

Crop Care (cont'd from pg. 3)
for weed control ahead of time, you won't have any weed control! For those of you who no-till or minimum-till, fall chemical application is crucial. As soon as the combine leaves the field, we need to be spraying. We realize that there are other things you might want to do in the fall like running a disc through your cornstalks or cleaning up ruts or a hundred other things. All that's great! But don't wait until your other work is done before you start thinking about controlling weeds. We are in an environment where weed control has to be on your mind in every season. After Roundup Ready crops were released, we took weed control for granted. We planted first, killed weeds later. If we are going to be successful at controlling these weeds, we have to turn it around. Plan your chemical application first, then plant your crop. As a retailer, we are anxious for the new chemistries and traits to come out just like growers are. However, we can't fool ourselves into thinking that these new traits will fix

everything. We need to keep those chemistries and traits in our tool belt, just in case we get put in a situation where we have to use them.
Question: What is the definition of weed control, in percentage, according to chemical vendors?
Answer: 90%
 90% is good, but that doesn't eradicate our weed problems. However, 90% control of 500 weeds in a field is a lot better than 90% control of 1,000,000 weeds in a field. Start clean, stay clean!
Question: When is a great time to purchase inputs for next season from Farmers Elevator & Exchange Co.?
Answer: This coming fall!
 As in the past, Farmers Elevator will be offering huge discounts for the purchase of dry fertilizer, NH3 and chemicals in the fall. We are committed to getting a lot accomplished before the end of the year. Similarly, Golden Harvest seeds will be rewarding customers who make a commitment early by offering great early order incentives.
Question: What are the 5 P's?
 (According to Gary)

Answer: Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance!
 This statement doesn't need a whole lot of explanation. We are better off having a good plan in place long before we ever go to the field. Growers are typically good at planning which hybrids to plant on which field, and how they are going to fertilize each farm. We need to get better at planning the rest of our inputs too, including weed control.
Question: When is Farmers Elevator going to host it's annual In-House Plot Tour?
Answer:
Mark you calendar now to attend our plot tour
Date: Thursday, August 27
Time: 5:00 PM
Place: our seed warehouse
Address: 224 Winter St., Monroe City
Invitations will be mailed soon. We hope to see you all there! Thanks for your business. Have a great summer!



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

My wife and I wish to thank those of you who shared encouraging words and acts of kindness with us in recent weeks. We feel blessed to be a part of this faith-filled community.
 I read a story recently written by one of my favorite cowboy poets, Baxter Black. His story 'hit the spot' so I wanted to share his words with you here.....
 Baxter wrote, 'I went to America last week...the middle of America, to a county fair. If America has a heart, it's out on the plains. It is not an easy place to live as you have to

earn its respect. It will test you with blizzards, tornadoes, floods, droughts, etc. It is often all or none and one learns to be self-sufficient. This summer, the plains have turned into a garden.' (Sound familiar?) 'Less rain at the right time is better than more rain at the wrong time.' As Baxter reached the little town where he was to perform at the county fair he said, 'The clouds began to huddle, planning their next play.' He had to help fix the sound system which sounded like the announcer at the Kentucky Derby. Someone had to make a trip to the nearest Radio Shack some 42 miles away. The sky began to turn a bruised blue in the north as Baxter went to change and prepare for his performance on stage. Many folks had drive 50-plus miles for the performance and were filling the stands although the carnival had been temporarily shut down in the anticipation of the rain. The clouds looked ominous. (we can relate!) The storm hit about 30 minutes before the show was to begin. Baxter described the next hour and a half as 'the equivalent of a fair board SWAT team' as they asked all the important questions that led to the decision to hold the 7 o'clock performance up until 8 p.m. The clouds then moved south and fizzled to a drizzle. However, it was still light, the flag standing straight out in the wind, the crowd was bundled up, and Baxter stood on the front walkway of the stage with his back to the rain. The whole bunch just smiled and shed water. 'Cancel the show he said? Not on your life!'

