

A business with traction

By Ron Wilson
Huck Boyd Institute

A tractor rolls across a field. That's a common sight in rural Kansas, where tractors and farm equipment are a significant part of daily life and the rural economy. Today in Kansas Profile, we'll meet a rural entrepreneur whose interest in tractors is helping build an equipment-trading business - with a little help from modern technology.

Nick Gerety is the founder of Gerety Tractor and Equipment LLC. Nick has had a lifelong interest in tractors and farm equipment.

"Both of my grandparents were involved in tractors," Nick said. In fact, his great-grandfather was P. C. Weishaar, who founded the Weishaar Brothers farm equipment dealership in Nortonville.

Nick's father and grandfather are professional carpenters, as is Nick, but his heart is in farming.

"I've always wanted anything and everything to do with agriculture," Nick said. "I'd do anything to be on a tractor."

Nick grew up on a small farm on the outskirts of Nortonville, using his grandfather's 1939 Farmall H. He worked for neighboring farmers whenever he had the chance. He pursued carpentry but also found time to farm.

One year he bought a rough-looking, beat-up tractor. It was a 1975 model International Harvester 1066. He stripped that tractor down, removed and painted the old sheet metal, installed new accessories and got

it fixed like new. When he sold that tractor for a good price, he realized this could become a business.

That was the beginning of Gerety Tractor and Equipment LLC. In fact, that IH 1066 was a special tractor.

"That tractor is the background image on our logo," Nick said. Today, Gerety Tractor and Equipment LLC is involved in buying, selling, trading and consigning tractors and other farm equipment as well as livestock equipment. Nick recently became a dealer for the Oklahoma company, Go Bob Pipe and Steel.

"I was very impressed with their products and warranty," he said. "I heard other salesmen say, 'We're just like Go Bob Pipe. I figured that rather than trying to be like them, I wanted to be them.'" So Nick signed up as a dealer representative for Go Bob Pipe, which sells continuous fencing supplies, trailers, hay feeders, and more.

Nick has a lot along the highway at Nortonville where he displays and markets his equipment. Future plans call for construction of a shop and office there. Nortonville is a rural community with a population of 613 people. Now, that's rural.

Nick's specialization seems to be in the red tractors, although he also sells some in John Deere green.

"I've sold a lot of Internationals and Farmalls," Nick said. He also sells a lot of consigned equipment for other sellers. Typically his consigned machinery tends to be upper quality, high

end equipment. Nick will work with the seller to determine a fair price. He has been pleased with the results.

"I try to be as honest as I can with customers," Nick said. "We don't buy junk." What Nick does use is modern technology.

"If it wasn't for technology, I wouldn't be where I am today," Nick said. His tractor trading began on the localized online marketplace known as Craigslist. Such modern telecommunications technology makes it possible to connect with potential buyers and sellers all over. Nick has traded tractors as far away as Missouri and Texas.

The business is a family business. Nick's wife Trisha does the books and stays home with the couple's four children, all four years old and younger.

There is one tractor which is definitely not for sale. It is that Farmall H from 1939 - the first year that H's were built - that belonged to his grandfather.

"I grew up on that tractor," Nick said. "Everything is for sale out here except for that one." The tractor was restored a number of years ago and still operates.

For more information, go to www.facebook.com/GeretyTractor.

The tractor. It's a significant part of the economy and the society in rural Kansas. We salute Nick and Trisha Gerety of Gerety Tractor and Equipment LLC for making a difference with entrepreneurship in the tractor trading business. For rural communities, such businesses can help to get some traction.

Melvin is superior at regionals

Norton Community High School's choir competed at the Regional Solo and Ensemble Contest Saturday, April 6 at Decatur Community High School in Oberlin. Senior Alec Melvin received a superior rating for her solo which qualified her for the state competition Saturday, April 27 at Southeast of Saline. Choir teacher Tamra Cochran has 14 entries for the state competition; 12 solos and two ensembles.

-Telegram photo by Mike Stephens



SCHOOL CALENDAR

NCHS

Monday and Tuesday, April 15 and 16

Dance Team tryout practice: Stull Gym, 7 a.m.

