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*Dr. Pierce White, DVM*

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**FLY BULLETS** are also made of tough polyester and acrylic and in Virginia Extension tests, they too were treated only once a month. In this test, Rubs and Bullets were the best of all controls, including both horn flies and face flies. Horn fly control was virtually perfect and for 6 weeks of the test it was 100%.

**FACE FLYPS** wick solution directly from The Rub on to the face, giving effective pinkeye protection and face fly control. Each pack contains 22 Flyps for one Rub.

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Greenhill Farm - Grand Saline, Texas  
400 cows, featured in BEEF magazine.

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**From the archives.....**

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Don't miss this money-saving opportunity! Get a coupon with every 100 lbs. of Purina Laying Chow you buy. When you have 5 coupons you can buy this regularly-priced \$2.60 feeder for only \$1.35. Come in today. Save almost half on this Purina Feeder.

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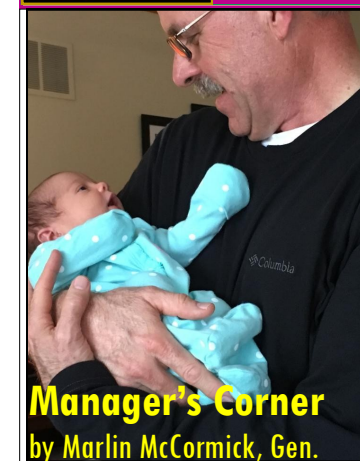
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April 2016  
Newsletter of the Farmers Elevator & Exchange Co. - 107 So. Chestnut St., Monroe City, MO ph. 573/735-4543 or 888/842-2090

**FARMERS ELEVATOR & EXCHANGE**  
"Serving Agriculture Since 1919"

**God Bless America**

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



**Cool, Beans!**

You may feel you receive too many magazines in your mailbox. We receive our fair share as well. Scattered among them are some great publications that are produced specifically for the agriculture industry. The April issue of Missouri Soybean Farmer includes an article entitled, 'Reflecting on 50 Years'. This year, the Missouri Soybean Association is celebrating the Golden Anniversary of its founding! You may know that up until the late 1950's and early 1960's soybeans were actually seen as a hay crop, however, once the value of the protein of a soybean was discovered, it was 'Katy-bar-the-door' for production as soybeans eventually became the number ONE crop in the Show Me state! Furthermore, in the mid-1960's, Missouri was ranked 4th among all the states for soybeans produced! That is when the American Soybean Assn. (ASA) stepped up and suggested that an organization be formed at the state level for which to represent soybean farmers' interest. With the cooperation of the ASA, the Missouri Seed Improvement Assn., the MO Dept. of Agriculture and others, the MSA was officially formed in 1966. It may be obvious that I enjoy history....especially history of this company and of the community surrounding it. On February 9, 1966, more than 100 Missouri farmers were on hand to select the original members of the MSA Board of Directors. The charter group of directors included C.E. (Cecil) Shortridge of Stoutsville, Missouri who also served on the Board of Directors of the Farmers Elevator & Exchange Company in Monroe City! He is pictured in the photo here. At the time the new Board of MSA began, the need was great to increase funding for research and marketing that could improve soybean farming profitability and thus the state checkoff program was established. We realize that no one likes

to spend money but ask yourself, if no collective effort was made to do so, how would the industry improve to help soybean producers have a fighting chance with the fierce competition of today's world market? As a result of the work of that original Board in 1966, today the soybean checkoff funds projects and meetings that bring the research community together. Today, the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council (MSMC) and the University of Missouri-Columbia boast one of the top production research programs in the country. Missouri is responsible for a variety of research programs designed to boost production here in the state and across the country. Checkoff funding supports production research programs aimed at increase yields by combatting yield-robbars like SCN, aphids, rust and drought. The soybean checkoff also invests in soybean genomics research to aid in breeding for both disease resistance and composition improvements. Our hat is off to Mr. Shortridge and to all the folks who had a vision of improvement in this area 50 years ago!

On March 4, Evelyn and I became grandparents to our second granddaughter whose name is Lauren Leigh. Her photo is shown above. We are so excited that God has blessed our family with her safe arrival!

