

High winds

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were hanging, and the stalks were broken."

In the Prescott area, things were about the same, he said. He cited the Henry Eberly farm which suffered a 50 percent loss on their wheat, with 60 acres of corn and some soybeans hard-hit too.

Hoke said there were about 25 farms affected by the Saturday and Sunday storms, and added "a dollar value of the damage would only be a wild guess." However, he said the damage to structures would far exceed the damage to crops.

Clyde Deck, a dairy farmer on Ramona Road, lost a 75 x 40 frame barn, and one end of a tile block barn was blown out by the gale force winds. Deck explained he usually keeps about 25 Holstein calves in the barn that was leveled, but fortunately there were only 3 calves in it at the time of the storm.

"We were getting ready for the Fall calf crop and had moved most of the calves to another barn. We only lost one heifer."

By Tuesday, friends and neighbors were well into the clean up process on the Deck farm. Clyde smiled, even with all the damage facing him, and said he is "sure glad for the help."

The electric company was also busy trying to clean up after the storm. In the one-mile distance between Prescott and Ramona Roads 26 of their poles were snapped off anywhere from 4 to 8 feet above the ground level. Remains of the poles were strewn in corn fields, wheat fields, and in pasture.

"You know we had wind when it snapped those poles," Deck exclaimed.

Miller of EMA agreed with him.

"When I tried to put the pieces of the storm puzzle together after I travelled around and looked at the



An estimated \$25,000 worth of damage was done to the Henry Eberly barn roof and tool shed. This farm lies less than a mile northwest of the Deck farm, along King Rd.

damage, I noticed the northern part of the County got heavy rain and hail, but not the excessive wind.

"Down in the southeastern part of the County, where most of the property damage occurred, I think two fronts hit the area at once with gale force and ravaged the area."

What led Miller to his conclusions was the discussions he had with various residents in the area. They told me that they thought the storm had passed them, but that it turned around. Then, another front hit them at the same time.

Miller pointed out no funnel clouds were sighted, however he felt the storm had tornado force winds. He noted that the storm didn't touch down on the ground but stayed at least 4 feet above it. This he said he determined because of the way the utility poles were snapped.

Miller said the hail that pelted the area at first was unusually shaped. The hail was shaped like your little finger and pierced the corn like a bullet. Then it changed to the normal marble shape and later it rained.

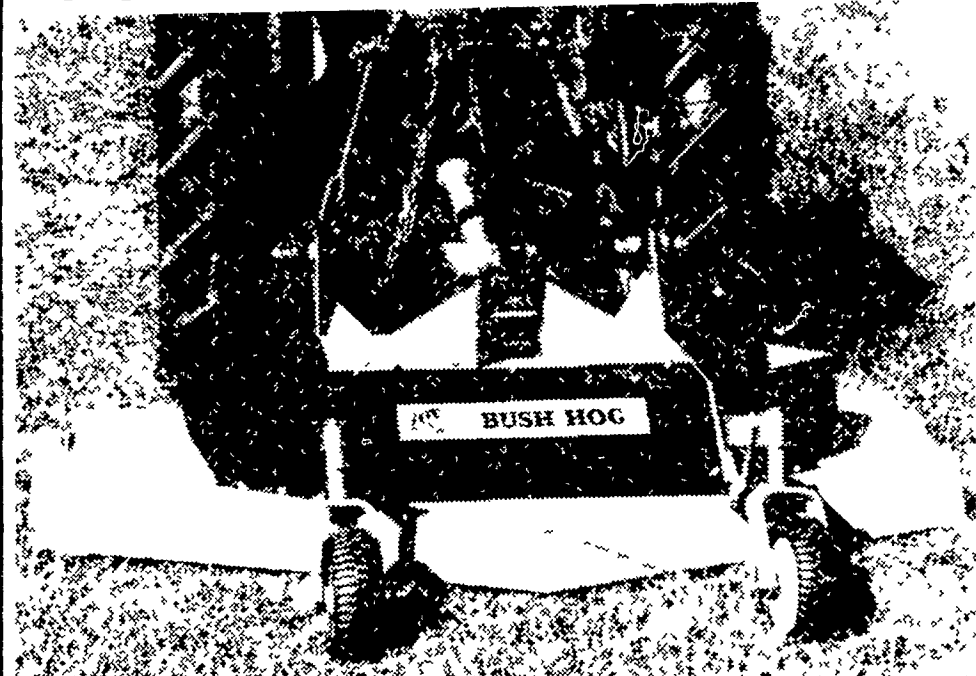
The result of the hail storm was battered corn, but according to County Agent Hoke, this corn will still produce a normal crop.

Unless the hail penetrated the growing tip, the corn stalk will continue to grow and produce an ear — the stalk will not be stunted. It would have been more of a disaster if the storm would have hit when the corn was in silks and tassles.



The corn fields that stood knee high before the Fourth of July were pierced and shredded by the unusually shaped hail.

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The winds blew out the end of Clyde Deck's tile block barn, yet left some of the straw bales untouched.

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