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LOCAL NEWS

Water report expected for Exira in September

By Jennifer Nichols
NT Staff Writer

AUDUBON COUNTY – Exira City officials are expecting a report from Snyder and Associates in September on the best way to provide water to residents, Exira City Clerk Meg Andersen told the Audubon County Board of Supervisors on Monday.

Audubon County Board Chairman Heath Hansen said about two years ago, the board started scheduling time during its meetings for representatives of towns in the county

to come and speak to the board on any topic to give each entity a chance to ask questions to each other.

Andersen said city officials are working with Snyder and Associates to explore water options, which could include continuing to get their water from Regional Water Rural Water Association, getting their water from Atlantic Municipal Utilities or creating a joint water system with Brayton.

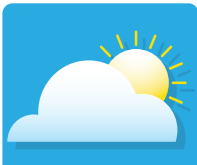
In May, approximately 100 people attended a meeting at the Exira Events Center following the announcement from Regional Water Rural Water Association officials that customers in Shelby, Audubon, Cass, Harrison, and

Northern Pottawattamie Counties should boil their water following a loss in pressure because of high water demand. Later, Association officials said customers should also restrict their water use due to drought conditions reducing water levels to about 60%. Many of those who attended the meeting expressed frustration with the service they are receiving compared to the cost they are paying. Andersen said there have been numerous rate increases throughout the years.

Regional water officials said in May they were

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Weather Forecast



Wednesday Partly sunny with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Humid with highs in the lower 80s. Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph, becoming northwest in the afternoon. Chance of rain 50 percent.

Wednesday Night Showers likely with a chance of thunderstorms in the evening, then a chance of showers with a slight chance of thunderstorms after midnight. Humid with lows in the upper 50s. North winds 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 60 percent.



Thursday Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of showers in the morning, then partly sunny in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 70s. Northeast winds around 10 mph. Chance of rain 20 percent.

Thursday Night Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 50s.

Friday Partly sunny in the morning, then mostly cloudy with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs around 80. Chance of rain 20 percent.



Friday Night Mostly cloudy. A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms in the evening, then showers likely with a chance of thunderstorms after midnight. Lows in the upper 60s. Chance of rain 60 percent.



Saturday Mostly cloudy in the morning, then becoming mostly sunny. A chance of showers. A chance of thunderstorms, mainly in the morning. Highs in the mid 80s. Chance of rain 50 percent.

Saturday Night Partly cloudy in the evening, then becoming mostly cloudy. A slight chance of thunderstorms. A chance of showers. Lows in the upper 60s. Chance of rain 40 percent.



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Our Town

Celebrating the people and events that make our community great

PiP Featured Vendor Profile: Bridgewater Farm

By Jo Molina
Special to the NT

It wouldn't be "Produce" in the Park without farm-fresh produce, which is where the likes of Bridgewater Farm come into play. Bridgewater Farm is a certified organic farm that offers a range of fruit and vegetables, from A-Z – from apples and asparagus to zucchinis – including animal products, all with the goal of maintaining traditional and organic practices.

Bridgewater Farm, located outside of Bridgewater, has been owned and operated by Dale Raasch since 1978. The farm's 25 acres of vegetable crops make it the largest organic vegetable farm in the state of Iowa. Together with 14 related and non-related employees, the crew works as a family to bring food to the community. Raasch started as a hog and cattle farmer until he needed a way to repurpose his land and make a living, which is where the idea of growing vegetables came in. At first, Bridgewater Farm attended a small number of local farmers markets. As their customer base grew, they have since expanded to markets as far as Des Moines and Omaha, and their produce is also featured in restaurants and stores across the area. Based on interactions at the markets, Raasch said that customers have become more health-conscious people as a result of investing in organic produce.

Bridgewater Farm utilizes organic



Photo contributed by Dale Raasch

The crew "family" of Bridgewater Farm.

and natural practices for all of its fresh produce, including traditional hand-digging and hand-harvesting. Besides vegetables and fresh fruit, the farm also raises cattle, pigs, and free-range chickens. Raasch's trust in his product reflects in his lifestyle, as farming keeps him both active and healthy. Recently, Raasch has been working with his son Tyler to run the farm, who has been in charge of the newsletter and other digital media so Raasch can keep his focus on outdoor logistics.

Even though the community reception is fairly positive, Raasch said there could be more

work done to increase the area people's care about organic produce. Some people may be cautious, unwilling to pay, or simply uninformed about the products. To remedy this, Bridgewater Farm offers some free samples and farm tours to those wanting to learn more. They are frequently repeated vendors at multiple farmers markets across Southwest Iowa and into Nebraska in an effort to spread the word and offer answers to any farm-related questions.

More information about Bridgewater Farm, including

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AGRICULTURE NEWS

Soybeans setting pods ahead of schedule; Iowa has 'another anomalously' wet week

By Cami Koons
Iowa Capital Dispatch

Eighteen percent of soybeans are setting pods across the state, which is several days ahead of the 5-year average. Other crops across Iowa continue to progress close to the normal schedule amid another week of above-average precipitation, according to the crop progress and condition report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Corn and soybeans both rated well for the July 7-13 reporting period, respectively at 85% and 79% good to excellent.

Corn silking reached 36% on average across the

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(Photo by Preston Keres/USDA)

Soybean plant with pods.