By Russ Pankonin
The Imperial Republican

As one phase of the fall harvest season winds down, another phase gets ready to kick into gear.

This year's dry bean harvest should be complete in a couple of weeks, according to Jack Schnieder of Trinidad Benham. That's assuming the weather holds out.

Schnieder said both the quality and yields of this year's pinto bean and kidney bean crop look good, despite the hot, dry summer weather.

Once the beans are complete, Schnieder said their attention will shift to the popcorn harvest, which isn't far off.

Farmers have been picking high moisture corn for feed since late August.

Brad Foote of Imperial Beef said they took their first load of high-moisture corn on Aug. 21.

He said Mother Nature will have a lot to say on how much high moisture corn will come in. Temperatures crept back into the high 90s again early this week.

Foote said some of the farmers are completing their high-moisture corn and are ready to begin harvesting the rest of their fields as the moisture comes down.

Local elevator operators said they are just starting to get some soybeans and corn in this week.

Operators said they expect the full onslaught of the corn and soybean harvests to be just around the corner.

This year's corn harvest is earlier than normal, which follows the trend set this spring.

A mild, dry winter and warm temperatures in February and March allowed farmers to get into the field almost a month earlier than normal.