

USDA TO SURVEY PORK PRODUCERS FOR INVENTORIES AND FARROWING INTENTIONS

Columbia, MO —Beginning in late February 2015, the United States Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will contact pork producers and contractors nationwide for the March Hogs and Pigs survey. The agency will survey pork producers for detailed information on market hog and breeding stock inventories as well as farrowing intentions.

"Through the quarterly Hogs and Pigs surveys, NASS measures and reports conditions and trends in the U.S. pork industry over the course of the year," said Missouri State Statistician Bob Garino. Producers who receive the survey questionnaire in the mail can respond via the

We are a:



Internet, mail or fax. Producers who don't respond in one of those ways will have the opportunity for a telephone or personal interview. As is the case with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law.

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

The article on page one of this newsletter points out that your Farmers Elevator & Exchange Co. was considered a leading company in this state some 95 years ago. The leadership and direction laid out at that time set the pace for the company that you and your fellow agriculture producers have come to know today!

As you may recall, this month marks nine years since an F-2 tornado made a path of destruction across our community. That single 45-second event created an overwhelming need for the energy and focus of many people in this area. It was at that point that we were blessed to witness the tremendous outpouring of care and a sense of community—both within our company and within the Monroe City area.

We continue to thank those who helped us recover in the weeks and months to follow. We praise God for your assistance in our time of need. We are also thankful that as a result of that tornado, we found a way to 'pull together' which has allowed us to 'put together' a company with improved facilities and equipment that can benefit you our patrons! As we celebrate National Ag Day, our hats are off to all agriculture producers! We thank you for working to feed the world! We wish you each a safe spring season!



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The Pride of Monroe City

www.farmerselevator.net

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Newsletter of the Farmers Elevator & Exchange Co. - 107 So. Chestnut St., Monroe City, MO ph. 573/735-4543 or 888/842-2090

The organizational meeting of the Farmers' Grain Dealers Association of Missouri was held at Moberly on February 25, 1920 and was attended by representatives from seventeen leading elevator companies of the state.

B.A. Brown of Versailles was chosen chairman of the meeting that was called by Ralph Loomis, Extension Agent in Marketing, Univ. of Missouri, and a committee of elevators of Missouri. J.M. Mehl of the Bureau of Markets, Washington, D.C. spoke on the importance

and essentials of elevator accounting and gave attention to the application of the patronage dividend plans. He urged the farmers present to organize the Farmers' Grain Dealers' Association for Missouri and align it through the National Association with similar organizations in other states.

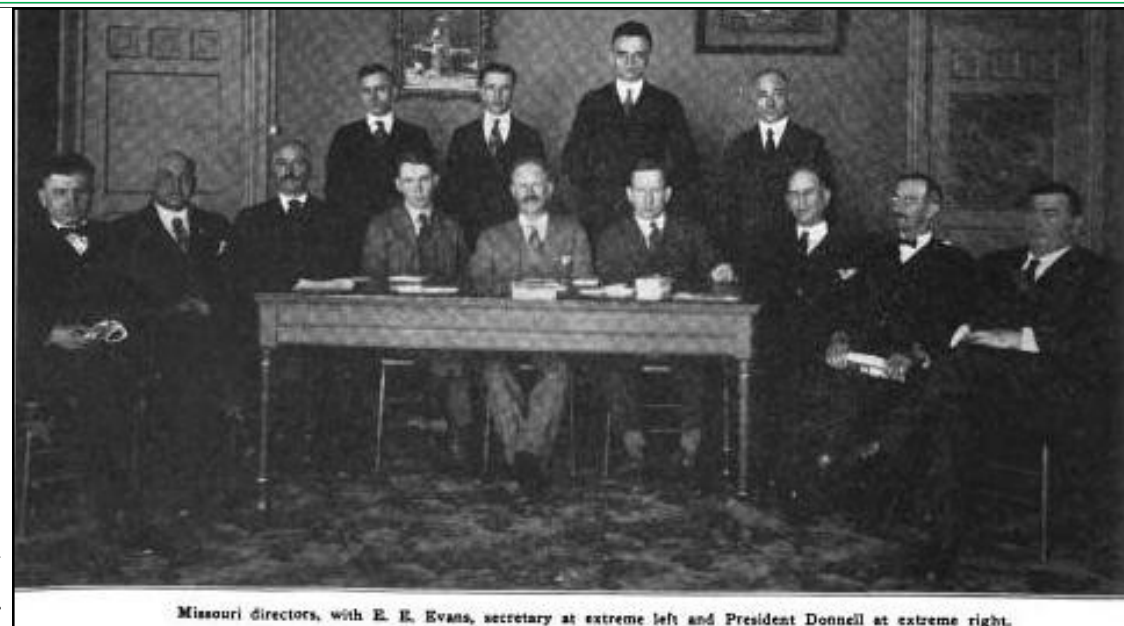
Lawrence Farlow, secretary of the Farmers' Grain Dealers Association of Illinois, followed with an address on the development of the farmers' elevator movement.