**You all have a safe planting season!**



Charter board members of the Missouri Soybean Association held their first meeting February 9 during Soybean Day on the University of Missouri campus. Left to right, seated, R.P. Simcoke, Kennett; Parke Pepper, Weston, vice president; Glen Myers, Memphis; and Conley Bennington, Craig. Standing, C.E. Shortridge, Stoutsville; Ted Sevits, Kirksville; J.I. Akeman, Slater; Stanley Wallach, Eureka; and Willis Baker, Memphis. Not pictured were Arline Avery, New Madrid, president; Don Pemberton, Cape Girardeau, secretary-treasurer; John Filkins, Kirksville; Dalton Harris, Jasper; and J.O. Wise, McCredie. Soybean Digest magazine covered the event and provided this photo as a courtesy to the Missouri Soybean Association.



## Crop Care

by Gary Carr & Brenna Ruth  
Agronomy Sales



It is officially springtime and planting season is upon us! This spring, so far, has been like many others with warm, tempting weather, then followed by a cold dose that snaps us back in to reality. Even so, soon enough the cold will leave the ground for the last time and we can feel confident when we pull the planter across the field. With that being said, we want to give our growers a couple of reminders before they head to the field. Planting is the single most important and expensive trip you make across the field. Between the seed, fuel, and time invested, it is something you really don't want to have to do again. Planting is also the one thing that will affect that field for the rest of the season. If things aren't right when you plant, you will pay for it all season long. It's impossible to guarantee success, but we can give ourselves the best opportunity for success if we do a few things right.



First, we must plant in **optimal planting conditions**. We realize that 'optimal' is a relative term, and sometimes we just need to 'get it done'. Most of us know that the soil temperature should be at least 50 degrees before planting corn. We would recommend that the soil be consistently above the 50 degree mark, even during the night, since the temperature in the top few inches of soil can vary greatly depending on the air temperature. We are in Missouri after all, and we never know what to expect! If a corn seed imbibes water when it is below 50 degrees, that seed will swell but not germinate. Corn seeds are particularly susceptible to damage if they incur stress from cold damp conditions in the first 24-48 hours. Besides soil temperature, soil moisture is also crucial when deciding the best planting conditions. Using proper planting depth can ensure appropriate soil moisture, even if it seems dry on top. Planting wet, however, can lead to some very unfavorable conditions, including but not limited to; sidewall compaction, stunting, decreased and uneven emergence.

Now that you have determined that the soil conditions are appropriate for planting, you must make sure your planter is set for the **proper planting depth**. The recommended planting depth for corn is usually 1½ to 2 inches. Some studies even suggest that 2¼ inches is the optimum planting depth to ensure root development and adequate moisture. We realize it can be tempting to shallow up planting in or-

der to speed the time across the field. Also, a number of growers believe that planting more shallow will allow the seed to get out of the ground faster. An experiment conducted in Columbia, MO last year found that planting corn up to 3 inches deep only changed the time of emergence a matter of hours. Not only that, shallow planted corn tends to have very uneven emergence. There is some unpreventable variation from the planter bouncing across the field. When your target depth is only around 1 inch, that variation can be very costly. Plants that are not planted deep enough will have problems developing seminal and nodal roots. Also, the top 2 inches of soil are the first to dry out, and a seed must be able to imbibe enough water before the soil surrounding it dries out. Seeds require up to 50% of their weight in water for germination. A study conducted by Monsanto in 2009 re-

vealed that a 1 inch planting depth resulted in a 51% reduction in population when compared to 2 and 3 inch planting depths. The other item to consider is your **planting population**. Planting populations should depend on the hybrid you are planting. Don't get in a rush and plant everything at the same population, but be sure you account for the hybrid you are planting, what the soil type is, and the accuracy of your planter. Having skips and doubles can greatly affect the yield potential of your crop. Like we mentioned above, taking all of these variables into consideration will set you up for success as long as the conditions allow! One other thing we want to mention is spraying burndown, particularly on cover crops. There were a lot of acres planted last year in a cover crop for various reasons. Many of these include a combination of things, including cereal rye. We would caution those of you who have these cover crops to go ahead and get them sprayed as soon as possible! Cereal rye can take off and get very tall, very fast with warm weather and sunshine. We do not want to let it get away, because rye has a tendency to create a mat that does not allow the soil to dry underneath it. So again, go ahead and get the cover crops killed now to prevent delays in planting later.

*Things to remember:*

- *We are currently lining up spraying for both corn and soybean acres!*
- *We are taking orders now for side-dress N applications!*
- *Consider applying an insecticide with your herbicide application!*
- *Think about applying fungicide to corn at V5 and R1 for a boost in yield and plant health!*



FYI- We recently were asked:

*'Will ADM accept Xtend soybeans this fall?'*

Reply from ADM Processing -Quincy, IL :

*'No, as of now, ADM will not be accepting them.'*

Farmers Elevator will not accept Xtend beans either.

