As mentioned in this issue, we can help you with your spring planting activities if we can apply fertilizer or seed. As long as we have the stored grain from the big fall harvest of 2014, knowing that many of you readers who store corn and soybeans have grain stored on the farm, we feel compelled to again mention the practice of bin/grain handling safety. The staff at Farmers Elevator & Exchange wants this New Year to begin on the same safe note we ended on last year in this community! And knowing that we are all human, and that we have too many things on our minds much of the time, and that many of us believe that bad things happen only to those people we read about in the news, it is probably a good idea to review the basics of working safely with flowing grain.

In the year 2014, there were several grain entrapments reported in the Midwest, some of which resulted in death. Farmers Elevator & Exchange recently helped purchase special equipment for the local fire department to help deal with possible grain entrapments. We hope it is never used except in practice. But as you know, not everything goes according to plan. Sometimes our actions are similar to that of a wide receiver in a football game...the brain was thinking about making the touchdown, but he failed to focus on catching the ball that we needed in our hands before we crossed the goal line. THINKING AHEAD allows us to anticipate those things that may go wrong and consider how to deal with them in a safe manner ahead of time. This is the key to getting the job done safely.

The grain that you placed in storage last fall may not be in the same physical condition as it was at harvest. Temperature and humidity fluctuations alone with the moisture content of the grain play a role in grain’s ability to flow. Over 200 farmers have died as a result of grain bin suffocation accidents over the past 30 years. Monitor stored grain regularly. Probe grain bins to determine if grain moisture is low enough for safe storage or you may attempt to detect “hot spots” or heating due to moisture migration. Low air flow distribution or pest activity where broken kernels have accumulated. Grain may “cake,” “clump” or “bridge,” hindering attempts to remove grain from a bin. If entering a bin is being considered, all options other than entering the bin should be tried first. If it is essential for a person to enter the bin, wear a proper full body safety harness and tether manned by others outside. And NEVER allow children to enter or play inside a bin that contains grain or feed. When the valve centered under the bottom of the bin is opened or the bottom unloading auger is turned on, grain or feed flows to the outlet. How rapidly the center column of grain is unloaded from the bin depends on the size of the opening and/or the conveyor capacity. The entire body of a 6-foot-tall person can be covered with grain in 11 seconds. If this happens to you in rapidly moving grain, you would be unable to free yourself before 5 seconds elapsed. What can you do in 5 seconds? Bottom line: THINK AND BE SAFE!
Welcome to 2015! As you all know, the livestock business is exciting as we enter this New Year and to say the least, the beef cattle business is booming! With prices of cattle where they are, now is no time to starve your herd of the proper ‘groceries’ they need. Taking good care of those mama cows during upcoming cold stressful days can only help insure a healthier cow and calf as we roll through winter and into spring. As you know we offer multiple sources of supplementation for cows and at this time we would like to introduce you to a new product called IGNITE 30-17 tubs that are now in our lineup of cattle supplement products here at Farmers Elevator & Exchange. Produced by the same QLF Company whom you have come to know and whom we have been working with for many years, the IGNITE 30-17 tub is a unique cooked product designed for controlled consumption containing 30% protein of which 17% is from NPN.

Whether you are looking for a charger to energize your permanent electric fence or you need something small scale for a netting or temporary set of lines, we have a solution for you. We carry a AC (110V) chargers, battery-powered chargers, and solar-ready chargers. We’ve even got some fully integrated solar energizers for your convenience. And we service them!

Agrisure Viptera has been approved for cultivation in the USA since 2010 and has also been approved for cultivation in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Paraguay and Uruguay. Syngenta originally submitted the import approval dossier to the Chinese authorities in March 2010. In addition to China, Agrisure Viptera has been approved for import into Australia/New Zealand, Belarus, the European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Mexico, Philippines, Russia, South Africa, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Syngenta is one of the world’s leading companies with more than 28,000 employees in over 90 countries dedicated to the purpose: Bringing plant potential to life. Through world-class science, global reach and commitment to our customers we help to increase crop productivity, protect the environment and improve health and quality of life.

From The Feed Bag

By Ron Dean, Livestock Specialist

Ignite cattle tubs are formulated to help correct nutritional deficiencies in regular forage of beef and dairy animals. Low moisture equates to better consumption rates and lower overall costs. Other advantages include: High energy, Nutrient-Dense, Convenient, Improved utilization of protein, and Improved animal health!

Welcome by or call us today to discuss all your cattle supplement needs and take a look at the IGNITE 30-17 tubs!

Welcome New Year’s baby!
Brenna Ruth who began working as a sales for Farmers Elevator last fall gave birth to Maddox Johnathan Ruth on January 1, 2015. He is weighed 8 lb., 5 oz. and was 21 inches long.

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