



By Jan Rahn

Managing Editor

A strong storm system that rolled across Perkins County the evening of Friday, June 21 left a lot of downed power poles in its wake.

A tree along Central Avenue in Grant was uprooted and the park was littered with small limbs. According to Midwest Manager Larry Umberger, wind and lightning caused troubles through most of the power company's territory.

Umberger estimated that 25 poles were lost, most of which were in Perkins County. Umberger said damages could reach as high as \$50,000.

A pivot southeast of Grant was damaged.

At least 12 linemen were out in the field over the weekend with several employees staffed throughout the weekend dispatching and taking phone calls.

Those responding initially to the storm's impact were working 16 to 18 hours, said Umberger.

On Saturday night, wind and rain hit the area again, but no heavy damage was reported.

Previous storms have also hit the area, damaging crops in every direction of Perkins County, according to Frenchman Valley Co-op Manager Gary Talich.

"Pick the night, or pick the storm, and you can pick a different area," said Talich. "Several storms in the last week have hit north, south, east and west. They haven't picked any favorite spot."

In every part of the county, some fields of corn and wheat are gone or beat up, he said.

Talich said he has heard reports that wheat fields won't be worth harvesting and will be used for hay. Some has been adjusted at five bushels or less.

Most of the corn that has been damaged has time to recover, however, there are some spots where it, too, has been annihilated, he said.

Some farmers are currently in the process of replanting soybeans.

