

## Ursa Farmers Cooperative – “Business Expansion”

Ursa Farmers Cooperative (UFC) has 1,079 unique customers in Northeast Missouri. Our farmers presently have to take their grain to the terminal in Meyer, Illinois to be sold. Historically, when the river reaches the 500 year flood stage agriculture levee along the Mississippi River north of St. Louis fail and businesses that are in the flood plain are damaged. In modern times, this has happened at least three times at Meyer, Illinois.

It takes months to repair the levee and pump out the basin of water. In the flood of 2008 the levee broke at the east end of Lock & Dam 20 and greatly damaged the UFC operation. To make their contractual obligations, Missouri members of UFC had to drive to the UFC Warsaw Illinois operation and sell their grain. The trip across on the ferry is often done with two loaded semi trucks at one time with potentially an addition pickup truck or two on board.

The locals have lived through the tragedy of the Canton ferry icing up, capsizing and two people drowning when grain trucks were spilled into the water. Many farmers now refuse to cross on the ferry in fear of the potential outcome. Hauling grain this extra distance greatly increased the cost of moving their product and decreased their net income.

The Canton, Missouri levee has never failed. Missouri farmers provide UFC with 4 million bushel of corn and beans annually. The project is to build a grain terminal and barge loading facility in Canton, MO that is protected by their clay levee.



## The community needed to do the following:

1. Develop an Extended Enterprise Zone to improve the climate for new business in Lewis County.
2. Support new growth business by providing access to land, leadership and community services.
3. Make the existing dock area more usable for commercial enterprise
4. Attract businesses that will provide taxable income, provide services that are needed by our community and be good community citizens.



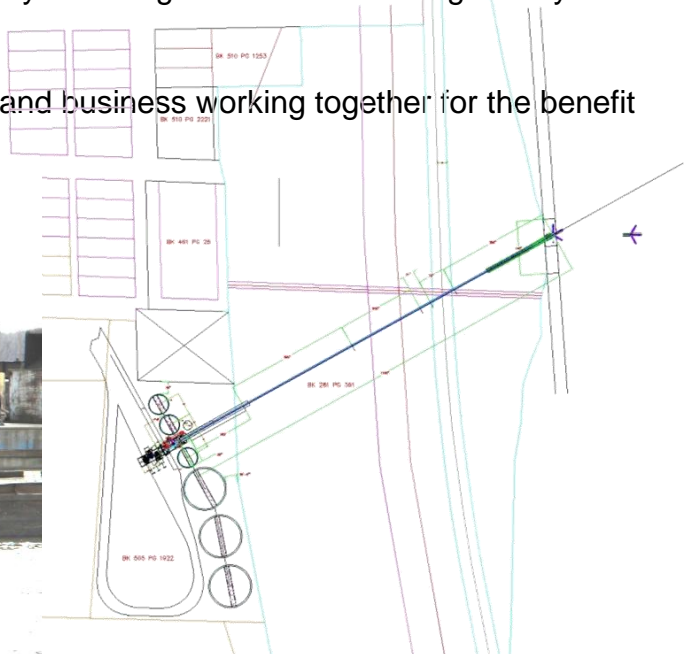
## Scope community involvement:

The Lewis County Development Authority (LCIDA) was successful in getting the Enhanced Enterprise Zone status for the county. The program is a discretionary program offering state tax credits and accompanied by local real property tax abatement, to Enhanced Business Enterprises. Tax credits may be provided each year for up to five tax years after the project commences operations.

To support Ursa Farmers Cooperative, property on the dock was deeded over to the cooperative and the community has worked hand in glove to make sure the grain elevator had every opportunity to find a home in the Canton community.

Currently the engineering studies and plant design are completed and plans are to build the plant and begin operation in the Fall of 2012. The operation is expected to be a high though-put grain facility loading approximately six to eight million bushel of grain a year on barges.

This is an excellent example of community and business working together for the benefit of everyone.



Thursday, October 21, 2010 E-mail This Story

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## Ursa Farmers Co-op to develop Canton facility

The state of Missouri is providing nearly \$2 million to assist in acquiring and clearing 10 blighted properties that will become the site of a new grain elevator owned by **Ursa Farmers' Cooperative**.

Gov. Jay Nixon was in Canton today and announced that his administration has awarded a Community Development Block Grant of \$1,990,000 to the city of Canton to purchase, clear and prepare the blighted properties for the elevator. Once the site is prepared, **Ursa Farmers' Cooperative**, and the 400 Missouri farm families who belong to the cooperative, will invest \$6 million to construct the facility.

"Agriculture is the backbone of Missouri's economy," **Gov. Nixon** said. "Missouri farmers feed, fuel and clothe the world. By allowing our farmers to move their goods to market faster, cheaper and more safely, we are supporting this vital part of our economy and helping our farmers compete in the global marketplace. I commend Sen. Wes Shoemyer and all the local leaders who worked together to make this important development possible."

The site to be developed for the grain elevator was formerly the location of Tri-State Fertilizer, an agricultural chemical company. As part of this developmental process, the property will be cleared and environmental violations and contamination on the property will be remediated.

Tri-State Fertilizer has signed a letter of agreement to sell the blighted properties to the Lewis County Industrial Development Authority. Demolition and environmental remediation will begin immediately after the sale is finalized. Construction of the new grain elevator will begin once demolition and remediation are complete.

"After a long and comprehensive application process, this is an exciting day for Lewis County and all of northeast Missouri," said **Bill Smith**, executive director of the **Lewis County Industrial Development Authority**. "This major investment in our community will make a tremendous difference for local farmers and businesses. Our entire economy will benefit from this important project."

The Lewis County Industrial Development Authority is the lead local entity on this project. The authority will acquire and clear the sites and will work with Ursa Farmers' Cooperative to develop the elevator.



## ***This is the release from Gov. Jay Nixon's office***

Gov. Jay Nixon visited the riverfront at Canton, Mo. on Thursday, to announce the awarding of nearly \$2 million by the state to assist in acquiring and clearing 10 blighted properties that will become the site of a new grain elevator owned by Ursa Farmers' Cooperative.

Currently, Missouri farmers in the area must transport their grain via ferry to an elevator located immediately across the Mississippi River in Illinois.

Transport by ferry slows the delivery of goods and can be dangerous, as top-heavy grain trucks can make the ferry unstable.

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As part of this developmental process, the property will be cleared and environmental violations and contamination on the property will be remediated. "This project will be a positive development for farmers throughout northeast Missouri, and the entire Canton community as well," Gov. Nixon said. "By cleaning up these blighted properties, we'll be enhancing the environment around Canton and reigniting the community's downtown area."

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"This announcement is a major milestone for farmers across northeast Missouri," Sen. Shoemyer said. "Development of this new grain elevator will provide closer and more economical service for Missouri farmers, and it will help keep our region moving forward. I am proud to have worked closely with Gov. Nixon, the Lewis County Industrial Development Authority and the City of Canton on this project that will be of great benefit to the people of northeast Missouri."

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