

By Jan Rahn
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Harvest is finally underway in the region—much later than usual—but with good yields and a good outlook.

“The best corn is still ahead,” said Brent Marvin, grain manager/merchandiser for Frenchman Valley Co-op. “Wetter corn (irrigated) will be the best this year.”

It’s drying slow, said Marvin. Typically, corn harvest should have ended around the last of October.

“We’ll be going through the end of the year for sure,” he said.



A wet, snowy October delayed picking and created soggy conditions in the fields, however, once the last snowstorm passed on October 29-30 and the crop was given a chance to dry out, harvest revved up quickly.

The first loads into the co-op were from Perkins County farmers Miguel Patrick and Bill Richmond.

The dryland corn brought in over the past few days has averaged 165-180 bushels, with the hailed crop averaging less than 150 bushels, said Marvin.

Average test weight is between 54-57 with moisture levels around 175.

“It’s dryer than we thought,” Marvin said, “and the yields are good.”

According to Doug Anderson, Perkins County extension educator, there is at least 80-85 percent of this season’s crop to be harvested due to the delay from moisture.

Anderson said ear rot is not a threat for farmers in this area, because the western part of the state has lower humidity, which helps when it comes to these types of diseases. Additionally, the cold temperatures contributed to preventing ear rot.

The disease could potentially hit this year’s corn crop if it became cloudy and misty with warm temperatures, he said.

However, the moisture received in October was in the form of snow and not rain, so it wasn’t conducive to the mold, said Anderson.

Information on harvest in other parts of the county was not reported prior to press time.