



## Manager's Corner

by Marlin McCormick

I received a phone call during the last week of April from a

good friend who farms in west-central Illinois. He said he was just checking to see if he was ahead or behind or equal with the farming progress of some other geographic areas. It sounded as if he had less field work done than many of you folks in the Monroe City and surrounding area. We both agreed that worrying was probably not going to be a good solution for a late start. We had a few days in April that were good to run and we want to **thank you** for your business and we want to ask for your continued patience as we move through spring 2009. I can honestly say, it feels a bit like déjà vu 2008.

We have listened to you and now we encourage you to take a look at our updated website, [www.farmerelevator.net](http://www.farmerelevator.net). We recently made quite a few changes and have now launched it with a new provider! When at the site, you will find our **daily cash grain bids** as well as **weather** and copies of this **newsletter** archived for your reference. The site also has **links** to some of the manufacturers of products and our **history** page that tells a bit about the past 90 years of Farmers Elevator & Exchange Company.

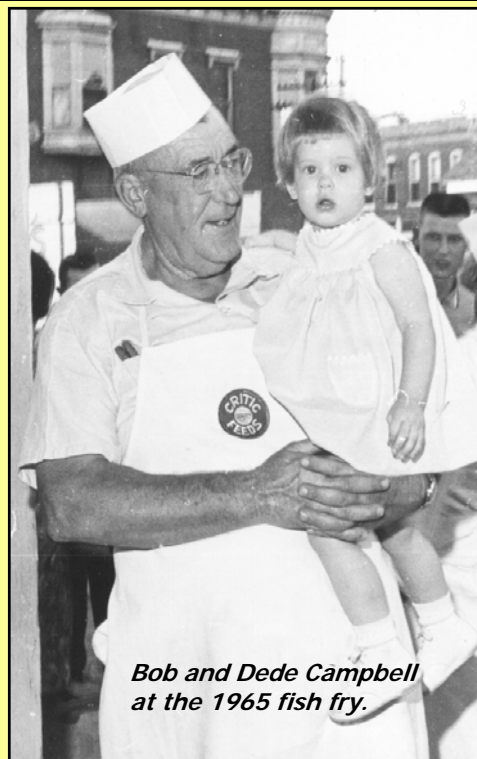
We are making plans for some **fun and food** here in the late afternoon of **June 6** which is the official **90th anniversary date** of our company's founding. More details available soon. Please be safe throughout the spring and always remember there is someone in a tougher spot than we are. Remain focused and have faith!



Cecil Bastian, Jr. of Monroe City loaded his tub with young catfish to stock his pond at the **Fish Day** held by Farmers Elevator & Exchange Company on Saturday, April 18. Folks took home over 2,500 fish from the Fish Day. It was the second annual event

## Days Gone By Stir Interest in Upcoming 90th Anniversary Celebration

June 6, 1919 is the date that Farmers Elevator was incorporated. At the time of our new office grand opening last summer, several people commented on the fish fry that used to be held. Recently we received an email with the photo shown at right that is Bob Campbell, a director for the Farmers Elevator & Exchange Co. from 1958-1969. He was Board President at the time of his death in 1969. Bob, along with Critic Feeds, which was a brand of feed handled by the Elevator in the 1960's, was instrumental in organizing the famous 'Farmers Elevator Fish Fry' that was well known in the community for years. We thank Joe Campbell, Bob's son for submitting this photo taken in 1965. Joe is standing in the photo on the right side in the background and his daughter Dede is held by



*Bob and Dede Campbell at the 1965 fish fry.*



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

We want everyone to know that Swine Flu does not come from eating pork but that has nothing to do with all of 'chicken and fish' we had here at the Elevator in April! Wow—sounds like a Saturday night special down at the diner! We certainly had some fun and we appreciated seeing many of you come by the new store in the past month so we remind you to be sure to come by for more 32% Floating

Catfish Food to feed the fish and for more Starter/Grower or Layer Ration for your chickens! And even though corn planters have barely been running at this writing, we know that you are looking at the calendar and know it's nearly time for flies and weeds and hay baling! So be sure to come see us for quality products, friendly service and put-your-mind-at-ease recommendations of what you can and should be using to complete your task, whatever it might be—formulation change in a swine ration, fence building, baling hay, replacing an automatic waterer, seeding rates, worming cattle, spraying brush, treating your lawn for insects, controlling flies



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## Crop Care

by Gary Carr,  
Agronomy Sales Manager



Moisture-wise, it's looking a lot like last year, but there is nothing we can do about it.

