

Farmers recover from winter

BY DAN WARNER
Staff Reporter

As temperatures rise and the final snows melt, local farmers are going back to the fields to prepare for planting after another difficult winter.

Local farmer Doug Thomas said the long winter has delayed farm work, and it seems that it will set back the planting season. He said delayed planting could hurt the soybean crop if the area continues to experience rainfall as high as the past two years.

Thomas said probably less than 20 percent of late fall and winter work was accomplished on area farms because of the weather, and now farmers are trying to make up for lost time. He said that, due to this third year of harsh weather, his farm is behind in repairing flood damage, and some other area farms still have tornado damage.

The Adair County area produces mainly soybeans and corn, and many farms raise cattle. Thomas said the cold and wet weather brings a huge cost for farms with cattle, which then require

more food and care.

"I think more people [who raise cattle] have had more problems this winter than in the past few as far as heavy snows," Thomas said.

Agricultural science professor Mark Campbell said livestock need more energy as the temperature drops, which is why they need more food. He said the price of feed is higher now because of higher demand, partially caused by more corn going toward the production of ethanol, which has been an added burden to livestock farmers.

Campbell said the biggest worry with winter weather is not the cold but precipitation. He said mud makes it difficult for farmers to reach their livestock, and cattle can slip on ice and injure themselves.

"A cold winter isn't the worst thing in the world," Campbell said. "A good cold winter can sometimes be seen as a good thing because it can kill off insects."

Campbell said some farmers believe climate change results in milder



Dan Warner/Index

Local farmer Doug Thomas stands in front of his tractor. The long winter delayed work for farmers, setting back planting.

winters, which do not keep insects away from crops, which is a bigger issue in Western states.

Meteorologist Ray Wolf of the Quad City National Weather Service said this winter was not extremely harsh, but it lasted longer

than normal with slightly below average temperatures. He said that precipitation has been about average this year, with 4.84 inches of rain and melted snow in comparison with 7.79 inches of precipitation measured at this time last year.

Wolf also said the average last date of a freeze for Kirksville is April 22, which means temperatures could very well drop back down again.

Thomas said that despite weather troubles and some poor crop yields, he is optimistic that local farmers will

pull through.

"It hasn't been as big of a struggle as it maybe would be if we had low prices along with these tough times," Thomas said. "We just persevere. You take the good with the bad, and you've got to keep going."

Movie Gallery closes

University continues to push for a Redbox on campus

BY ANDREA HEWITT
News Editor

Movie Gallery stores across the nation are going out of business, including the Kirksville location.

Movie Gallery, Inc., filed for voluntary reorganization petitions under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code on Feb. 2, according to a Movie Gallery, Inc., press release.

"A Chapter 11 filing immediately freezes all legal and financial claims against the company that precede the filing and stops creditors from exercising control over the company's property," according to a different Movie Gallery, Inc., press release. "Companies file for Chapter 11 voluntarily because it provides a process by which the company can

emerge as a viable business."

The filing led to the liquidation and closure of Movie Gallery, Hollywood Video and Game Crazy stores.

"We are closing these stores because they are not profitable and because funds from liquidating them can help us moving forward," according to the press release.

The Kirksville store is having a liquidation sale now and is still renting out videos.

Meanwhile, Student Senate is pushing to get a Redbox on campus, but Truman representatives have been applying since October 2008.

Student Senate President JoEllen Flanagan said there will be a Redbox survey sent out to all students April 12 to 16 asking if students would use the Redbox and how often.

Damon Ferlazzo, Student Union Building programs coordinator, said he first applied for a Redbox online in October 2008 but hasn't

heard anything back from them.

"After the renovations, we were trying to make the union more exciting, have more services and have more events," he said. "We've done the events side, but as far as providing extra services, we haven't been able to do a whole lot. One thing we were thinking about doing was providing some type of vending machine for DVDs on campus. So people on campus, especially those who didn't have [a] car, can have access to movie rentals."

Ferlazzo said that, one day when driving on Baltimore Street, he saw people installing a Redbox outside of Walgreens and went and talked to them.

"They told me ... they weren't interested, and they'd never heard of Truman State," Ferlazzo said. "They said there wasn't any reason to provide a Redbox to a college because all the college students go to Wal-Mart anyway."



Mayank Dhungana/Index

Kirksville resident David Durbin looks at a PlayStation 2 game at Movie Gallery on Tuesday. Durbin said he lives nearby and loves the store's selection but is guilty of recently visiting Redbox because of its cheaper price.



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