

***By Russ Pankonin***

***The Imperial Republican***

The town will be popping, so to speak, this Friday when the Imperial Chamber of Commerce holds "Popcorn Day."

More than 24 Chamber businesses will be participating in the event and will offer popcorn to their customers throughout the day.

Chamber promotion chair Mary Deyle said her committee wanted to do something a little different to show appreciation to customers of Chamber members.

In addition, she said it's a very good way to recognize the importance of the corn industry as a whole and of the local popcorn industry in Imperial.

Both AK Acres and Trinidad Benham here in Imperial offer popcorn contracts to growers.

Popcorn is grown on about 8,000-10,000 acres each year in Chase County.

Both facilities process the crop, creating added value that benefits the local economy.

Popcorn lovers will want to visit the participating businesses to see what kind of spin they've put on their popcorn offerings. Expect a variety of flavors and other options, like popcorn balls.

AK Acres is providing the popcorn to businesses for this year's event.

As part of the promotion, people can register for a variety of popcorn-related prizes to be given away. Some of these include a popcorn popper, and a popcorn bowl with serving bowls and popcorn fixings.

Participating Chamber members will have a "Popcorn Day" poster on their storefront.