The Booster Club will be serving burgers in front of the Pool Hall. The Purple Goose is open down the street as is the American Legion

Club. Out in the country, after the car show, you will be welcomed at Dee’s Drive-In.

You can expect to see somewhere between 65 and 85 classic cars and pickups at the last Show ‘n’ Shine on Thursday, September 12. Cars will come and go during the evening so the scenery is constantly changing but there is guaranteed to be a lot of gleaming paint and shiny chrome on display from the vintage cars on display.

Adding to the entertainment will be recorded music from the Atomic DJ who will be playing classic rock tunes from the ‘50 s and ‘60s during the evening. There will also be door prizes awarded as well as plaques to various winners. There will be a Sponsor’s Choice Award presented by the major sponsor of the evening. There will also be a Mayor’s Choice Plaque presented by Barnesville Mayor Gene Prim.

It’s a fun event and it’s free of charge. It’s pretty tough to beat those two qualifications. See you in beautiful downtown Barnesville between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 12 to kick a few tires and reminisce about when these cars were new.



The Rothsay Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department scheduled training on Rick Reep’s property in Lawndale. It was a refresher course on the use of equipment to extract victims from a vehicle wreckage. Reep provided the site and the vehicles for the department to use.