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AMPT™ is revolutionizing beef cattle mineral nutrition as we know it. Advanced research and new technologies have led to the development of greatly improved mineral sources. Never before has a mineral company combined these technologies into one package. AMPT precisely targets optimum nutrient levels, complementing forage, to deliver the best performance — nothing more, nothing less. That's the revolution of precision supplementation.

NEW

Join the revolution.

See Ron Dean or Eulynn Davis to discuss AMPT!

GALLAGHER

Stop by and check out our supply of Gallagher Energizers and fencing supplies and remember, we offer repair service!

FYI: The Getz Fire Equipment Co. who services our company's fire extinguishers stops by Meyer Implement in Monroe City monthly to pick up and drop off extinguishers that folks want to have re-charged. If you have a refillable fire extinguisher that you would like to have serviced, give Jeremy a call (217) 653-5388 and set up a plan to drop it off.

Easter Blessings To Each of You from the team at Farmers Elevator & Exchange!



CHECK THIS OUT!
CATFISH 32 FLOATING FEED

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107 So. Chestnut Street
P.O. Box 7
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Open 7:30-5:00 M-F
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www.farmerselevator.net



Manager's Corner
by Marlin McCormick, Gen. Mgr.

Due to the course that nature has taken over time, many good years of living 'out on the farm' turned to many challenges last year for my dad and stepmother to be able to continue living comfortably and safely 'out on the farm'. As a result and just as many other folks that we all know did late in life, they vacated the big farmhouse that was a part of our family since it was constructed in 1902. Upon moving, a fair amount of time was spent ridding out the house, Dad's workshop and an old garage. One of the relics we found during that adventure was an item that very few of today's generation have ever seen, let alone used. It came to mind as I began writing today and as we prepare for corn-planting season. Many of you have owned and/or operated corn planters that range in size from 4 to 6 to 12 to 36 or possibly 48 rows. Today's high-tech, GPS-guided planters likely come equipped with a DVD that explains to the operator how to adjust for ultimate planting depth in a variety of field conditions. This is all quite a change from the 1936 photo above! I sort of wish I could have, but really I am glad I did not have to be living 'out on the farm' in 1936 after knowing the challenges folks faced just to feed themselves, let alone the world's population!

I am happy to have learned about many things that my dad has taught me about agriculture from years ago. I have watched my dad plant many a hill of sweet corn with one of these early-year mechanical units. I know his generation worked very hard and I know that I appreciate things today because I got to experience by application or by listening to his stories about what some refer to as the 'good old days.' As we move into busier days,

Multiyear growth in U.S. Livestock Sector

A number of livestock producers in the U.S. took advantage of lower prices of feedstuffs by making an expansion in herd or flock size in recent months. In a meeting earlier this winter, ag economist, Chris Hurt of Purdue University said he believes this trend may continue for the next few years and he believes we will see a mini-boom of livestock expansion because the financial incentive is there. Hurt recently said he sees us regaining lost production over the next three years.

Since last year, feed prices have dropped to a five-year low, while pasture conditions improved in some areas of the south and west. Pork and poultry production has been ramping up due to improved prices of the past months. U.S. production this year is expected to grow as follows: Pork 6-7%, Chicken 4%, Milk 3%, Eggs 2%

Hurt said, "The increase in numbers (this quickly) was a surprise. Now we are back on the side saying the animal industry is in a multiyear recovery and is interested in using a lot more corn and corn products."

Cattle numbers take longer to rebuild but are also on the uptrend. Hurt believes cattle prices could be close to record highs again this year. Hog producers, however, may drop from last year's average of \$53 per head profit to nearly breakeven. This may be due to the overestimated production that was projected to drop by 20% (due to PEDV) but in reality was down only 2%. Hurt believes domestic per capital consumption will increase slightly due to larger supplies and lower prices, but the growth market remains exports. Meat exports are off to a slow start this year due in part to the strength of the U.S. dollar, a slowdown in China's economic growth, and flat growth in the EU and Japan.

Corn Acres Down Says USDA

On March 31 the USDA released the Prospective Plantings report. This report showed corn planted area to fall by 2% from 2014 to the lowest planted acreage in the U.S. since 2010. Corn planted area – for all purposes – in 2015 is pegged at an estimated 89.2 million acres, compared to 90.6 million acres planted in 2014. The USDA noted that if these acres of planted corn are realized, "this will be the third consecutive year of an acreage decline." Despite the cut in prospective planted corn acreage, this figure is still roughly 500,000 acres more than anticipated by analysts polled by Reuters who on average expected farmers to plant 88.7 million acres in 2015. Most of the Corn Belt is expected to see substantial declines in planted corn acres this year.

Crop Care
by Brenna Ruth,
Agronomy Sales



Hello, Springtime! We at Farmers Elevator and Exchange are enjoying the recent warm weather, finally! Weather conditions such as these often make growers anxious to get in the field *and get started*. We would like to remind our customers that we are experiencing the same frustrations that you are; the weather is improving, and yet the ground is still too wet to get much work done. We have anhydrous to apply, fertilizer to spread, and chemicals to spray, a lot of which needs to be done before crops can be planted! Needless to say, we will be extremely busy here in the near future, and would like to thank our customers in advance for being patient with us! We will do our absolute BEST to get to all of your needs in a timely fashion!



In preparation for the season, we will be delivering seed when possible, and will make someone available if customers want to come pick up seed as well. We do still have some seed available if you have any last minute needs, but supplies are limited. We will do our best to find products that fit your acres!

