

By Jan Rahn

Managing Editor

Twenty-four years ago, the same long, hot, dry spell occurring during spring led to an early wheat harvest in June. The wheat had shriveled from stress and was of poor quality, according to a news article printed during harvest that year.

Not so this June—"We were pleasantly surprised," said Gary Talich, branch manager of Frenchman Valley Co-op in Grant.

"The quality of this year's crop is exceptional," he said.

Back in 1988, Charles Cogil delivered the first load on Saturday, June 25. Test weight along the Highline then was in the low to mid-50s.

This year's first load to the elevator in Grant during June occurred 10 days earlier—Carolyn McArtor brought it in June 15, with a test weight of nearly 58.

"Protein was better than we've seen in several years," said Talich.

He said there were a few isolated incidences where test weight fell off this year, but compared to what was expected, the wheat was very good.

In the western part of the county around Venango and near the state line, yields trailed off, which Talich said was expected, however, overall, that area was much better than anticipated also.