## From The Feed Bag

By Eulynn Davis, Livestock Production Asst.



The horn fly, *Haematobia irritans irritans* (Linnaeus), is one of the most economically important pests of cattle worldwide. It is an obligate blood-feeding ectoparasite, feeding almost exclusively on cattle. Just in the United States, hundreds of millions of dollars in losses are attributed to the horn fly annually, while additional millions are spent annually on insecticides to reduce horn fly numbers.

Horn flies differ from another major cattle pest, the stable fly, in several ways. Although both flies have a piercing proboscis, horn flies have longer maxillary palpi relative to the proboscis. Horn flies are also smaller (5 mm in length), and have no major patterns on the back side of their abdomen, while stable flies are 7 to 8 mm long and have a "checkerboard" appearance of the top of the abdomen. Horn flies also must lay eggs in undisturbed, fresh manure, whereas stable flies seldom lay eggs in fresh manure, opting rather for manure-straw mixtures, urine-soaked feed and straw, feeding waste sites, grass clipping piles, and round hay bale feeding sites.

The horn fly is considered one of the most economically devastating pests of the beef cattle industry in the United States. It causes annual losses of between US\$700 million and \$1 billion. Because of horn fly feeding behavior and the sheer numbers of flies present on the animals, cattle expend a great degree of energy in defensive behavior. This results in elevated heart and respiratory rates, reduced grazing time, decreased feeding efficiency and reduced milk production in cows, which can result in decreased weaning weights.

Horn flies are commonly reported on beef cattle in large numbers, with thousands of flies occurring on individual animals. Although the average meal size is only 10 µL, of blood per feeding, each fly takes between 24 to 38 blood meals per day. Therefore, the sheer numbers of flies infesting an animal, as well as the numbers of blood meals taken daily by each fly, can result in substantial blood loss.

Horn flies also are able to vector several *Staphylococcus* spp. bacteria, which cause mastitis, or infection of the teats in dairy cows, particularly in summer months. In addition to the teat damage they cause, feeding flies can introduce the bacteria into open wounds, causing significant infection. Cattle producers can reduce cases of mastitis by managing horn fly numbers.

Left untreated, a few adult horn flies can quickly explode to a population of 4,000 flies or more per animal. However, using an insect growth regulator for 30 days before fly emergence through 30 days after the first frost prevents flies from successfully multiplying, breaking their life cycle.

Farmers Elevator & Exchange Co. has a variety of products to help you get through this year's fly season-- stop

**IGR** Insect Growth Regulator - ask us about it!

## 1st qtr USDA Hogs & Pigs Report released March 25



- Inventory of all U.S. hogs and pigs on March 1, 2016 was 67.6 million head, up slightly from March 2015, but down 1% from December 2015
- Breeding inventory, at 5.98 million head, was down slightly from last year and from the previous quarter.
- Market hog inventory was up slightly from last year at 61.7 million head, but down 1% from last quarter.
- December 2015-February 2016 pig crop, at 29.6 million head, was down slightly from 2015; ave. pigs saved/litter was 10.30 for the Dec-Feb period vs. 10.23 last year
- Intended farrowings for June-Aug are 2.91 million sows, down 3% from 2015, and down 3% from 2014.

"We've had three consecutive quarters where USDA has done revisions to pig crop data," said Dr. Scott Brown, extension livestock economist at the Univ of Missouri. "Some numbers were lower than expected but the intended farrowing estimates continue to get my attention. Sow herd expansion is minimal. Altin Kalo, senior analyst at Steiner Consulting Group, Merrimack, N.H. said "When producers were dealing with Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus (PEDv), they hedged against it by increasing the breeding herd, so it increased steadily over four quarters in 2015," he said. "The fact that the breeding herd did not increase implies to me that producers significantly reduced the number of gilts they retained." Kalo thinks grain prices and grain exports will drive the size of the breeding herd this year and said that if vibrant export markets occur with no disruption in trade, the breeding herd is probably where it needs to be. "We're going to be up 2% to 3% in the fourth quarter based on my numbers. I'm still concerned about it," said Dr. Steve Meyer, vice president of pork analysis for Express Markets Inc. Analytics, Ft. Wayne, Ind. When asked about the impact of the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) on antibiotics usage, that goes into effect January 2017, the analysts believe the industry has already begun to adapt. Kalo said, "The impact will affect the 2017 numbers, but we don't feel it will have as major an impact as a lot of people think."



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