On a related note, corn and soybeans are not the only seeds we sell at Farmers Elevator. We have premium grass and forage seeds available that would be very fitting for many of the livestock producers in the area. In today's marketplace, cattle have the highest return of any product in agriculture. Doesn't it make sense to put a little more money into feeding those cattle well? High quality pasture can be one of the most crucial parts of a cattle operation, and we would like to help you manage those pasture acres. One economical way to increase pasture productivity is to apply fertilizer. Fertilizing pastures will yield great results, increasing the tons of forage and possibly hay harvested from those acres. Another way to improve pasture quality is by seeding some acres with a warm season grass, such as a sorghum sudangrass or pearl millet. These options can get your cattle through the tough summer months when the fescue is not productive. These forage grasses are available in some BMR (brown mid-

rib) varieties, increasing palatability as well hay and silage quality. It's not too late to seed these either, seeding of warm season grasses often takes place from June 1- July 10. We also have some pasture mixes available, one in particular called **Beef Bank** is tailored specifically for beef cattle. It contains a mix of three different high sugar rye-grass varieties, along with orchardgrass, white clover and ladino clover. The producers that have used this product in the past have been VERY impressed. The best way to find out if you could improve your productivity is to try something NEW! As Gary likes to say, "If you always do what you always did, you will always have what you always had!" Start by establishing a small section of pasture with something OTHER THAN Kentucky 31 Tall Fescue. It is true, fescue is easy to grow, provides decent forage, and is cheap. However, just because your cows are eating fescue now doesn't mean that they wouldn't prefer to eat something else. Happy cows are fat cows, and fat cows make more money! Let us help you grow some happy cows!



Another area we are becoming more involved in is **cover crops**. Soil conservation is always going to be an issue, and cover crops are a great way to reduce erosion, but they have many other benefits as well. **Cover crops** can be tailored to fulfill a wide variety of needs. From increasing organic matter to reducing compaction, sequestering nutrients or generating more forage, **cover crops** can fit any operation in the right circumstances. **Cover crops** may seem expensive to put in, but done right, they can provide a financial return that is worthwhile. If you are interested in adding cover crops to your operation, come see us at Farmers Elevator and Exchange today!



In closing, we at Farmers Elevator and Exchange would like to wish all of you a safe spring season. Enjoy the Easter holiday, and God Bless!

From The Feed Bag

By Eulynn Davis, Livestock Production Asst.



With the tease of a few spring days has come the need to break out the ol' rod and reel. Although it's nice to catch a good snooze while your line is in the water, nothing beats the excitement or skip of your heart when you feel something on the other end of your fishing line. Fishing and pond recreation can be the center of entertainment for many this season. It is an activity for all ages—even the little ones. Some of my most cherished memories involve fishing with my dad. I always loved to fish growing up, but now my favorite fishing memories include my nieces and nephews. A couple summers ago, my dad and oldest niece, Charis, were trying their luck in the family pond with her favorite Barbie fishing pole. The look on her face was priceless when she reeled in her first fish. However, the look on my father's face was even better when she shouted, "Whoa a yellow one! Throw it back Papa; I want a purple one!"

If you are thinking about stocking a new pond or adding to your pond this year, there are a few things you may need to figure out: pond size, when to stock, what to stock, and where to get your fish.

The first thing you need to know is your pond size. To estimate the area of your pond, you can use this formula: $Area = (Length \times Width \div 43,560) \div 2$. This will give you an estimated acreage of your pond.

In new ponds, it is important to stock ponds as soon as possible to reduce the risk of contamination by unwanted species. It is important to have a good predator/prey balance when adding new fish.

When deciding what to put in your pond, you have several options. The Missouri Department of Conservation recommends for our area (Monroe, Marion, Ralls, and Pike Counties) a 100% stocking rate for ponds not supplemented regularly with feed. For every surface acre of water, they recommend 100 largemouth bass, 500 bluegill, and 100 channel catfish as your sport fish. Be sure to have a good minnow population before adding the sport fish.

If you are ready to stock your pond, Farmers Elevator can help you with that project. **Our fish day will be May 16th. Orders can be placed at the main office or by phone.** Fish that will be offered include: channel catfish, regular bluegill, hybrid bluegill, redear sunfish, black crappie, largemouth bass, koi, white catfish, fathead minnows, golden shiners, and grass carp. Stop by or call for size availability and prices. --- Happy fishing!



55 years ago— Thirty-six farmers, businessmen and interested citizens met Thursday night, March 24, 1960 at the DeLuxe Café for a dinner and business meeting sponsored by Farmers Elevator & Exchange Co. LeRoy Rupe of Jarvis Construction Co. of Salina, KS gave a detailed reported of the proposed grain storage elevator to be con-

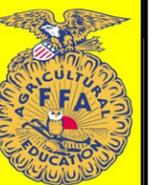
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FISH DAY!
May 16, 2015
9:30-10:30 AM
Place orders by
May 8th

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main office, or call
Farmers Elevator at
573-735-4543

Available fish include:
Channel Catfish, Regular Bluegill, Hybrid Bluegill,
Redear Sunfish, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass,
Koi, White Catfish, Fathead Minnows, Golden Shiners,
and Grass Carp



GOING SHOWING?



Let us help get your livestock ready for show season!

We carry two TOP QUALITY brands of feed to fill the needs of every showman!

