Meet Jerimiah Hinz

Jerimiah Hinz of Newcastile, NE becomes a part of the Vermillion community each week this summer when he sets up a booth and sells his produce at the Vermillion Farmers Market.

The market is held each Thursday at the Clay County Fairgrounds, and has proven to be a good place for Jerimiah to do business. He operates Castle Creek Farm with his sister, Jenny Rolfes, who lives in Hartington, NE.

“We grow everything chemical- and pesticide-free so we use organic practices, although we are not certified organic,” he said. “We have about seven acres right now and we use organic practices, so we use organic practices.

Jerimiah said, “It’s kind of unique. What we’ve done that’s unique is started a CSA program, which is Community Supported Agriculture, and it involves customers purchasing shares at the beginning of the year and then we provide them boxes of produce every week throughout the entire growing season.

“I have to do a lot of planning to make sure we have a lot of variety for each box throughout the summer,” he said. “Once I get the orders and once I know how many people will be growing for essentially, then I start the planning process of what needs to planted, how much, and in what time frame.

That way, a good variety is coming in and arriving every week.

Jerimiah is still, essentially, a rookie at this.

“Tis my second year, all told,” he said. “I grew up with more traditional types of farming, and I thought that this is a unique opportunity to try something different.”

This type of farming also poses unique challenges, especially during the summer’s severe drought.

“Tere are a lot of things that I didn’t plan to irrigate that I had to figure out how to irrigate,” Jerimiah said. “I use mostly dry tape for irrigation, so I have to run a lot of drip line. It just ended up taking a lot more labor to get that done.”

His second year at this also demonstrated it in the area of pest control.

“I’ve noticed there are a lot more bugs this year, with the combination of the heat and the dry, they have really been difficult to manage this year,” he said.

“Those setbacks are minor, though, when Jerimiah assesses the total experience he is having a co-operative at Castle Creek Farm. One of the major reasons that I wanted to do this is enjoy farming and I enjoy doing things outside,” he said. “It also seems there is a growing demand for produce that is locally grown and also people are more concerned about where their getting their produce from, and how it is grown. We try to be very open about how we do things, and people seem to really respond to that,” he said.

Coyote men’s golf adds N.D. transfer

University of South Dakota head men’s golf coach Nick Hovden announced Thursday that Samuel Matthew has transferred to South Dakota from the University of North Dakota. Matthew will be eligible to play right away for the Coyotes this season as a sophomore.

Matthew, a native of Roseville, MN, completed his freshman season at UND this year. While there, Matthew made an instant impact on the team as he finished tied for 18th at the America Sky Conference Championship finishing with a 54-hole score of 230 (76 – 76 – 78), earning him second team all-conference honors.

For the season, Matthew played 27 rounds in nine tournaments with a 75.6 average. He fired a career low 71 at the TSU Big Blue Intercollegiate hosted by Tennessee State. Of his 27 rounds, all but two rounds were in the 70s with the other two being an 80 and 84.

Dakota senior meals

Served at the Main Street Center and Town Square, Meals on Wheels. “Please call before 9 a.m. to schedule or cancel a meal at 624-7868. Menu, distributions below are for the week of July 31-August 6. Menus are subject to change without notice. All menus are served with whole grain bread and 1/2 milk, unless otherwise noted.

Tuesday – Swedish Meatballs, Noodles, Peas, Coleslaw, Mandarin Oranges

Wednesday – Mandarin Orange, Chicken, Parsley Potatoes, Broccoli, Apple

Thursday – Ham Salad on a bun, Tossed Romaine Salad, Tomato Slices, Peaches

Friday – Chicken Enchilada Pie, Tomato on Lettuce, Butternut Squash, Tropical Fruit

Monday – Turkey Ala King, Biscuit, Mixed Veg, Peaches, Cole slaw

Extension: Assessing drought stressed corn

Water shortages are critical at any time of plant development, especially at the reproductive stage. They will lead to poorer crop performance and less yield potential, says Mark Rosenberg, SDSU Extension Agribusiness Specialist.

Rosenberg explains that each crop has a different period of growth where adequate moisture is necessary to reproduce. Corn to a degree can be fairly drought tolerant, however, the critical time for moisture to be present is during the reproductive weeks before and after tasseling.

The first sign of moisture stress in corn is when leaf tassels roll and foliage dries occurring during the warmer parts of the day. Normally the plant will return to its normal vigor once the day cools and the weather pattern persists and intensifies the crop will not be able to draw sufficient water and will remain stressed both night and day. If the conditions persist for extended periods of time the leaf area will begin to die, Rosenberg said. “The first signs of death begin at the leaf tips and margins. This will progress to cover more of the leaf surface as the moisture becomes less available. The point at which the plant will no longer recover is the critical period of moisture stress.”

Rosenberg has shown that four consecutive days of visible moisture can reduce yields by 5 to 10 percent. Also the rows of kernels (V16 to V8) and the length of the ear (V10 to V12) are determined prior to tasseling. “If stress occurs in those periods of time the crop will not increase even if rain is received,” he said.

Rosenberg adds that drought at the early stages of development (silk to tasseling) can cause severe yield reductions. Some estimates suggest possible losses approaching 50 percent when the plant is short of moisture. Poor pollination will result in poor kernel development and small ears, usually at the tip. To gain a better idea of how successful pollination will be, Rosenberg explains an in-field test growers can conduct.

“Once pollination has stopped, there is a three day window to walk the field and check random row spots. Carefully detach the ear and remove the husk. Then give the exposed ear a shake and observe the silks. If they properly pollinated the ovules (immature kernels) they will drop from the ear. The higher number of silks dropping indicates successful pollination. Rosenberg said.

“Rosenberg shares another observation growers can make when deciding grain potential. “Look for ovule development about 10 to 14 days after pollination. Look for small water-filled blisters emerging on the cob. These will develop into kernel as the season progresses and moisture is available,” he said. “The yield potential shortly after pollination has completed will correspond closely to the success of pollination. If pollination success was low, rainfall after the pollination window will not increase yield potential. If yield potential is highly limited, save the crop as forage should be considered.”

For more information visit this on line agronomic resource, visit growzone.org.