

## ON TAP: HARVEST BEER FESTIVAL



Festival goers sample a number of beers during the fourth annual McNellie's Harvest Beer Festival in downtown Tulsa on Saturday. The festival brought samples of the latest creations from about 35 breweries. TOM GILBERT/Tulsa World

## Syria releases details to watchdog

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Technical experts at the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons were reviewing Saturday a further disclosure from Syria about its chemical weapons program.

A day earlier, the body that polices the global treaty outlawing chemical weapons said it had received a preliminary submission from Syria.

No details have been released of what is in the Syrian declarations, and OPCW spokesman Michael Luhan refused to give any more information about the latest submission.

Under a U.S.-Russia agreement aimed at swiftly ridding Syria of its chemical arsenal, Damascus had until Saturday to submit a full list to the organization of its chemical weapons and production facilities so they can be secured and destroyed.

U.S. officials said last week that Washington and Moscow agreed that Syria had roughly 1,100 tons of chemical weapons agents and precursors, including blister agents, such as sulfur and mustard gas and nerve agents like sarin.

In the aftermath of the U.N. report that concluded sarin had been used in an Aug. 21 attack in Damascus, the Hague-based chemical weapons watchdog is looking for ways to fast-track moves to secure and destroy Syria's arsenal of poison gas and nerve agents, as well as its production facilities.

However, diplomatic efforts to speed up the process are moving slowly. A meeting initially scheduled for Sunday at which the organization's 41-nation executive council was to have discussed a U.S.-Russian plan to swiftly rid Syria of chemical weapons was postponed Friday. No new date has yet been set for

the meeting and no reason given for its postponement.

Under the U.S.-Russia agreement brokered last weekend in Geneva, inspectors will be on the ground in Syria by November. All components of the chemical weapons program are to be removed from the country or destroyed by mid-2014.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Friday he talked to his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, about Syria's chemical weapons.

"I had a fairly long conversation with Foreign Minister Lavrov," Kerry said in Washington. "We talked about the cooperation which we both agreed to continue to provide, moving not only toward the adoption of the OPCW rules and regulations, but also a resolution that is firm and strong within the United Nations. We will continue to work on that."

## Farm Aid continues push for family farming, music

BY MARY ESCH  
Associated Press

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. — Farm Aid is more than a family of musicians banding together to help the small farmer. It's also a family meal.

A key component of Farm Aid concerts — this year's was Saturday in Saratoga Springs — is the food, which comes through Farm Aid's Homegrown Concessions. It was started six years ago to create new markets for family farmers.

Vendors, which include local food-service outlets, as well as national brands such as Chipotle and Amy's Organic, must meet Farm Aid's criteria for sourcing the ingredients in their food, from organic flour in the panini to free-ranging, antibiotic-free hogs on the barbecue grill.

Even the cotton candy has a family farm origin, made from maple syrup produced in the Catskills.

"Farm Aid's mission is about family farmers, and economic opportunity for family farmers is a really big priority of ours," said Glenda Yoder, associate director of Farm Aid. "We also support good farming practices and rewarding farmers for those practices. So our Homegrown criteria call for food that is sourced from family farms that meet an ecological standard, and that returns a fair price to the farmer."

Willie Nelson, Neil Young, Dave Matthews and John Mellencamp lead the star-studded lineup this year, along with Jack Johnson, Carlene Carter, Toad the Wet Sprocket and about 10 other artists.

The annual concert is the chief moneymaker for the Farm Aid organization Nelson co-founded in 1985 and leads as president. The beneficiaries of the organization's year-round efforts are always featured prominently at the shows, with a Homegrown Village providing concert-



Pete Seeger (right) and Willie Nelson share a laugh on stage during the Farm Aid 2013 concert at Saratoga Performing Arts Center in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., on Saturday. HANS PENNING/AP

goers a chance to meet local farmers, learn agrarian skills, and eat food from vendors who meet strict criteria set by Farm Aid.

"We talk about saving the family farmer, but the fact is, it's the family farmer who will save us all," Nelson said at a media event before the gates opened at noon Saturday.

Matthews gave a shout-out to activists wearing anti-fracking T-shirts at the media event, which was also open to many farmers, vendors and volunteers. "Don't frack our farmlands," Matthews said, to loud applause. Several anti-fracking groups from New York and Pennsylvania had a booth at the event, calling for New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo to continue the state's moratorium on shale gas development that began in 2008.

During a performance Saturday night, Pete Seeger modified a line of "This Land is Your Land," declaring "New York was meant to be frack-free."

This year the village was set up on the expansive lawns of the state park surrounding the Saratoga Performing Arts Center. The action there got going before the 10-hour concert.

The village offered plenty of activities to help people get in touch with their inner farmer. There's a daylong group potato-stamp art project; workshops on making butter, bacon, cheese, lemon vinegar and llama wool bracelets; and a demonstration of how to grow shiitake mushrooms on logs in your own backyard.

Joshua Cummings of Hartford, N.Y., was biting into a snappy grilled bratwurst as he walked among the vendors' tents. "I want to know where my food came from and what went into it," he said, adding that farm-fresh food also tastes better.

The Farm Aid organization has raised more than \$43 million since 1985 to support programs that help small family farms, expand the Good Food Movement and promote locally grown food.

Farm Aid has made grants of more than \$2.5 million in the Northeast during the past 28 years, according to the organization.

Roger Allison, who started Patchwork Family Farms in Columbia, Mo., with a Farm Aid grant 20 years ago, said, "Thank God for Willie Nelson and Farm Aid."

# DRAWN TOGETHER



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