In reviewing the work of the National Association he spoke upon the reduction of the price of surety bonds; freight victories; price fixing; and other services. Farlow spoke upon the advantages of the co-operative plan over the joint stock co-operation plan for farmers' elevators. His talk was well received by the delegates. Before adjournment the chairman appointed Credentials, Resolutions, and Constitution and Bylaws Committees

R.W. Taylor of Kansas City spoke on Federal Grain Standards. He reviewed the USDA grain grading standards and said, "The Government is bending every energy to make inspection of grain uniform in all markets. To do this they have introduced the use of standardized scales, testers, and other machinery."

Judge P.E. Donnell, vice president of a Farmers' Interstate Elevator & Commission Company of Waco, Missouri spoke on the subject of Farm Bureaus and Farmers Elevators. In outlining the duties of the farm bureaus he stated that it was their intention was to back up as fully as possible, farmers' elevators and all other marketing organizations of farmers.

M.R. Meyers spoke on the benefits of the farmers' grain dealers movement. He took the position that each industry should create and sustain each organizations as were necessary to improve, extend and protect the industry. He re-



Missouri directors, with E. E. Evans, secretary at extreme left and President Donnell at extreme right.

viewed at length the benefits that had come to the grain grower through the medium of successful Farmers' Grain Dealers' Associations in twelve organized states with their national associations and educational department. After his address, the delegates deliberated and unanimously decided that a permanent organization should be formed by those present. The following were elected unanimously for officers and directors:

President- P.E. Donnell of Waco

First vice president- G.A. Brown of Versailles

Second vice president- F. A. Walton of Troy

Treasurer- M.B. Runyon of Barnett

Directors- Homer Musselman of Jamesport; **W.W. Fuqua of Monroe City**; J.F. Parker of Laddonia; W.D. Walkup of Greenridge; and Wm. E. Wagenbreth, Jr. of Chesterfield.

The directors met immediately after the adjournment of the convention and elected **E.E. Evans** as the **state secretary**.

Mr. Evans is a young business man of exceptional ability. He is **manager** of the **Farmers Elevator & Exchange Company**, also the **Live Stock Shipping Association** at **Monroe City, Missouri** which is doing an annual business of more than a million dollars. The directors start out with a slogan: *'One hundred per cent of the farmers in Missouri elevators in our association in one year.'* They may not reach all but this sort of an ambition will carry them far on the way. We show you here with a photograph of the board (shown above) and we think you will agree with us when you see them that they are the kind of farmers that the other farmers of Missouri will entrust with leadership. We have shown Missouri, and they are now proceeding to show us.

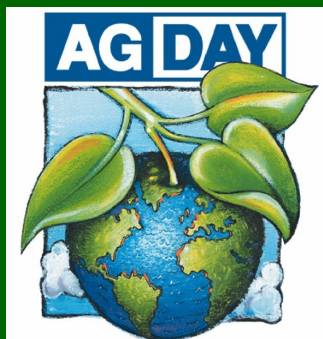
*(Taken from the March 10, 1920 issue of **The American Cooperative Manager**, the official publication of the organiza-*

Read inside this issue how Farmers Elevator was involved in:

Farmers of Missouri Form State Grain Dealers Association

"Show Me" State Now in the Ring Completes the Circle

ATTENDANCE GOOD, ENTHUSIASM THE BEST



**National Ag Day is
March 18, 2015**

**Join us in saluting
all agriculture
producers!**

Crop Care

by Gary Carr, Agronomy
Sales Mgr.



Getting Ready for the Season



Spring training 2015 has begun for major league baseball! Pitchers and catchers report early. Infielders and outfielders showed up later, all to begin preparation for the upcoming season. Getting players into shape and laying out the foundation of the plans for the team for the upcoming season to come are main reasons to hold spring training.

As I began to gather my thoughts for this writing, it came to me that both baseball and farming share a lot of the same characteristics. You may think that odd and I am not at all surprised or offended by those thoughts. Think about this.....after the season last fall, the NL baseball general managers began to evaluate their personnel to make decisions of who would stay on the team for the next season. They evaluations were based on past season performance. The same is true with corn and soybean producers who evaluate product (seed, crop protection) performance and crop management practices during the past year (season). NL Baseball held winter meetings at which time they assessed needs for the coming year. Likewise, grain producers attend winter meetings looking for products and/or solutions to add to their lineup. In both instances, people are trying to answer the question, "Did I put my team or crop in a position to win?" This measurement can be determined by final team standings or crop yield information.

In February, the USDA released the Missouri corn and soybean yield **estimates** for 2014. Monroe County corn: 187.2 bushel/acre; soybeans 49.9 bushel/acre Most other NEMO counties were about the same. As we all know, 'Mother Nature' was very kind to our area last year. Soybean diseases were an issue in certain areas, but overall what kind of year did you have yield-wise? Was it (A) A playoff season or (B) Were you simply batting 500? A few

years ago who would have thought someone would raise 500 bushel corn and 100 bushel soybeans per acre? I bring this up because it has been done. This

On this day in history,
Babe Ruth becomes the
first baseball player
to hit 60 home runs in
a season.

