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Just the Facts

Friday, Jan. 7, 1994

Lourdine Osborne, Editor

Susan Comstock, Ad Manager

Judge rules in C&S bankruptcy hearing

Area grain producers may see action on claims filed against C&S Grain following a hearing Wednesday in Danville bankruptcy court.

Judge Gerald Fines lifted the automatic stay preventing the Illinois Department of Agriculture from acting on claims filed by producers.

The stay was issued after C&S filed for bankruptcy protection on Dec. 20, said Patrick Hogan of the Department of Agriculture's public information office.

Judge Fines' action paves the way for producers to recoup at least part of the grain or money owed them by C&S, unless the company appeals the decision.

Hogan said C&S attorneys at Wednesday's hearing "sounded like they might appeal," but no action had been taken as of yesterday afternoon.

Tom O'Neill, C&S attorney from Peoria, did not return phone calls regarding the issue.

According to a press release from Becky Doyle, Illinois Agriculture Director, if the company does not file an appeal, "the department will begin the liquidation process as quickly as possible to reimburse grain producers according to state grain laws."

So far, 267 claims have been filed - 147 at the

Fountain Creek office and 120 at the Henning office, Hogan said. The company also has offices in East Lynn, Alvin and Wellington.

If the company does not have enough stored grain and monetary assets to cover approved claims, the Illinois Grain Insurance Fund will pay up to 85 percent of the amount owed.

Hearings are tentatively scheduled for Feb. 9 and 10 to determine if claims filed against the company are eligible for reimbursement. Locations of those hearings will be announced later.

Once a written decision is made on claims, producers who disagree with the findings will have 35 days to appeal. Producers will not be paid until the appeals period ends.

Meanwhile, ag officials still plan to hold a second meeting at 1 p.m. Monday at the Rossville-Alvin High School.

The first meeting between officials and producers, held last month, was somewhat unusual, Hogan said. "There was so much misinformation out there," he said. "We felt we wanted to allay (producers') fears as quickly as possible."

Monday's planned meeting will be smaller in scope than the original meeting, and is being held to answer further questions from producers.

Flu bug nibbles at local employees, students

While some areas of the country are experiencing influenza in epidemic proportions, locally, the flu bug is nibbling more than biting.

Area factories and schools for the most part re-

port little absenteeism from the flu.

Only one plant, Schumacher Electric, is experi-

See "FLU" on other side

More *Just the Facts* on the other side

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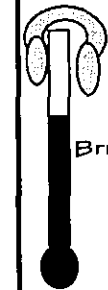
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Flu continued from other side

encing high absenteeism, according to plant nurse Mary Ann Sinclair. "It's very bad," she said. "Percentage-wise, probably 12 to 12½ percent have been off."

Sinclair said she sent three people home on Monday alone. "Needless to say, none of them are here today," she said Tuesday. "Everyone who's working probably should be home, including the nurse."

Other factories, however, report few employees absent with the flu.

"I think they come into work," said Cecelia Dixon in the FMC human resources department.

Jerry Northam, personnel manager at American National Can, told much the same story. "We have a few, but it's not bad," he said. "For the most part, we don't have absenteeism problems. It's not more than two or three percent at the most."

Vickie Johnson at Stokely said that plant is not experiencing flu-related problems, either. "If they had the flu, they had it on their vacations," she said. "We haven't really been affected by it."

Local schools also report little impact from the bug. "It's not too bad at this point," said Chris Newman, principal of Maple and Honeywell schools. "We're not being hit too hard yet," she said, calling the absentee rate "a little bit above average but not epidemic."

One place has seen several people with both respiratory and stomach flu - Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital.

Several patients with both kinds have been at the hospital, said Jackie Johnson, director of nursing. "People have been pretty sick with whatever kind they have."

Those who have been bitten by the bug should get plenty of liquids and rest and eat a bland diet, Johnson said.

Once bitten, "all you can do is treat the symptoms," she said - gargle for sore throats and take acetaminophen for fever and body aches and lozenges for coughing. Flu sufferers with fevers should consult their doctors.

For those who have not been bitten by the bug and want to keep it that way should also get plenty of rest and liquids, Johnson said.

Police news

No tickets or injuries were reported in a two-vehicle accident at 1:25 p.m. Wednesday in Rossville. Cars driven by Rossville police chief Paul DeWitt, 101 McKibben, Rossville, and Max L. Yergler, route 3, Hoopeston, collided on the 200 block of East Main in Hoopeston. According to reports, DeWitt was backing from a parking space and did not see Yergler, who had stopped in traffic.

Theodore L. Eighner, 57, of Miami, Fla., was arrested at 2:45 p.m. Wednesday on a Champaign County warrant for failure to appear. Eighner posted \$500 bond and was released.

Dustin A. Riddle, 18, of Cheneyville, was arrested at 9:23 a.m. Thursday on a warrant for failure to appear. He was released after posting \$75 bond.

In the hospital

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
Jan. 5, 1994

Admitted: none.

Discharged: Elizabeth Koenig, Rankin.

Weather

Colder today, with a 30 percent chance of flurries. High in the low 30s. Tonight, colder. Low in the teens. Tomorrow, cloudy and cold. High of 19, low 7. Sunday, partly cloudy, cold. High near 29, low near 6.



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