

Can you name these March 1968 Farmers Elevator employees?

Do you know them? Write down the 4 names, drop them off or email them to jred@centurytel.net. All participants who get all 4 names correct will be entered into a drawing to win \$15.00 in Monroe City Chamber Bucks. Drawing to be held on May 29.

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REMEMBER
THOSE WHO HAVE
SACRIFICED THIS

Memorial Day

GREATER LOVE HAS NO ONE THAN THIS,
THAN TO LAY DOWN ONE'S LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS. JOHN 15:13 NKJV

Farmers Elevator will be CLOSED on Monday, May 25 to honor all who sacrificed for the U.S.A.

The Pride of Monroe City
www.farmerelevator.net
Mid-May 2015
God Bless America



Whew! What a Spring Season we have had in Northeast Missouri and especially here in the community areas surrounding the Farmers Elevator & Exchange Company! First of all we would like to offer our thanks to our Maker for the blessing of a lot of favorable weather in April and May. That alone gave way for our ability to support you, our grain producing patrons in planting season! Due to the fact that last fall's rains allowed almost no fertilizer to be applied in our area, we were facing an 'uphill climb' as we entered spring. In mid-March, I listened to Gary Carr, our Crop Sales Manager say to our team of employees, "We have an enormous amount of work to do this spring! How do you think we will get it done?" Then he paused and said, "We'll do so must like we were eating an elephant — one bite at a time!" That set the tone for our team to 'step up to the plate' and made a valiant effort in these past few weeks to stay focused on your needs. We sincerely **thank you** for your confidence in our ability to deliver the products and services you demand, and we would like to sincerely **Thank you for your patience!**

We also would like to thank you for doing business with Farmers Elevator, a *locally-owned and locally-operated* firm that has been serving agriculture producers now for a month shy of 96 years!

Please remember that the net income dollars that are generated by Farmers Elevator & Exchange Company of Monroe City are not sent to some corporate office in another state or to a foreign country. Instead, our net dollars are used right here to hire good employees who live here and who spend money in the local communities in and around Monroe City, and to replace and update equipment and facilities to help you in your operation! We support local schools, 4-H and FFA programs. We recently awarded Ms. Emily Fowler of Monroe City the 2015 Farmers Elevator Scholarship (*see photo at left*). Emily who is employed by the General Veterinary Clinic and works with therecord-keeping system for a number of the pork producers we serve. She plans to attend Mizzou in the fall and pursue her goal to become a veterinarian. We salute all graduating seniors in our midst, both high school and college. We wish everyone a safe re-

Please note:
We will **NOT** be receiving grain *during the week of May 18* due to maintenance in our elevator. We thank you for your cooperation.

GALLAGHER

SISAL BALER TWINE PRICES FOR 2015:
16,000 FT.- \$57.89, BUY 10 OR MORE \$55.69
9,000 FT.- \$55.69, BUY 10 OR MORE \$52.79

Crop Care

by Gary Carr & Brenna Ruth
Agronomy Sales & Service



Greetings from Farmers Elevator! As we begin this writing, we are watching yet another rain cloud pass us by. So far this spring, we have missed more rains than we are comfortable with, and the soil conditions in some areas are becoming a concern. However, this dry weather has provided an opportunity to get a lot accomplished in a short period of time. Even so, the wind has been preventing us from spraying as many acres as we would like to, and sometimes even spreading fertilizer. Unfortunately, we cannot control the weather conditions. We have the goal in mind to complete all orders in timely fashion! Dry weather can turn quickly so let's focus on some positives!

On that positive note, most of the corn in the area has been planted, and a lot of it is up! If the warm weather continues, we could be at V5 in no time! Now is the time to decide what V5 applications we will make. A lot of things can be done while crops are this small. One of the most beneficial applications, in our opinion, is applying fungicide on V5 corn. Not only will it provide a slight bump in yield in most cases, but the plant health benefits are numerous. Even in years that disease pressure is low and traditional VT applications don't provide a big yield advantage, V5 applications can still be worthwhile. Why? Healthy plants have better standability. The stalk strength as well as increased root mass make for sturdier and hardier plants. Plants that will be less likely to go down or greensnap (depending on hybrid). Plants that will still be standing if the conditions aren't favorable for an early harvest. Fields that will be easier to harvest, therefore taking less time, less fuel, and less labor. All