While checking fields in the area we're seeing a lot of residual control of winter annuals from the use of PREFIX in no-till soybeans last year, Syngenta doesn't confirm or deny this, just not on the label. PREFIX (residual chemical) users the program for this year has been greatly improved, this year and can save you as much as \$12.00 per acre in chemical charges. **WINTER annuals** are becoming a problem for no-till corn guys, we need to be looking at applying a fall chemical on ground going to corn the next spring, this is rather inexpensive and will control winter annuals, so you don't have corn coming up in a purple colored field. Another thing we're seeing in corn stalks that we've been fall spraying for no-till beans after the beans come off, the next spring there is a very few winter annuals appearing, and this leaves no place for cutworm moths to lay their eggs. "I GUESS THEY GO OVER TO THE NEIGHBORS TO LAY THEIR EGGS—JUST A THOUGHT."

Spray orders are starting to pileup as some corn was planted in late April. If your corn is in give us a call to get sprayed. Just a little side note— 300 acres of corn planted locally in early April came out of the emerged 22 days after planting. Hi- yield bean program this year looks a lot better now with soybean prices close to \$10.00 for a few extra dollars invested the return looks real good. Who wouldn't want 10 to 20 bushel more soybean per acre? ( 10 bu x \$10.00 = \$100.00 or 20 bu x \$10.00 = \$200.00 times x number acres— now were talking real money. ) So give me a call or stop by to check this program out! SEED -- If your corn for some reason doesn't come up GOLDEN HARVEST (on trait seed with a 24 unit purchase of such) has a 100% re-plant policy and CRUISERMAXX seed beans are also 100% replant policy, if you have any questions about the policy call. I'll leave you with this little witty saying from a local farmer. WHEN I HEAR SOMEBODY SIGH, "LIFE IS HARD" I'M ALWAYS TEMPTED TO ASK "COMPARED TO WHAT?"

Soybeans



## From The Feed Bag

by Ron Dean



Breeding season is fast approaching for all of your spring calving cows. 1/2 a calf crop is attributed to the bulls. QLF's beef nutritionist Dr. Cathy Bandyk addresses herd bull maintenance and selection:

**Equal Attention for the Bulls**— Authors from 3 major universities said that "Up to 20% of all bulls have less than optimum fertility." That has some serious implications, and should remind us to pay strict attention to some basic guidelines:

Feed bulls to be in a BCS 6 or 7 prior to breeding; they should be able to lose 200 lb during the season without getting too thin. Mineral nutrition is very important, especially selenium.

Every bull should receive a Breeding Soundness Exam every year.

Check legs, and trim feet if needed.

Adhere to a sound preventive health program.

Control internal and external parasites.

Allow groups of bulls to establish a pecking order prior to the breeding season.

**Bull selection** has a **long-term impact** on herd fertility in operations that keep and raise their own replacement heifers. Take advantage of relevant EPD information. Select for large scrotal circumference. A fairly new selection tool is a test for Fertility Associated Antigen, a protein that is present in the semen of some bulls. Univ. of AZ research showed bulls testing positive for FAA were 9-40% more fertile than those that tested negative; work at Texas A&M consistently showed FAA positive bulls were 16-19% more fertile. A chute-side test is available to check for this antigen. A bull either does or does not produce FAA, so results of a single test are a valid selection criteria. A less technical indicator of bull fertility has also been recently researched. Work done at Colorado State University suggests that the configuration of the hair whorl on a bull's forehead a spiral center opposed to a straight-line center is indicative of a bull's fertility. In this study, Angus bulls bearing a spiral hair whorl with a round epicenter had a higher % of normal sperm than bulls with an elongated hair whorl pattern. This may not be as far-fetched as it seems; hair whorl patterns and gonad development occur at about the same time in the fetus. In humans, abnormal hair whorl patterns occur in children with Down's syndrome and Prader-Willi syndrome. More research is needed before we know enough to use this as a selection tool.



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