He said that was the moment they all shined. Everyone from the fair board, to the volunteers, from the farmer who fixed the sound system, to the parents of kids who had projects, from the local radio announcer, to the county agent and all those in the grandstands who came to see the show. Baxter began, "I have called you all together here this evenin' to thank the good Lord for the wonderful rain we're havin'." The crowd cheered and he heard an "Amen."

I hope this helps us all put things into prospective. God is in charge. He encourages us to move forward!

Crop Care
 by Gary Carr & Brenna Ruth
 Agronomy Sales & Service

Hello friends and neighbors, clients and customers! We are going to use this edition of the newsletter to play a little game! Welcome to **Newsletter Trivia!** Although there are no prizes for answering these questions, we are still winners if we learn something new! So here we go!
Question: What is the most expensive farming practice you can do in the springtime?
Answer: NOT planting
 Mother Nature has not been kind to us this season. A combination of wet weather and delayed planting has wreaked havoc on our crops this year. Even though inputs are expensive, they are not nearly as expensive as not harvesting a crop. Some of us were fortunate to get our crops planted, and some of them look pretty decent. Not everyone was so fortunate. One of the many delays we had to contend with was waiting on fertilizer to be spread and NH3 to be applied. One way to avoid that is to apply your inputs in the fall! If this season has taught us anything, it's that planning for next year's crop ahead of time, and having some of that work done in the fall, can save time and pay dividends in the spring!
Question: How much does 1 inch of water over 1 acre of ground weigh?
Answer: 226,512 pounds, or 113 tons!
 A pretty common observation in the last few weeks has been, "the ground is still wet, but it's hard as a rock!" Why do you think that is? One inch of water sitting on your soil weighs 113 tons per acre, and we have had around 20 inches of rain this summer! That adds up to over 2,200 tons of weight that has been on your field at one point or another. That weight doesn't include the FORCE of the water droplets hitting the ground. All that weight and force has caused
 (Cont'd on page 3 —>)

Farmers Elevator & Exchange Co.
 107 So. Chestnut Street
 P.O. Box 7
 Monroe City, MO 63456

Open 7:30-5:00 M-F
 Open 7:30-noon Sat.
 Ph. 573-735-4543
 www.farmerelevator.net

MISSOURI STATE FAIR
SEDALIA AUG 13-23 2015

GRILLIN' like a...

P = Place the Thermometer!
 Place the food thermometer into the **thickest** part of the meat.

145 °F W/ 3 MIN REST		STEAKS
145 °F W/ 3 MIN REST		PORK CHOPS
165 °F		CHICKEN
160 °F		GROUND BEEF

R = Read the Temp!
 Wait about 10-20 secs for the temperature to be accurately displayed. Foods must reach the safe internal temps listed here for safety.

O = Off the Grill!
 Once the meat is at a safe temperature, take it off the grill.

Put cooked food on a **CLEAN PLATE!**

Greg Drebes, president of the Board of Directors of the Farmers Elevator & Exchange Co. lends a hand to his grandson Aidan, at the Monroe City Youth Fair.



Cattle producers....Keep those brood cows in top condition. See us for 30-17 Ignite Tubs and QLF liquid cattle supplement today. Competitive priced. Quality nutrition. In stock now!



The **hard work** you put in your land
inspires the hard work we put in
your **hybrids.**

Your hard work drives our hard science. And when your Syngenta Seed Advisor™ matches top-performing hybrids from Golden Harvest® to your fields, the rewards will come at harvest. Talk with your Syngenta Seed Advisor to learn how our breakout genetics and breakthrough traits can help you grow more corn.



See Brenna Ruth or Gary Carr at Farmers Elevator and start planning your next crop today!

GoldenHarvestSeeds.com



From The Feed Bag
by Eulynn Davis, Livestock Production Asst.



