

Feed yard celebrates

35 years in business

The Decatur County Feed Yard celebrated 35 years of service in September 2006.

Warren Weibert has been at the helm of the feed yard for 31 years. Mr. Weibert became the general manager of the feed yard in 1977 after his father-in-law, Milton Nitsch, bought the business.

In a story in *The Oberlin Herald* about the anniversary in 2006 Mr. Weibert said when he started everything was done on paper. Every load of feed information was transferred by hand from the truck driver to the ladies in the office. Every 15 days the women would hand write the bills and mail them out.

That's changed and computers are used to keep track of everything.

Feed calling, milling, delivery, billing, said Mr. Weibert, all of it is done with computers now.

In 1994, the yard started to use electronic chips in the cattle's ears to track them. This meant they could start managing, sorting and

selling the cattle as individual animals instead of by the pen.

Some of the cattle, start with the number on the ranch when they are born and it's transferred to an electronic id at the feed yard.

That number follows the animal through the process to the packing house to a carcass on the train.

Part of the 35 years of success at the yard has been because of Mr. Weibert's willingness to join and learn from others in the field.

In 1977, he joined the Kansas Livestock Association and became a director in 1978 or 1979. He was on the Feeders Council Board a few years later. In 1985, he became the chairman and in 1989, the president.

At the time of the celebration he said "Being a member of those organizations also helped lead to attracting customers to the yard here, because the business is aggressive, progressive and offers new technology. Now the yard has customers in 23 states from coast to coast."



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