of these factors make a V5 application attractive, as well as cost effective. While we are making V5 fungicide applications, there are other things that can be thrown in the tank that can pay dividends. Micronutrients are becoming more popular, and early applications have been very effective in recent years. Like fungicide applications, micros can assist in plant health among other things. Come talk to us at Farmers Elevator & Exchange to get recommendations about what else can be applied at V5 and how it can benefit you. If you are not applying a V5 fungicide, but you are side-dressing, micronutrients can fit very well with that application too. If you are even remotely interested, go ahead and let us get your crops tissue tested. This will allow us to get a picture of what's going on in the plant, so we can make recommendations based on your crop's needs. Even though we are still planting soybeans, it's not too early to plan your in-crop applications on soybeans too. Remember to consider using Farmers Elevator's **Legacy 21 program** for high yield soybeans. Even though it might not look very promising right now, you are always better off to make a plan and stick to it!



A common site in April...our NH3 rig.

In closing, remember that patience is a virtue! Let us focus with you on the facets of farming that we CAN control! We at Farmers Elevator & Exchange Co. are here to provide the best products and services for your acres to allow you to be successful!

Our team has been working to serve your needs...



From The Feed Bag

by Eulynn Davis,
Livestock Production Assistant



A recent article in CattleFax discussed how weaning earlier could allow you to wean heavier calves. Over the years it has been said that the best way to increase net returns is to wean more and heavier calves. Both theories are true weaning more and/or heavier calves can increase an operation's net returns, but at what cost? What if you can wean heavier calves by weaning earlier?

Weaning early can result in weaning heavier, and it really has nothing to do with the calf. Shortening the time the calves spend with their mother benefits the cows themselves. It allows the females to maintain and improve body condition on less feed through the fall and winter. Every operator has been in the situation when they wish they could have another 30 days to see if their cows could add a little more condition before the calving season comes around again. Essentially, weaning early allows the cows to receive more rest, and build body condition. This better body condition will carry into the spring calving season.

Cow nutrition requirements decrease by about half, on average, when their calf is weaned. Even though the cows, at this time, are not in peak lactation their body is still in a milk production phase, drawing on her nutrition. For easy figuring, let's assume that it is costing the operation \$2.00/head/day to feed a cow with a calf in the fall, whether that is in the form of hay, a protein source, high quality pasture or a combination thereof. If that can be reduced to \$1.50/head/day by simply feeding less to cows; calculated out over 500 head that is \$7,500 for one month in feeding expenses saved or \$15/head/calf in additional net returns. During the relatively mild fall weather cows can add weight quickly and more efficiently as they go through their own version of compensatory gain, compared to later in the winter and further into pregnancy. Cows in adequate to over conditioning entering the winter will allow for less feed to be used during the tough winter months in most areas. Less time and energy spent feeding cattle is also a savings of labor. If managed properly through the winter, cows will carry the adequate body condition into spring calving resulting in easier births, healthier calves and cows that are in better condition after birth, producing more milk. The biggest advantage though occurs with a quickened involution. Involution is correlated to body condition. Adequate body condition-

ing after parturition equals a faster involution period, allowing the cow to cycle quicker. The goal is to have the cow cycle once prior to turning out the bulls. This allows for the cow to be bred early/earlier within the breeding season and ultimately this is where weaning earlier can translate into weaning heavier.

The earlier the cow is bred during the breeding season, the closer she will have a calf to the calving start date. In order to measure this effectively you can set all of the calves birth dates to the first day of the calving season according to when the bulls were turned out. Take the age at weaning, using the calving start date, and the average weight of your calves to see the average weight per day of age. This will allow for a comparison of the weaning weights over all calves with the "same" birthdate. As cows calve closer to the calving start date it will allow for the calves to increase their weight per day of age, and most importantly weaning weights. The argument can be made that the calves are spending the same amount of time with the cows regardless; yes, that is correct but it is the timing of those days that can cause the most changes. The cow will have an easier time adding weight and improving her body condition after she weans the calf compared to the 30 days prior to having the subsequent calf. By moving the calf's birth date closer to the calving start date you are giving the cow more time as a dry cow to put weight back on and enter winter in better condition, compared to putting weight on while she is a heavy bred cow with a calf in the third trimester. Adding weight during the former is a more efficient time to do so. What you end up with is a calf that is born earlier within the calving period and a cow that receives more time to recoup from weaning the calf before winter sets in and calving season starts again. Your calves will weigh nearly the same and your cows will be in better condition with less feed.

**Farmers Elevator & Exchange Co.
salutes all beef producers!**