

By Russ Pankonin

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With this summer's frequent showers, the 4th of July came and went without any wheat being cut in Chase County.

That's unusual but it's going to change this week as the crop has continued to mature and is ready to go in the bin.

Frenchman Valley Coop. grain manager Dave Schneider said they started to get a few loads of wheat in Tuesday and Wednesday at their Wauneta and Imperial locations.

However, harvest moved into full swing last week in the Benkelman, McCook and Culbertson areas, Schneider said.

Schneider and local wheat seed grower Tom Luhrs said harvest in this area should begin in earnest this week.

Luhrs hoped to get in the field Wednesday afternoon. Ironically, he said his first wheat that's ready is an irrigated circle of Platte white wheat instead of dryland wheat.

He said the early-maturing variety was the first planted last fall.

Luhrs said the frequent rains in the last 10-15 days created ideal conditions for the wheat with an extended fill period with little stress on the plant.

As a result, he's expecting some really good yields, especially on dryland. He said some of the dryland could yield as well as the irrigated due to all the rain.

He's hoping for a couple weeks of cooperation from Mother Nature to help get this year's crop out of the field.