BILL: And good morning and welcome into our Wednesday edition of Ag Talk. This is Bill Rice along with Ed Lentz. It’s a wheat Wednesday and we’re talking about some urgency surrounding harvest today, Ed.

ED: Yes, end of June first part of July is wheat harvest time. How long it takes for the grain fill depends on where our June temperatures have been. Ideally for wheat yields we like a moderate afternoon temperature of low 80s maximum that going to give us a slower drydown but we get better grain fill which will give us better test weights and higher yields. Unfortunately, when it’s over 90 degrees and the nights are hot we don’t get as good of drydown and it may actually mature faster but we don’t get the yields and as good of test weights quality parameter we use for wheat. And of course, we have had several days in the 90s upper 80s. It’s kind of been a mixed bag or roller coaster we’ve got ideal temperatures and then we get real hot. It’s been back and forth so I anticipate it’s going to be a typical harvest time period which is now until the first part of July. The thing about it is when a farmer has to make decisions out here, cause they are going to be using moisture testers, they want to harvest that grain at an ideal time. The thing they run into is that a farmer, excuse me, an elevator is going to dock the farmer if the grain is over fifteen percent cause they got to dry that down cause they are going to store it at fourteen percent. So the farmer wants to get a close as he can to that fifteen percent so he gets a better price. However, the problem we have with this though is that our grain quality may not be as good. If we got diseases out there and we may have headscab this year that will increase the Vomitoxin contamination issue. Also, if it’s left out there we have a greater chance of lodging. Getting a little too much rain on it we get some sprouting, and we get lower test weight. So it’s always a balance for the farmer when is the right time to harvest to get the best that the elevator versus to let it drydown in the field or for ticketing a higher moisture. The biggest problem by waiting though we don’t want to have rewetting of the grain where it’s got wet and dry and it’s wet again, that’s when we really have the quality problems and also we can get sprouting where the grain actually says let’s germinate again and if there’s any toxin they will be extenuated. Ideally Bill, we would harvest between 18 and 20 percent moisture and then dry it down. That’s probably our best quality. If we get below fourteen percent we could have broken kernels. And this year if you do have scab in your field, we recommend that you do harvest it between 18 and 20 percent to decrease your quality issues with that or if there is any other disease present. So whether you are ready or not the wheat’s going to say it’s time to harvest.

BILL: Thank you Ed. For Ag Talk this is Bill Rice along with Ed Lentz. Good morning to you.

Ed: Good morning.