




Shown here are Jakob Pratt, 14 and Trystin Pratt, 16 of Shelbyville are the children of our long-time employee Joe Pratt who were seriously injured in an automobile accident on Saturday night September 24 in Shelby County. Trystin was moved to Rusk in Columbia on September 30, however at this writing, Jakob is fighting for his life and remains in critical condition at Surgical ICU in the University Hospital in Columbia. We ask you to please join us in praying for healing for these young people and for all the families involved in this tragedy. A Go Fund Me account has been set up for the Pratt family. Also some other fundraisers are being organized to assist the families. Contact us for details.

Go Fund Me account for the Pratt family - <https://www.gofundme.com/2ruhks?ssid=753553047&pos=1>



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 107 So. Chestnut Street  
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October 2016

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



## Manager's Corner

by Marlin McCormick, Gen. Mgr.



### Working Together

A few weeks ago my wife and I spent a short weekend with our daughter and her family in Iowa. Our 5-year old granddaughter/activities director asked me to participate in some 'fun things' uncommon to my daily routine. Included was a session of 'sidewalk chalk art'. She asked me to draw a picture and then she would also draw one, so I drew a cowboy and she drew a kite. Of course she asked why I chose that for my subject and I then drew a line with chalk that would represent a string from her kite to the hand of my cowboy. That frustrated her because she had other ideas. So I began to enhance the pictures we had drawn and to add more colors and more lines. After a bit, we were working together to create a picture and she exclaimed, "Wow Grandpa, look at the picture we made!" As we drove home, I reflected on how that process of finding a way to work together has been a necessary part of all experiences I have seen in 39 years of working in the farm cooperative system. And a good client reminded me recently that 3 minds are usually better than one. Amen!

As you may know, October is National Cooperative Month and the theme of the poster offered to us by the Missouri Institute of Cooperatives is 'Built to Serve'. That phrase is what I believe defines the Farmers Elevator & Exchange Company. We spend every day working on processes to serve the members and patrons of this 97 year-old establishment. Our staff believes in the cooperative system and we are working to make good choices with the use of the tools, facilities and equipment made possible by your doing business with this company. This slogan from a 1926 invoice of a co-op from my home town says it

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all. And you as a stockholder/owner have the oppor-

tunity to help direct this business through your voting opportunity as a member of the co-op. That is not so in privately-owned businesses that offer similar products and services. Co-op members can help create the future of the business they own. If you are a member of this co-op, we urge you to attend our Annual Stockholders' Meeting on November 14.



Fall harvest 2016 began in some muddy conditions in mid-September but fields quickly dried after somewhat 'tropical' conditions moved on through. Shown above is our first load of soybeans that were delivered in on September 24 by Buckman Family Farms. Yields in our area have been variable on both corn and soybeans but God has blessed us with the bounty of this land once again! Our crew has spent time looking after our grain handling facilities. Shown at right is employee Mike Bryant who was sealing the door on one of the newest grain tanks that we began filling in late September. The final 2 weeks of September allowed many good days for harvesting and for that we are indeed thankful!



**Farm Safety doesn't just happen. We all have to plan for it! Please do your part.**





## Crop Care

by Gary Carr  
& Brenna Ruth  
Agronomy Sales & Service



and Soybeans

The harvest season is a time when we reflect on the season gone by, and what we could have or should have done differently. The spring of 2016 was a good planting season by many standards, and even though the markets were poor, we still had high expectations. Then the month of June rolled in, and so did the dry weather. The early season drought had many of us expecting the season to be a failure. There is no question that the heat and drought had an effect on our yields, particularly our corn yields. However, in July the heavens opened up and the rain came down just in time! Once we had the moisture we needed, things took off again. I would say that for the most part, corn and soybean yields in the area are going to be above average. This will be a year that good management practices will pay off. Things like fungicide and/or sidedressing UAN are showing definite improvement in yields this year, in some cases as much as 20 bu/acre! As you are looking back on the season, will you be able to say that you are happy with every decision you made? Were your crops in a position to take advantage of the late season moisture? Were your fields clean when you planted, which helps to keep them clean the rest of the season? Did you have adequate fertility so that plants could fill their ears and pods as full as possible? Our hope is that as you are reflecting, you can say with confidence that you are proud of how your crop turned out. And if for some reason you're not, we hope that you will come to us with questions so we can make a plan for the future. Farmers Elevator is your partner in agriculture, and it is our goal to help you achieve success!

Another topic we want to discuss is the amount of mold and ear rot that we are seeing in the field. The primary culprit is Diplodia Ear Rot, which is a fungus that can cause an ear to completely deteriorate until it's nothing but chaff. There is no treatment in particular for diplodia, al-

though some hybrids seem to be more susceptible to it than others, but that is not consistent either. Corn on corn acres are at a greater risk, but most of the time weather conditions are the biggest contributing factor. The weather we had this year created the perfect environment for diplodia; it was hot and dry prior to silking, then after silking we had a lot of moisture. The biggest thing that diplodia will effect is the grain quality and test weight. In most cases it will still be less than 5%, but in extreme cases it can be more than that. You must be careful with grain that has a significant amount of diplodia in it. Purdue University has some good information on how to handle the grain, and so does the University of Missouri. If you have any questions about grain handling we suggest checking with the university websites.