Monday, April 15
JV Track at WaKeeney, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, April 16
Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.
MCL Meeting at Hill City, 10 a.m.

JV Golf at Goodland, 2 p.m.
Track at Plainville, 3 p.m.

Wednesday, April 17
FHSU Art Exhibit
FCCLA Board Meeting, 7:45 a.m.

Prom Royalty Elections, 8:30 a.m.

FFA District Horse Judging at Oakley, 9 a.m.
S.A.C., A.P.

Dance Team tryouts: Stull Gym, 4 p.m.

Thursday, April 18
Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.
S.I.T., 7:45 a.m.

B.A.S.S. Meetings
Student Focus Meeting, A.P.
Dance Team Fundraiser Meeting, A.P.

State Large Group Music at Colby, TBA

NCHS Varsity Golf Invitational, 1 p.m.
Prom decoration begins: JH Gym, 7 p.m.

Friday, April 19
NCHS Dance Team fundraiser begins

Artist of the Month: Cafeteria, A.P.
Track at Phillipsburg, 3 p.m.

Prom Server practice: FACS Room, 6:30 p.m.

Progress Reports Saturday, April 20

Promenade: Stull Gym, 6:30 p.m.

Prom Banquet and Dance: JH Gym, 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 21
Prom clean-up, 2 p.m.

NIHS

Wednesday, April 17
NCHS Dance Team tryouts: Stull Gym, 4 p.m.

Site Council, 5 p.m.
Friday, April 19
Progress Reports

EES

Monday-Friday, April 15-26
5th and 6th Grade Girls Volleyball at East Campus

Monday, April 15
5/6 Vocal rehearsal at East Campus, 8:30 a.m.

Site Council, 5:30 p.m.
5/6 Vocal concert at East Campus, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 17
S.I.T. Meeting, 7:30 a.m.
6th Grade Band recital: Band Room, 1:40 p.m.

TEAM Meeting, 3:40 p.m.
Thursday, April 18
5th and 6th Grade level meeting, 3:40 p.m.

Friday, April 19
Progress Reports
IEP Day

Northern Valley

Monday, April 15
Laser Science Show for PK-5 at Logan

Jostens representative to meet with juniors in the conference

room, 12:45 p.m.
HS JV Track meet at Phillipsburg, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, April 16
4th Grade Science assessment

5th Grade orientation in Long Island, 12:15 p.m.

Jr. High Music Recital in the gym in Long Island, 2:15 p.m.

Forensics "Just Desserts" Show in the HS auditorium from 6-8 p.m.

HS JV Golf meet in Osborne, 2 p.m.

Wednesday, April 17
4th Grade Science assessment

FFA Agronomy and Horse Judging Contest in Oakley, 8:30 a.m.

Job Olympics in Phillipsburg from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 18
HS State Large Group Music Festival in Colby, 9 a.m.

6th-8th Grade Track meet in Osborne, 10 a.m.

HS JV Golf tournament in Grinnell, 1 p.m.

Friday, April 19
Teacher Breakfast put on by Advanced Foods classes in the FACS room, 7:30 a.m.

K-4 Grandparents Day in Almena, 9 a.m.

3rd Grade Science Fair in the classroom from 12:30 to 2 p.m.
HS Track meet in Osborne, 3 p.m.

Saturday, April 20
FFA Plant Sale in Ag Greenhouse, 8 a.m.

SCHOOL MENU

Norton Jr.-Sr. High Schools Menu

Monday, April 15

Breakfast-Breakfast Tornado, fruit or juice, or choice of assorted cereal, toast w/margarine and jelly, and milk.

Lunch-Hamburger on a bun, lettuce and tomato, pickle, corn, peaches or chef salad and milk.

Tuesday, April 16
Breakfast-Cinnamon bun, fruit or juice, or choice of assorted cereal, toast w/margarine and jelly, and milk.

Lunch-Beef and bean tostada, lettuce and tomato, french bread, applesauce or chef salad and milk.

Wednesday, April 17
Breakfast-Scrambled eggs, bacon, fruit or juice, or choice of assorted cereal, toast w/margarine and jelly, and milk.

Lunch-Chicken enchilada, lettuce, chopped tomato and celery, Mandarin oranges or chef salad and milk.