September 30, 1927

question was asked during a crop production meeting that Adam and I recently attended: How do you judge the true potential of your acres vs. what comes into the combine and what is our yield potential in Northeast Missouri? Did you 'knock one out of the park in 2014' or was it an double RBI and you have more potential in the future? If you are working to build a winning baseball team or a successful farming program, one must obviously begin with a strong foundation and then add to it the right pieces (players, products, practices or techniques) at the right time.

We now have less than 30 days until April. Lots of things have to be done and we all know that weather conditions last fall limited the amount of acres applied with herbicides and fertilizer. We are going to work hard to meet your demands but we do ask you to be patient and understanding as we press forward in covering your acres in a timely manner. Allowing earlier application of fertilizer will help to relieve some of the pressure thus allowing timely planting. Having Farmers Elevator custom apply anhydrous ammonia could free up time for filling in ruts and leveling fields.

Spring weed pressure is coming! Very soon, winter annuals will be turning the fields a glow with purple, yellow, white and all shades of green. However, as I have mentioned in the past, you decide how to get rid of winter annuals— either tillage or by ag chemicals. **DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE** to decide a method.



- ◆ Those weeds will eat up a lot of groceries.
- ◆ Control marestail early.
- ◆ Planting into clean fields is a must for resistant weed control
- ◆ Use several residual chemicals on the same field with different modes of action.
- ◆ Remember start clean keep it clean.



From The Feed Bag

By Eulynn Davis, Livestock Production Asst.



Are you thinking about purchasing chickens? Raising a flock of chickens can be rewarding— fresh eggs and homegrown meat are a plus in the kitchen. They may also be a good responsibility for young children to start out with before moving to larger livestock, and you could be amazed at how serious they take their chicken business.

If you have thought about starting your own flock, but don't know where to begin, Farmers Elevator would like to help you out. This first thing you need to decide is what you want to use your birds for: egg production, meat production, dual-purpose production, or show/pet. Here are a few tips to consider when selecting your birds for each category.

Egg Production: One of the most effective breeds for egg production is the White Leghorn. This breed of chickens is very efficient at converting feed to eggs. At 20 weeks of age, White Leghorns weigh around 3 pounds, and at maturity they reach around 4 pounds. However, if you would like to add some color to your flock, Rhode Island Reds or Andalusians also make good layers. You may want to add some color to your egg basket as well! If this is the case you may be interested in the Ameraucana breed, known for their blue and blue-green eggshells.

Meat Production: Typically, chickens raised for meat are hybrids that result in desirable growth and carcass quality. Often, the most popular hybrid is the Cornish cross. Cornish cross chicks grow extremely fast; they reach 4 to 6 pounds in only 6 to 8 weeks. These birds have an excellent feed conversion rate. They do not require much feed to meet weight goals. This allows birds to reach market weight quickly.

Dual Purpose: If you are looking into raising a small flock for both egg and meat production popular breeds include: Rhode Island Reds, Rocks, New Hampshire, Orpingtons, or sex-linked hybrids. All of these birds produce brown eggs, and they have a meatier carcass than Leghorns. Although egg and meat production may be slightly lower than the breeds designed for an individual task, these birds do well in filling

Welcome Bill

We want to introduce you to the newest member of our management team, **Bill Albertson** who came on board in late February as our Assistant Manager. Bill, who was born and raised on a farm in southeast Kansas, has spent over 22 years in grain and farm supply cooperatives in Kansas and Oklahoma, 20 of those in management. Most recently Bill was a branch manager at a large co-op in a corn and soybean producing area in northeastern Kansas. In addition to his work, Bill enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time with his family. Bill has also trained and shown horses including Paints and Quarter horses. Bill is the father of two sons, T.J., who will graduate from Oklahoma State University School of Veterinary Medicine in May; and Kobie who is a freshman in high school. During his first days in Monroe City, Bill has been familiarizing himself with the area and our day to day operations. He is working with our team to help us prepare for the upcoming spring planting season and looks forward to working with each of our employees, our patrons and our vendors. Bill is in sync with our goal of working to remove your hassles and to help you bring profitability to your farming operation.



Bill Albertson, Assistant Manager

both needs. These birds also come in a variety of colors, and they may be more pleasing to look at if you are raising a backyard flock.

Show/Pet: The choices are almost endless when it comes to selecting a breed for this. There are a multitude of unusual,

exotic, colorful chicken breeds. A few that good to consider are the Silkie, Polish (my personal favorite), or Japanese. Many of the standard breeds are also available as bantams. Bantams are a significantly smaller option (comparable to miniature/toy varieties in dogs) and they need less space. Once you have your chickens, Farmers Elevator would be happy to help you select feed and aid in your poultry business. We carry both **Purina** and **ADM** brands of feed for your production purposes. If you are a current poultry owner and have any questions regarding nutrition, give us a call!

Purina:
Start & Grow
Flock Raiser

ADM:
Starter & Grower
Meat Maker