*This month I decided to take a break from an animal production article to spotlight some special people in this industry: **The Farmers' Wives**. I may be (by time you read this) a newlywed, but I dated my farmer for five years and quickly learned how being the significant other of a farmer changes your life. So, here's to you ladies! I would like to salute you with one of my favorite articles from "Pink Tractor", a magazine geared just for women in agriculture (you can visit their site, pinktractor.com, and subscribe to their magazine at no cost).*

10 Ways Marrying a Farmer Will or Has Changed Your Life:

- 10.** You will become very good at directions, landmarks, and where people live... Because when your husband tells you he's in the southwest corner of the field to the south of the "such and such farm" and needs you to bring him something, you will need to be able to find him. Your next birthday gift should probably be a plat book.
- 9.** A majority of the conversations during your meal time will be about farming. You will get to hear all about crops, equipment, weather, prices... No farm topic is off limits.
- 8.** Date nights during planting and

harvest = time in the tractor or combine with your husband. Dates during any other time of the year besides winter = checking crops. If you want to see him or spend time with him, this is where you will be.

- 7.** You WILL find random things in your laundry. People who raise livestock have this one the worst.
- 6.** Don't plan on eating at a certain time every night or day with your husband. Farm life is so unpredictable. You may be eating supper at 7 pm one night and 10 pm the next night.
- 5.** You can never RSVP "yes" to events during planting, spraying, or harvest because you never really know IF you will be available. Events like weddings, banquets, dinners, etc. during this time of the year are usually last minute things... You know, like if it's raining...
- 4.** Your trips out of town usually involve some sort of farm business. Whether you are going by the hardware store or to stop and look at "insert piece of equipment here," you never just go to town without doing some sort of farm business.
- 3.** You become very good at just going with the flow... Like I said earlier, farm life is unpredictable. You never know when your husband will suddenly decide that "insert farm task here" is IMPERATIVE to get done and he's off in a flash when you had plans to spend the day together.
- 2.** You will become a glass half full person in a hurry. It rains when you don't want it to, crops burn up or get disease.... For those of you with livestock, calves die... Bad things happen. It's best to find the silver lining in the farm life.
- 1.** You appreciate Mother Nature in ways you'd never thought possible. You will get to experience farming on such an intimate level. You will learn so much about how it all works. Every single day, you are bound to learn something new in the farm world. It's amazing.

Crop Care (cont'd from pg. 1)

some serious compression in our soils. This basically means that the soil structure has deteriorated. It also means that the soil structure has been compressed so much that the oxygen has been completely squeezed out of the soil. The absence of oxygen is a bad thing for many reasons. The obvious answer is that plant roots need oxygen, which is true. But not only plant roots need oxygen; Soil microbes need oxygen as well. Microbial activity has nearly come to a halt in our soils. Microbial activity is crucial for healthy soils; it helps break down chemicals and crop residue, it helps convert nutrients into a plant available form, and also helps prevent diseases from taking up residence in corn and soybean plant roots. These are all problems that will need to be addressed moving forward.

Question: How do you regenerate microbial activity and regain soil structure?

Answer: There are several ways! As long as you recognize that your soil structure is important and needs to be dealt with, there are things that can help. Basically getting that ground opened up, whether it's using tillage or cover crops or another practice, is crucial. We just need to get oxygen back into the ground in order for soil microbes to become active again. The compaction caused by rainfall is much greater than what we typically see from a tractor driving across the field.

Question: What is more important to raising a soybean crop: weed control or fertilizer?

Answer: Weed control
This might not be the answer you were thinking, but if you think about it, this makes sense! You can still raise a soybean crop if you don't get your fertilizer applied like you wanted. You will have a hard time raising a crop, however, if you don't get the weeds controlled. Weeds will eat up that fertilizer just like the crop does, and you'll be left with a weedy field AND depleted soil. Just like Dr. Bradley from the University of Missouri says, "If you're not planning

(cont'd on page 4—>)