As we have said before, the new crop season truly begins in the fall. The more work we can accomplish in the fall, the less stress we will have in the spring! As always, we will be offering soil sampling, and typically we like to do that soon after harvest is completed. We offer both grid and random soil sampling, but we highly recommend the grid sampling! One grid soil map can tell you more about your farm than you ever thought possible. Knowing what the soil types are and what the potential of the soil is can be very beneficial for making farm management decisions in the future. Not only do we learn fertility levels, we learn the variations in pH, which can be hugely important! Lime is also something we like to apply in the fall, and we are told that lime supplies at the local quarries are going quickly. We are also taking orders for fall applied fertilizer! Fertilizer prices are reasonable right now, and we do not expect the price to fall any more.

One of our favorite fall farming practices is fall spraying! I'm sure you have noticed some weeds and winter annuals already getting started in the field. Spraying a fall herbicide program with some residual activity will keep your fields free of those pesky winter annuals, which will make getting started in the spring much faster! Call us today to ask about which herbicide programs we recommend!

### Things to remember:

- \* We are taking orders for soil sampling and fall fertilizer!
- \* Call to plan your fall NH3 needs as well!
- \* Fall spraying time is right around the corner!
- \* Stay safe this harvest season!



\* Golden Harvest Seed: Early order deadline is October 7, 2016! Order before this date to get the biggest discounts on your seed purchases!

## From The Feed Bag



As we celebrate National Pork Month in October and the air begins to cool, the concern of more favorable weather for diseases in livestock increases. Quality control and stringent biosecurity measures are basically the only precautions swine producers can truly take against PEDv (Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus) which became a large issue for swine producers in this country about 3 or 4 years ago. The goal of the swine industry is to eliminate and prevent the dissemination of PEDv and this will largely be achieved by using proven, controlled disease challenge strategies and adhering to strict biosecurity programs that prevent the spread of the virus through environmental contamination direct exposure.

PEDv, which is caused by a member of the family Coronaviridae, is a fast spreading virus, with a short incubation period (two to four days). It can affect pigs of all ages, but is strongest in sows, gilts, nursing and recently weaned pigs. PEDv is mainly transmitted via indirect or direct contact through fecal/oral means. It can also spread by fomites, aerosol emissions and most recently through transmission of contaminated feed ingredients. Producers are urged to work closely with veterinarians to implement stringent biosecurity measures and a nutritional management program that strengthens the pigs' immunity and disease defenses. Pork producers should identify key interactions where there is a risk of exposure and ensure safety standards are in place.

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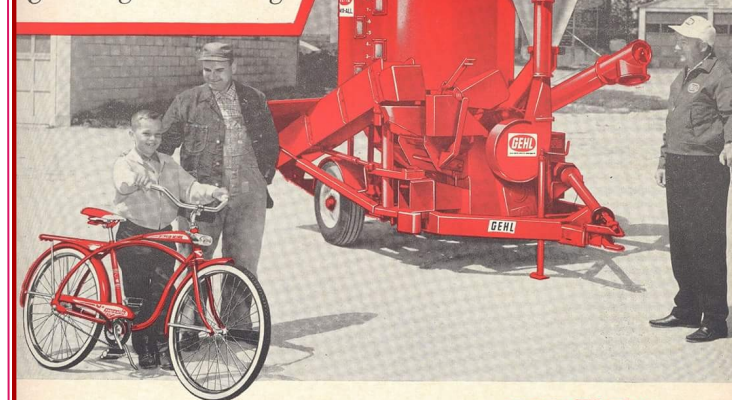
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Proper cleaning with approved disinfectants, heating and drying helps to control the virus. Other areas that have been determined high risk: dead haul/renderers sites, other wildlife in the barns, personnel working at other pig farms, recently removed culled pigs and newly weaned pigs transported to the nursery or finish site. Besides implementing strict biosecurity measures, producers also need to build up their herds' health and immunity to prepare them for the worst.

**More pork on the fork** — In January 2015, a Bloomberg Business article predicted 2015 would be "the year of pork," with a headline declaring, "It Is Pork Over Beef in America for the First Time Since 1952." In 2015, pork production climbed to a record 24.5 billion pounds, with per-capita pork consumption the highest in five years, according to USDA. Meanwhile, beef output declined to 23.7 billion pounds, falling below pork.

Even with record-breaking pork production, consumers continued to demand pork in both foodservice and the grocery retail marketplaces. Pork Checkoff marketing efforts showcased pork as a great choice for consumers and helped fuel consumer demand for this protein. Strong pork demand is great news for US pork producers, with 2016 anticipated to again prove to be a record-breaker for pork production. 2015



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