A Christmas Keepsake

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Lourdine Florek owner/publisher



Phone: (217) 283-9348

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 1995

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication! P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

Ag economist: patience will be key to marketing grains

Patience may be the key to marketing the remainder of 1995 crops, according to a University of Illinois expert.

Crop figures released Tuesday morning by the U.S. Department of Agriculture show severely depleted reserves, said Dr. Darrel Good, U of I Extension economist.

Good addressed approximately 50 farmers Tuesday

at a crop marketing seminar sponsored by the Hoopeston Public Library and Demeter, Inc.

By the end of this marketing year, Good said, "corn is going to be a bare cup" with only a three to 3½ week supply of corn. "We've just never been there before in modern history," Good said, adding that even during the drought year 1988, a six-month

See MARKETING on other side

Briefly

Fewer request Lions Club baskets

The number of people requesting Christmas food baskets from the Hoopeston Lions Club has decreased, said project chairman Russ Leigh.

The group will deliver approximately 150 baskets this year, down from over 200 last year, said Leigh at Monday's Community Involvement Committee meeting.

Baskets will be delivered Dec. 23.

In other community news, Andi Hasbargen of the Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce, reported three new Chamber members: Rhonda's Baskets, Illiana Real Estate and Carolynn's Beauty Salon.

New officers and board members were also named, including Russ Leigh, president; Rod Burkett, vice president; Charlie Smith, treasurer; and Kim Seggebruch, secretary.

New board members are Becky Burkett, Tina Buhrmester, Debby Dixon, Dave Ervin, JoAnne Gress and Ed Lotz, all elected for two-year terms, and Ron King, Bill Orr and Ema Wardall, elected for one-year terms.

Yard decorating contest

Don't forget the Christmas yard decorating contest sponsored by the Hoopeston Jaycees and Just the Facts. Winners in traditional, religious and most original categories will receive \$20 prizes. Send your nomination to: Just the Facts, P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942 by Dec. 22.

Suggestions sought

If you could plan the 1996 Sweetcorn Festival, what activities would you include? Festival chairman Bob Porth would like suggestions on what activities should be included during next year's festival.

Suggetions should be sent to Porth care of the Hoopeston Jaycees, P.O. Box 28, Hoopeston, IL. 60942.

Yearbooks in

1995 HAHS yearbooks may be picked up in the high school library or superintendent's office.

Old yearbooks during Friday's boys' basketball game. Available are 1968,1975-83, 1986-89, and 1990-94, most in limited quantities.

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Energetic, motivated person needed for ad sales. Must be customer-service oriented and have own transportation. Send resume and salary requirements to Box J, Just the Facts, P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942.

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Ping pong table w/paddles and net, new blue recliner, \$75 each OBO. Call (217) 283-9739.

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SERVICES

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Rates: \$2.50/15 words \$1/ each additional 5 words Call (217)283-9348 to place your ad

Marketing continued from other side supply of corn was available.

Reduced acres planted, a 50 percent increase in exports and less-than-favorable weather conditions

resulted in a small crop, rewhich in turn is causing prices to rise, Good said. However, increases have been less quick in coming than in past years. Corn started the year at about

\$2.40/bushel and has increased about \$1, he said.

The shortfall may mean increased prices, if farmers are patient, Good said, predicting "an extended vear of higher corn prices."

Good advised farmers to "be patient over the next few weeks" as more USDA reports, including the hogs and pigs report due later this month, are issued. By waiting, farmers may not get top dollar, but will not lose as much, either. "You may miss a dime, but I don't think you're going to see a 50-cent drop anytime soon," he said.

Good also urged caution in new crop pricing. "It's still to early to price new crop corn," he said. "There will be windows of opportunity during the planting and growing season that will give us a better handle." September corn is "pushing \$3 now," Good said. "I think that's an attractive place to start new crop sales."

This year's corn shortage is not something which will be rectified quickly, Good said. Even a 1996 crop of 130 bushels per acre, netting about 9.5 billion bushels "will not allow major rebuilding of the stock," he said.

Court dispositions



Nov. 16: Michael Zarate, Hoopeston, deceptive practice, failed to appear, summons issued.

Carl Anderson, Milford, no parking, nolle pros. Kathy Baragree, Rossville, speeding, pleaded guilty; \$75 total.

Jerry Lindsey, Hoopeston, too fast for conditions, \$150.

Corn is not the only grain in short supply. Beans are also in high demand, especially as meal. While meal prices have risen, Good said overall bean prices

> have been held back by sluggish oil sales.

However, Brazil, a major soybean-producing nation, has reported extremely dry growing conditions, which could force bean prices to

the \$7.60 range. "I think we have that kind of potential," he said.

Good predicted technical indicators will be of little value this bean season. "This is a year you could set your charts aside," he said.

Without good crops in 1996, Good suggested export rationing could be implemented. "I think if we get into a significant weather problem in 1996, that might happen," he said. "There's only so much to go around. But nobody likes that scenario."

Regarding the 1995 Farm Bill. Good said the issue will probably not be decided quickly. "Those who think you're going to have a farm bill by the end of this month are a little optimistic. I think."

Despite adverse conditions, Good said American farmers are ready to compete in the world market. "The bottom line of Freedom to Farm is we're ready to go," he said. "We can compete with anybody in the world and do it profitably."

In the Hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital Dec. 11, 1995

Admitted: none. Discharged: none.

Weather

"We can compete with anybody in

the world and do it profitably."

Darrel Good

U of L economist



Freezing rain changing to rain today. High in the low to mid 30s. Tonight, freezing rain likely. Low in the mid 20s. Tomorrow, scattered showers. High near 52, low near 36.



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