

# Slow harvest may grind to halt

**Weather service predicts rain today through Friday.**

By **MATTHEW WILDE**  
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**SUMNER** — Slow and steady may have helped the tortoise beat the hare, but that won't aid farmers in their race against winter.

Monday's U.S. Department of Agriculture Crops and Weather Report indicates harvest is trudging along. Getting soybeans and corn in the bin is two weeks or more behind schedule compared to the last five years.

As of Sunday, 37 percent of the state's soybeans are combined. Only 10 percent of the corn is harvested for grain. Snow and rain only allowed 8 percent and 4 percent of the respective totals to come out last week. Much of that was done Sunday.

According to the National Weather Service in Des Moines, farmers are about to be chased out of the fields again. Rain is predicted today through Friday for much of Northeast Iowa. Chances range from 50 percent tonight to as high as 70 percent later in the week.

With harvest already well behind schedule, Dean Buhr said



RICK CHASE / Courier Staff Photographer

Farmers work to harvest as many soybeans as possible Monday before clear skies and warm temperatures give way to cold, rainy weather through Friday. A John Deere combine and a grain cart work in unison along — you guessed it — Deere Road in Waterloo.

he was going to stay in the combine Monday as long as possible to try to finish soybeans. Normally, Buhr said he would be done with beans and two-thirds of the way through corn.

The corn head hasn't been on Buhr's John Deere yet, and that worries him.

"The later you get, the more of a chance for bad weather and snow. And the days get shorter, so it takes longer and longer," Buhr said.

High winds and snow can cause brittle stalks to tip over, Buhr said, which means lost grain. He said aged stalks are like humans getting older — they're just not as strong as they used to be.

"It's old age disease," Buhr said.

The report rated corn lodging at 73 percent none, 20 percent light, 6 percent moderate and 1 percent heavy. Ear droppage is rated 81 percent none, 15 percent light, 3 percent moderate and 1 percent heavy.

Corn condition is rated 2 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 18 percent fair, 51 percent good and 24 percent excellent.

Dwight Hinrichs, who farms near Tripoli, also spent Monday in the combine. He's a few days away from finishing beans and hasn't started on corn. Weather-related losses are a big concern, he said.

"We've got a long way to go. I hope the snow is three weeks behind schedule, too," Hinrichs

said.

On the bright side, Buhr said beans are yielding well at 55 bushels-plus per acre. Wet conditions are also keeping soybeans from shattering as much when combined, Hinrichs said.

The report said shattering is rated 77 percent none, 17 percent light, 5 percent moderate and 1 percent heavy.

"You're saving all your beans. That's a little bit of a payback, anyway," Hinrichs said.

## REGIONAL BRIEFS

### BREMER

#### Mental-health program scheduled at Wartburg

**WAVERLY** — The National Alliance on Mental Illness Bremer-Butler Counties, Wartburg College and Waverly Health Center will host a screening of "Minds on the Edge: Facing Mental Illness."

The event will be from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday in the McCaskey Lyceum at Wartburg.

The purpose is to encourage a dialogue about improving treatment options and support for people with mental illness and their families.

During the program, a panel of professionals will facilitate discussions.

For information, go to [www.mindsoneledge.org](http://www.mindsoneledge.org) or call Jennifer Wolff at (319) 352-5644.

### WINNESHIEK

#### Scholar will give lecture at Luther College

**DECORAH** — Anil Singh-Molares, founder and CEO of EchoMundi, will present the 2009 Woodrow Wilson Lecture on Oct. 28 at Luther College.

The event will begin at 7 p.m. in the Center for Faith and Life.

The presentation on the ethical considerations of outsourcing is free and open to the public.

During his five-day visit beginning Monday, Singh-Molares will also give classroom lectures and a brown bag luncheon.

#### Authors will read from essay about disabilities

**DECORAH** — The Spectrum Network will hold a reception and book signing on Oct. 29, featuring "From My Perspective: Essays about Disability."