Thursday, April 18
Breakfast-Pizza square, fruit or juice, or choice of assorted cereal, toast w/margarine and jelly, and milk.

Lunch-Pepperoni pockets w/marinara sauce, green beans, Mandarin oranges, cottage cheese or chef salad and milk.

Friday, April 19
Breakfast-Breakfast pocket, fruit or juice, or choice of as-

sorted cereal, toast w/margarine and jelly, and milk.

Lunch-Spaghetti, shredded cheese, garden salad w/dressing, radishes, peaches or chef salad and milk.

EES Menu

Monday, April 15

Breakfast-Homemade pancakes, warm syrup, apple juice, milk and toast with peanut butter.

Lunch-Peanut butter and honey sandwich, cottage cheese, warm peas, celery stick, Mandarin oranges and milk.

Tuesday, April 16
Breakfast-Blueberry muffin, peaches, orange juice, milk and toast with peanut butter.

Lunch-Pizza roll-ups, tossed salad, pears, green beans and milk.

Wednesday, April 17
Breakfast-Rolled-up sausage links, tater tots, apple juice, milk and toast with peanut butter.

Lunch-Potato boats, baked beans, fruit cocktail, whole wheat roll and milk.

Thursday, April 18
Breakfast-Breakfast cake, grape juice, milk and toast with peanut butter.

Lunch-Macaroni and cheese, little smokies, cooked carrots, rosy applesauce, pepper strips, french bread and milk.

Friday, April 19
Breakfast-Hard cooked eggs,

warm toast, apple juice, milk and toast with peanut butter.

Lunch-Sloppy Joe, homemade bun, half corn, sweet potato tots, kiwi and milk.

Northern Valley Menu

Monday, April 15

Breakfast-Oatmeal w/toppings, sausage links, strawberries or assorted cold cereal.

Lunch-Cheeseburger on a bun, Ranch wedges, baked beans and Mandarin oranges.

Tuesday, April 16
Breakfast-Plain muffin, jelly, scrambled eggs, fruit or assorted cold cereal.

Lunch-Nachos w/ground beef, tossed salad w/dressing, buttered beets and lemon pie.

Wednesday, April 17
Breakfast-Breakfast taco, hash browns, fruit or assorted cold cereal.

Lunch-Pizza, tossed salad w/dressing, buttered peas and cherry crisp.

Thursday, April 18
Breakfast-French toast, syrup, scrambled eggs, fruit or assorted cold cereal.

Lunch-Cook's Choice

Friday, April 19
Breakfast-Cherry coffeecake, ham, eggs, fruit or assorted cold cereal.

Lunch-Parmesan chicken, french bread, buttered carrots and frosted pear.

Wright celebrates 10 years of state service

Kyle Wright, Equipment Operator Senior, was recently recognized for having 10 years of state service with the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). Wright works on the Norton Sub-Area crew.

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CORRECTION

Due to reporter error in the April 2 issue of the Telegram in the story titled "New Graders Delivered" it stated that three used 2012 12M were purchased, this was incorrect. The graders are new just an older model.

Due to reporter error in the April 2 issue of the Telegram in the story titled, Commissioners see many at last meeting, it stated that the county was hoping to change the price of chemical used to spray weed for the road department to \$12 an hour and \$30 a load when it should have stated that the new charge to the county would be \$20 an hour and \$30 a load. The private rate of \$20 an hour and \$17.50 would remain the same.

It was stated in an ad that ran on April 8 for the City Wide Clean Up that there would be a \$10 charge per item for appliances still containing freon, this was incorrect; the cost is \$25 per appliance without proof that the freon was properly removed and disposed of.

The Norton Telegram will correct or clarify any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at 877-3361 to report errors.

We believe that news stories should be fair and factual and appreciate your calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

Call Mike with all your social news.

877-3361

mstephens@nwkansan.com

STUDENT NEWS

Curtis Powell of Russell, formerly of Norton, was awarded a Master's Degree in Parts and Service Sales in addition to a Master's Degree as a Service Technician from John Deere

University. He has worked for Unruh-Foster in Dodge City and Carrico Implement in Hays for over 27 years. Curtis is the son of the late Dale and Louise Powell.



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