

Markets

Saturday's noon local markets

Corn	2.09
Soybeans	5.81
Milo	1.85
Wheat	2.95

Stocks of local interest

The following stocks of local interest were traded today:

	Last	Chg.
Alltel	52.82	+0.05
BN Santa Fe	34.87	+0.02
Berkshire Hathaway A	85,100.00	-100.00
Berkshire Hathaway B	2,830.00	-1.00
ConAgra	26.01	-0.15
Commercial Federal	26.40	+0.06
Dana Corp.	17.27	-0.32
Eaton Corp.	59.66	-0.63
Ingersoll Rand	62.20	-1.43
Kinder Morgan	59.33	+0.18
Level 3	2.54	-0.07
McDonald's	25.81	-0.04
Gilbarrier Packaging	1.86	0
PepsiCo	50.89	-0.24
Papa John's	28.36	+0.21
TierOne	20.40	-0.01
Tricon Global Restaurants	37.45	+0.39
Union Pacific	55.24	+0.10
Wells Fargo	57.54	+0.38
Williams Cos.	11.45	-0.10
Wal-Mart	53.40	+0.75

Sept. beans fall 35 1/2 cents

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Soybean futures fell Friday on the Chicago Board of Trade. Grains also ended mostly lower.

Wheat for September delivery was unchanged at \$2.99 1/2 a bushel; September corn was a 1/4 cent lower at \$2.17 3/4 a bushel; September oats were 1 1/2 cent lower at \$1.26 a bushel; September soybeans were 35 1/2 cents lower at \$6.52 a bushel.

Beef and pork futures were mostly higher in trading on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

September live cattle were .35 cent lower at 85.50 cents a pound; September feeder cattle were 2.35 cents higher at \$1.1512 a pound; October lean hogs were 1.52 cent higher at 68.32 cents a pound; February pork bellies were 1.80 cent higher at 95.15 cents a pound.

Corn crop near record

STAFF AND WIRE

Hastings area farmer Dave Lynn is taking a wait-and-see approach to this year's corn crop, although he's fairly sure it won't top last year's bin-busting harvest.

Last year was a record year for irrigated corn with many fields topping 200 bushels per acre. Dryland crops last year didn't fare as well, bringing the average bushels per acre down.

But with this year's wet and mild conditions, dryland yields are expected to be higher while irrigated yields may be slightly off last year's highs.

Put it together and Nebraska is expected to harvest its second largest corn crop on record.

Based on Aug. 1 conditions, the state's corn crop is forecast at 1.22 billion bushels, nine percent above last year, according to the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service.

Average yield is forecast at a record 155 bushels per acre, nine bushels above last year's crop and eight bushels above the previous high set in 2001.

"Last year if you didn't hit 200, people thought you had a crop failure," Lynn said. "I think 175-185 will catch a lot of people's crops this year."

Lynn said this year's irrigated crop had the potential to be better, but the recent cool weather is a setback as corn



KYLE SVEC / Tribune

Hastings area farmer Dave Lynn and his grandsons, Justin Mousel (left) and Brian Lynn check a field of corn near Hastings Friday.

needs so many heat units to produce at 100 percent of its potential.

Don Hutchens, executive director of the Nebraska Corn Board in Lincoln, said the typical irrigated field "looks great from the road." But he said last year's long stretch of hot temperatures better stimulated corn-ear

development.

Lynn was turning on irrigation wells to a soybean field for the first time this growing season with the help of grandsons Justin Mousel and Bryan Lynn Friday.

Soybean production is forecast at 216 million bushels, 20 percent above last year and the second-highest on record behind 2001. Yield is forecast

at 46 bushels per acre, up six bushels from 2003 and second-highest on record behind 1994.

"The beans look good right now, but the next couple of weeks will be the key," Lynn said. "There's potential there, but I'd just as soon wait until it's in the bin to count it up."

Google clears hurdle

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Google Inc. forged ahead with its IPO auction Friday, even as the online search engine leader acknowledged a newly published magazine interview with its founders contained misleading information.

The admissions, made in a company filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, enabled Google to avoid a last-minute delay in its long-awaited initial public offering, according to a source familiar with the negotiations who demanded anonymity.

A Playboy magazine interview with Google founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin had raised the possibility of an IPO delay because of securities laws restricting what executives can say before selling stock to the public for the first time.

Google moved quickly to quash the threat with an amended IPO filing dictated by the SEC, the source said.

A Google spokeswoman declined comment Friday.

The revised IPO documents corrected several inaccurate statements made in the Playboy article. Google also took the unusual step of including the entire Playboy interview in its revised IPO statement to set the record straight so its auction could continue.

Consultant says airport, race track perfect fit

KYLE SVEC
Hastings Tribune

The idea of turning the Hastings Airport grounds into a mecca for motorsport enthusiasts is one step closer to reality.

Internationally recognized race facility designer Alan Wilson has spent the last couple of days evaluating what the community of Hastings and the airport have to offer as well as meeting with community officials.

Wilson, who has designed and built 19 tracks and consulted in many more — including two in China — said he sees a bright future for the facility at the airport and as a result for the city of Hastings.

Wilson said the project for the 1.8-mile track, that will skirt around the existing runways, and the clubhouse, etc., could fall between \$2.5 million and \$3.5 million. He said \$3.5 million would build a "very nice facility."

The project would be privately funded.

While it may seem expensive, it's not thanks to many things

already in place like utilities, structures and paving. Wilson said most facilities he designs run \$3.5 million to \$7 million.

Wilson said the probability of the facility — which is being called "MPH" for Motorsport Park Hastings — becoming a reality is 60 percent to 70 percent "as we stand right now."

"This is a very feasible project," Wilson said. "It's not a slam-dunk, but none are. The good part is I haven't talked to anyone here that is saying it can't be done."

Wilson, whose visit to Hastings was paid for by the Hastings Economic

Development Corp., is working with George Anderson of Hastings on the particulars of the facility.

Some options include: indoor classic car storage with 24-hour security, machine shop, valet service, a motel, executive suites, restaurants, a classic-car dealership and a track that would attract Sports Car Club of America events to Hastings as well as a place for local dealership test drives, police driving schools, go-kart driving, ride-and-drives and a place for people who just need a place to play with their cars.

The airport's draw is that many car owners from across the country might store their cars there and fly in on weekends to play with them, giving the existing business community in northwest Hastings a boost. Wilson said most facilities are 30 or 40 miles from a city that Hastings will offer a few blocks away.

Wilson said he estimates someone will be using the track at least 70 percent of the days it

is open, making it a viable business in its own right.

"Hastings is the perfect fit in a lot of ways," Wilson said. "It's the perfect size town to adopt this and run with it. Things like this aren't even a blip in a city like Denver or Kansas City, but in Hastings this facility would be like a big fish in a small pond."

The project is basically in a wait-and-see mode right now.

Once Wilson delivers his official report, the City Council will decide whether it is for or against the project. If the council approves, the FFA will have to put its stamp on the project before it can move forward.



KYLE SVEC / Tribune

A group of people representing Hastings, the SCCA, HEDC and the Imperial Mall talk with race track consultant Alan Wilson (middle).

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