The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Decorah Public Library.

Authors will read selections, and Rachel Faldet, co-editor, will talk about gathering stories for the book.

Faldet is assistant professor of English at Luther College.

The event is in conjunction with National Disability Employment Awareness Month and Spectrum's 35th anniversary. The reception is free and open to the public.

For information, call (563) 382-8401 or go online at [www.thespectrumnetwork.org](http://www.thespectrumnetwork.org).

# Firefighter of the Year never gave up

By **JEFF REINITZ**  
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**WATERLOO** — A Waterloo native who realized his childhood dream five years ago has been named Firefighter of the Year for 2009.



**Nick Anderson**  
Firefighter of the Year

He wanted to be a firefighter since I was 2," said Nick Anderson, 28, the youngest of seven siblings who looked up to his oldest brother, who was an Air Force firefighter at the time.

He recalls how his mother, Bonnie, used to buy him ice cream, and they would watch fire trucks at the station downtown.

Anderson, a 1999 Columbus High School graduate, took his first test to join Waterloo Fire Rescue at age 18. He continued to try when he didn't make the cut, and there were times he thought of calling it quits, he said.

"It's a tough career to get into," Anderson said. "My family was very support-

ive. They wouldn't let me give up."

He was an emergency room technician at Covenant Medical Center for two years, and his efforts to join the fire department finally paid off in April 2004. He was hired on at Waterloo Fire Rescue while he was studying for his paramedic license at the University of Northern Iowa.

Anderson currently is a medic assigned to Station No. 8 on San Marnan Drive and is the commander of the fire department's honor guard.

The Exchange Club of Waterloo bestowed the Firefighter of the Year honor on Anderson during a luncheon Monday at the Elks Club.

Chief Doug Carter said Anderson's fellow firefighters nominated him for the award because he goes above and beyond to help out.

"It was apparent to me that Nick stood out," said Carter, who was the department's training officer when Anderson started.

Anderson said working for a fire department is

"There's only one name on the plaque ... but there's a lot more to this department than just one person."

**Nick Anderson**  
Firefighter of the Year

always a team effort.

"There's only one name on the plaque ... but there's a lot more to this department than just one person," Anderson said.

Anderson's family was at the event, including his mother; oldest brother, Tom, who is now with the Wichita, Kan., fire department; his second-oldest brother, Jim, who is a volunteer with the Bellevue, Neb., fire department; and his uncle, Dennis Harrington, a retired battalion chief with the Chicago Fire Department.

Firefighter T.J. Schaffer also was nominated for the award.



**Bill Beck**  
Paramedic of the Year



**Steve Heyerhoff**  
Hazardous Material Technician of the Year

Others receiving awards for their service with Waterloo Fire Rescue include:

■ **Bill Beck**, Paramedic of the Year. Beck started in July 2004 and is the medical officer for C Shift. He also is a member of the hazardous materials team and an instructor at the Regional Training Center.

Also nominated for this honor were Barry Petersen and Chris Ferguson.

■ **Steve Heyerhoff**, Hazardous Material Technician of the Year. Heyerhoff also began his career with Waterloo Fire Rescue in 2004. He is a firefighter and fire engineer.

# Two jailed for mobile meth lab

**HAWKEYE** — Authorities arrested two Hawkeye residents during a traffic stop after they were allegedly caught making methamphetamine.

According to the Fayette County Sheriff's Office, a deputy discovered an active lab inside a vehicle the pair were riding in on Monday.

The deputy pulled Shannon Thompson, 30, over for allegedly driving while barred. After being stopped, Thompson and his passenger, Travis Guyer, 33, attempted to pour the contents of the lab out.

The pair are charged with manufacturing meth, a Class B felony, punishable by up to 25 years in prison if convicted.

They are being held in the Fayette County Jail.

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**Entry Deadline: Fri., Oct. 23at NOON**  
Mail to: Major Hoople, c/o The Courier  
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\*Winners will be contacted by phone/email

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