

ing public facilities against fur-

or them, but we feel pretty good

October rainfall pattern appears drier

County sets all-time record for annual precipitation

The excessive rainfall pattern that plagued the area during the spring and summer continued in September, as 5.34 inches of rain fell in the county. Normal rainfall for September in Wapello is 3.51 inches.

That rain came on the heels of what was the wettest three month period on record—34.93 inches fell in June, July and August. That total was .02 more than is normally recorded in an entire year.

The 5.34 inches that fell last month pushed the 1993 total to 54.59 inches—an all-time record for a year, with some three months yet to go.

There is some optimistic news on the precipitation front, however. The month of October has, through Wednesday, October 20, been fairly dry. Just .34 has fallen in Wapello in that three week period, and surface water levels have fallen substantially, allowing farmers to begin field work (although wet spots continue to be a problem).

The dry weather of the past three weeks has allowed considerable progress on the harvest of this year's corn and bean crops.

Surveys of area authorities reveal that about 80% of the beans have been combined, with yields running a little better than many expected. There have been a number of field yielding 45 bushels per acre, with many more in the 35-40 bushel range.

One needs to keep in mind, however, that many fields were not planted, or were so heavily damaged by standing water that yields have been negligible.

Corn yields have been, like bean yields, have been extremely variable, with some fields yielding less than 50 bushels per acre, and others, usually on well-drained soils, coming in in the 100-125 bushel range.

It is estimated that, through mid-week, the corn harvest locally is approximately 30% completed.