Champa Group of Wauneta made their mark on the Chase County Fair parade this year with a float highlighting their services. Other Wauneta organizations in the parade included Mercy Meals of Southwest Nebraska and The Wauneta Breeze.

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

AK Acres Popcorn of Imperial tallied the maximum 100 points in the judging process and took grand prize in the Chase County Fair Parade.

This year's parade theme was "Homegrown Success."

Displaying a banner that read, "Home Grown Kids and Corn," the top entry featured large AK Acres popcorn bags filled with yellow balloons that signified popcorn. Members of the Kunnemann family rode on the float.

Bags of the locally-produced popcorn, which are shipped around the world, also lined the exterior of the flatbed trailer that carried the float.

AK Acres also took first in the business class, after being chosen from three other first place entries for the Grand Prize payoff of $75 in Chamber Bucks.

All first place winners received $50 in Chamber Bucks, while second in each class won $35.

Besides business, other categories included organizations, religious and open class. For the first time in years, there were no equestrian entries for the parade.

Grand Marshals for the parade were the trio of Smith Brothers—Les, Stan and Gene. The former farmers and businessmen of Chase County are now retired and all live in Imperial.

More than 50 entries were received for this year's event held Saturday, Aug. 18, said Chamber President Jana Pribbeno.

However, that did not count the entries that chose not to be judged, or the numerous corvettes and semi-truck/trailers that were in town for the fair's car and truck shows.

Also participating but not judged were units from the Imperial Volunteer Fire Department, Imperial EMS and others. Several of the ag equipment dealers in the area also brought the latest combines, tractors and other ag equipment to the parade.

The Imperial Chamber of Commerce organizes the parade each year for the Chase County Fair Board. The prize money is provided from the fair budget.

Here is the complete list of winners.

Business division–1st AK Acres Popcorn, Imperial, also Grand Prize winner; 2nd Adams Bank & Trust, Imperial.

Organizations–1st Future Business Leaders of American (FBLA), Chase County Schools chapter; 2nd Imperial FFA chapter.

Religious–1st Imperial Zion Lutheran Church's Little Longhorns Daycare and Preschool; 2nd First United Methodist Church of Imperial.

Open class–1st Power Drive of Nebraska (program at Wauneta/Palisade High School); 2nd Migrant Education Kids Program, Imperial, Greg and Terri Meyer.