



By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

Keith Wood of rural Dundy County said he got his “arm twisted” into taking weather statistics for the National Weather Service. That was 10 years ago, and he was just honored for those 10 years of service.

Wood received a Length of Service plaque and a gold pin from Christine Hendersen of the National Weather Service Oct. 14. Each year the service presents length of service awards to selected Cooperative Weather Observers.

Wood took over the observation job from Deb Bartlett 10 years ago when she moved to town. He takes weather information at his farm 15 miles south of Imperial, then reports the results to the National Weather Service in Goodland, Kans.

Wood received a Certificate of Appreciation from the weather service in 2006. At that time he toured the facility in Goodland, which he said everyone should see. “They’re awful nice people to work with,” he observed.

Of the job, Wood said “it’s fun and interesting.” He noted that this past summer was “the biggest, moisture wise, and we’re starting out with snow awful early.”

Wood said the old saying is that there will be as many snow storms in a winter as was the date of the first snow storm. As the first one this year was Oct. 10, he predicts 10 snow storms this winter, with two already under the belt.

He calls himself a semi-retired farmer, as he still owns three cows.