

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

Acts are “coming in slow” for the Texaco Country Showdown talent search during the Chase County Fair Aug. 15.

John Brandt of KOGA/KMCX Radio in Ogallala said he hopes to have eight to 10 acts lined up for that Thursday afternoon. “We don’t have room for many more.” Two had been booked as of Tuesday.

The talent show affiliates with the 32nd annual Texaco Country Showdown. Each year more than 50,000 artists compete throughout the nation, with past winners such as Martina McBride, Garth Brooks, Miranda Lambert, Neal McCoy, Sara Evans and Billy Ray Cyrus.

Local contestants have the opportunity to advance on to regionals and then the national final for a \$100,000 grand prize. “It’s a very good program with lots of money involved,” Brandt noted.

Winners of the Chase County Fair event in the open air pavilion advance to the state contest, to be held at the Nebraska State Fair Aug. 24 at 7 p.m. on Bristol Windows Stage.

There, prizes include \$1,000 and the opportunity to compete in one of five regional events.

Regional winners receive an all-expense-paid trip to the national final in Nashville to compete for \$100,000 and the coveted title, “Best New Act in Country Music.”

There is no age limit for the local talent search. Vocal and/or instrumental performers can compete in individual acts or groups of up to seven members.

There will be a \$20 entry fee per act. Entry forms are available by contacting KOGA/KMCX at 1-800-658-4445.

The deadline to enter is Aug. 5, Brandt said.