Chase County declared natural disaster area

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has designated Chase and Keith counties in western Nebraska as natural disaster areas.

The designation comes in response to excessive rain, hail and high winds that struck the region in June.

Farmers and ranchers may also qualify for natural disaster assistance if they live in Arthur, Deuel, Dundy, Garden, Hayes, Lincoln, McPherson or Perkins counties.

A federal disaster designation allows farm operators to obtain low-interest emergency loans, if they meet eligibility requirements. Farmers have eight months from the declaration date to apply for a loan to cover part of their actual losses.

Commissioners remind landowners of mowing

Chase County's Board of Commissioners recently issued a reminder to land owners in the county of their responsibility to mow ditches bordering their property.

By statute, landowners are required to mow twice each year, according to a notice issued by the commissioners. All that is needed, read the notice, is one pass along the road side.

On Oct. 17 county employees will begin mowing ditches that have been neglected and land

owners will be billed accordingly.

It’s ‘Free Friday’ at Valley Bank & Trust

Everyone is encouraged to stop by Valley Bank & Trust in Wauneta this Friday, Oct. 14, for their “Free Friday” celebration.

If regular banking hours don’t work with your schedule that shouldn’t be a problem this Friday, as the bank will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. this day only.

Refreshments like cinnamon rolls and cookies will be served throughout the day with a free chili luncheon planned from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

While you’re there be sure to register to win a 40-inch LCD HD TV.

What’s all the commotion about? VB&T’s promotion of their totally free checking account, with “Free Friday” the day to take advantage of extra freebies and savings.

Concern with cattle transported into state

Nebraska agriculture officials are concerned cattle imported into the state from drought-stricken areas of Texas and Oklahoma could bring diseases with them, so they are strongly urging

ranchers to adhere to import rules.

State Agriculture Director Greg Ibach said Wednesday officials have begun quarantining herds if ranchers haven't followed import rules. The Agriculture Department is concerned cattle from southern states could be infected with trichomoniasis, which can cause infertility and miscarriages in cattle.

Ranchers must be able to prove the cattle they import are disease-free. Ibach said any cattle producers who are thinking about importing animals should contact the state veterinarian's office to make sure they understand the restrictions.