



**By Jan Rahn**

*Managing Editor*

The corn is thriving, the pastures are green, the lagoons are full—but farmers are itching to get their wheat cut.

Heavy rains Sunday halted any cutting that was going on in the area, but at best, harvest was barely getting underway anyway.

Venango elevators were the first along the Highline to take in wheat. Venango Scoular took their first load from Holyoke farmer Casey Kropp on July 5. The quality was okay, but it was too early to tell what this crop is going to make, according to a spokesperson at the elevator. Frenchman Valley Co-op in Venango took in some wheat the same day with test weight of 58 and moisture at 12.5.

By Friday, July 12, truck traffic at Scoular in Brandon was steady, with weights averaging 60 pounds per bushel and moisture around 13.

The first load in by Jerry McArtor at the Frenchman in Grant didn't arrive until Monday, July 8. There was some hauled wheat that came in, and numbers were varied.

Madrid Scoular took in the first load on July 8 from Galen Tickle. Friday, July 12, was the elevator's busiest day with an average crop, some good, some bad, with weights of 60 and moisture at 14.

On farther east around Elsie, Grinton and Wallace, harvest was waiting to rev up as of late last week.

The storms rolling through in the last few days will definitely play a role in stalling this year's harvest.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture projects a yearly yield of 1.5 billion bushels of wheat nationwide, down 136 million bushels from 2012 according to the June wheat report.

