



Manager's Corner *by Marlin McCormick*

It has been an exciting start to the new year for all of us here at Farmers Elevator! We welcomed 3 baby girls into our employees' families in January—Employee Gary Carr and his wife Linda became grandparents again on Jan. 5, employee Mike Utterback and his wife Reba were blessed with a granddaughter on Jan. 15 and then employee David Studer and his wife Robin became parents on January 21! What a blessing that all 3 of these babies were born healthy. We also want to congratulate our feed mill superintendent Jim Anderson and his wife Linda who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on January 21!

To state a simple fact, the principles of this cooperative are to help grain producers and livestock feeders make a profit and to remove their hassles. The chart below shows that the highest percent of corn is consumed by livestock. Furthermore, 85% of the world's soybean crop is processed into meal and vegetable oil, and virtually all of that meal is used in animal feed. Therefore, directly and indirectly, Farmers Elevator's business is very reliant on the production of meat, milk and eggs. That is one reason I was glad that NBC rejected a television ad from PETA for this year's Super Bowl broadcast. The reason given was that NBC determined the pro-veggie commercial "depicted a level of sexuality exceeding their standards." The ad, would have carried the tagline "Studies Show Vegetarians Have Better Sex," and showed lingerie-clad models getting "intimate" with vegetables. Kudos to NBC for rejecting the ad, which is far too racy for a prime time audience that will include

The Grain Scoop

Corn

Argentina has been the storyline in the corn market of late. The big question is, 'How much damage has been done?' Estimates are the crop size is now 12-16 MMT.

It is believed that we should see limited exports from Argentina at this point.

US exports are routine but sales for one late week in January were a marketing year high of roughly 40 mbu.

Recent Cattle on Feed numbers showed the US is 7% below a year ago. This is the smallest on feed number since 2003 and placements were the lowest since 2002.

Soybeans

Just like corn, Argentina is the talk of the trade with the recent dry weather. Crop size seems to be dropping a little. Trade talk of 44-46 MMT vs. the USDA of 49.5 MMT.

Rains in late Jan/early Feb will become very critical.

One commodity research group raised the export estimate 25 mbu in late Jan. – dropping the carryout to 200 mbu from the recent USDA estimate of 225.

The US export picture hinges on China. If you remove China our export program is not all that exciting.

Give us a call to discuss your offers to sell!



Around the Saddlehorn *by Mike Utterback, Asst. Mgr.*

I want to thank you for your well wishes for our new granddaughter, Cameron Leanne, who was born in mid-January! With cold weather and not much snow, January was a good month for us to 'stay on top' which allowed our floater operators get some lime spread on farms locally! We definitely want to ask for your orders now for limestone, dry fertilizer and seed to be spread, including top-dressing wheat! We can help you be ready for row crop planting sooner if you let us move now! And do not forget to ask us about clover seed and other new products we are handling from **Forage First Seeds!**

And for those of you who need parts for **Mira-Fount, Freedom Fount and Pride Of The Farm** waterers, check out our inventory. Service is what we have to offer— all we need is a chance to show you! Check out our inventory of **Bextra** bale feeders, **Cox** portable cattle feeders, **Bull Master** mineral feeders and more!



Crop Care *by Gary Carr, Agronomy Sales Manager*

Winter is still here with snow and cold temps in late January, but maybe (strong emphasis on the maybe) the end is in sight! If you do the math, you will see that *from February 1 until April 1 is only 59 days*. That is the

amount of time you have to get the anhydrous ammonia and the dry fertilizer applied so that when April arrives, you have the chance to take advantage of early corn planting! You've proven it time and time again—the earlier planted corn has the best opportunity to produce the most corn! With the wet fall of 2008 and higher-than-ever fertilizer prices, not much product was applied. But if you know you are going to plant a crop in 2009, DO NOT get caught waiting until the last minute for your inputs. Avoid the rush, manage your time well and get everything done when conditions allow

it so as not to get caught in a spring bind. Again, early planting dates mean more yield and more yield means more \$\$\$. And make a note, custom application does not cost — it pays!

Farmers Elevator will host an **Agronomy 101 Seminar** in February, time and date to be announced. Our presenter will be Brad Koch who is a technical service agronomist along with Brian Selle who is a former tech service agronomist and continues to work for Golden Harvest Seeds. The seminar will be informative and subject matter will include Soils and Soil Testing, Nutrients, Weeds and Fungicides. We will send a letter in the next few days to tell you of the time, date and place.

FARMERS ELEVATOR continues to have a good supply of Golden Harvest Seed Corn as well as NK Soybeans for sale and *we have financing* available through Rabo Bank.

Remember—April is just around the corner!



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Bextra Bale Feeder



From The Feed Bag

by Ron Dean, Livestock Consultant



Oil Spray Cuts Hog Finishing Barn Gas Emissions

The American Society of Agronomy recently published results from a joint Purdue University and University of Missouri study suggesting an oil spray treatment helped reduce methane and carbon dioxide emissions from swine finishing barns.

The study revealed average emissions of 32.5 grams (1.14 oz.) of methane and 15.8 grams (.56 oz.) of carbon dioxide per day, per animal unit, among 250-lb. pigs from two commercial swine finishing barns in northern Missouri prior to the experimental treatment.

Treatments of oil sprinkling, misting of essential oils, and misting of essential oils with water **reduced the average methane emissions by 20% and reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 19%**. Barn methane and carbon dioxide concentrations and emission rates were affected by daily and seasonal ambient temperature fluctuations. Methane was produced from decomposing manure and released from recycled lagoon effluent during barn gutter flushing. Carbon dioxide was produced from pig exhalation, manure decomposition, and combustion heaters and was also released from recycled lagoon effluent. The flushing lagoon effluent was responsible for 9.8% of methane and 4.1% of carbon dioxide in the total barn emissions.

The researchers are working hard to understand and reduce the industry's impact on local and global environments. Research on greenhouse gases and other emissions from animal barns of different animal species is ongoing at Purdue University in collaboration with other universities in the United States. Further study on oil spray in animal barns is needed to optimize its application method for better results in reducing emissions of not only greenhouse gases but also particulate matter and odor.



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Calendar of Upcoming Events:

ADM Show Pig Clinic- Feb 9, 6:30 PM
at the Community Center
in Philadelphia, MO.

Lewis-Marion Co. Cattlemen's Scholarship Banquet- Sat. Feb 21
at the American Legion in Palmyra, MO

Chick Day- Wednesday, April 8 at
Farmers Elevator. Call our office for a
brochure- place your orders and book
your chick feed before March 17!

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2009