



Lee Albers, a service department employee at Colby Ag (above), worked on a combine. A Tarbet Redi-Mix employee helped lay

concrete at the implement dealership's new home (below).

Vera Sloan/Colby Free Press

Colby Ag plans move to new home

By Vera Sloan

Colby Free Press
vsloan@nwkanssas.com

It's business as usual for Colby Ag as the dealership makes plans to move to a new site south of Interstate 70 sometime between summer and fall harvest this year.

"We want to make the move as painless as possible for our customers," said manager, Ted Hart, "so we will remain open for business." He said the new building at 305 Horton Ave. is going well.

Hart, who has been with the company since 2000, said the firm had outgrown the current facility on West Fourth Street. The Case IH farm implement dealership will expand in all areas of parts, sales and service, he said.

The new 37,200 square foot facility sits on 10 acres with five more acres across the road. New features not possible with the current 10,000 sq. ft. building will include a wide open showroom with offices, and a mezzanine for utility vehicles like ATV's, motorcycles, and small tractors, along with plenty of storage. Quinter Manufacturing is the contractor.

Hart said statistics of traffic up and down the highways provided

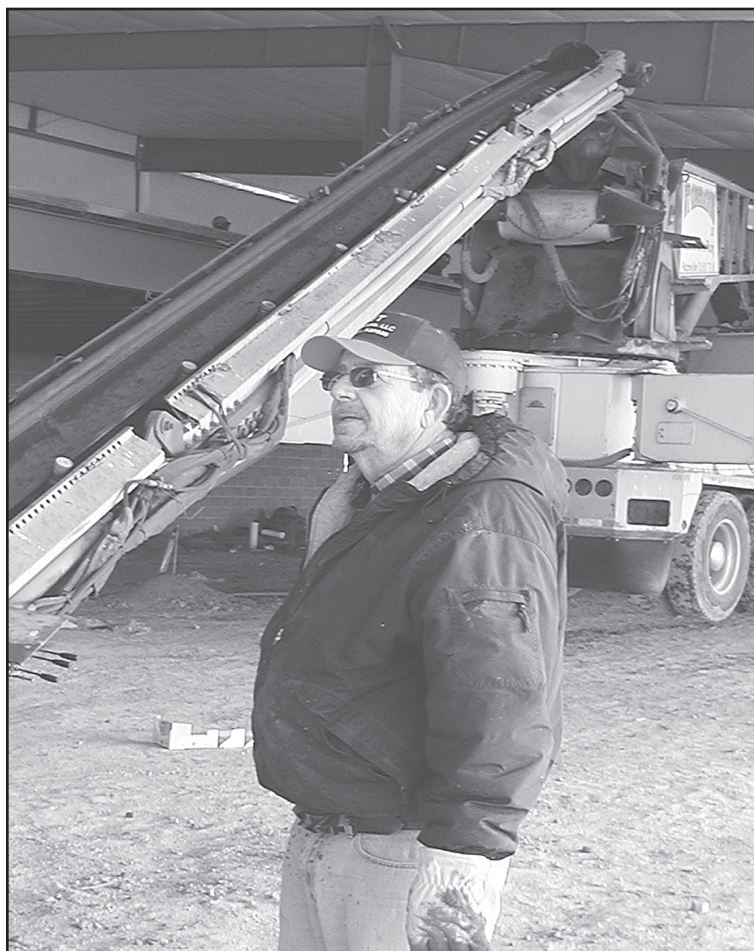
by the Colby Visitors and Convention bureau helped them decide on a new location. He said business has not let up, and sales are solid.

"There is a high bar to shoot for in agriculture," Hart said, "and farmers have to be on top of their game for it to work.... We're dealing with an era of precision agriculture, and the changes in farm machinery are geared towards efficiency."

About 90 percent of the Case IH equipment is manufactured in the United States, he said, and it requires skilled technicians to operate computerized equipment in the service department. Hart said they are always looking for someone who wants a career.

When asked how many pieces of equipment they would move to the new location, he said, "a lot."

The Colby International Harvester dealership moved to the West Fourth location in 1948. The parent company merged with J.I. Case in 1983 to become the Case IH. Jerry Heim of Hoxie purchased the Colby store in 1992. Hart said the firm has 19 employees, with plans to add more when they move.



Custom-Designed Ag Buildings

Wick ag buildings are custom-designed to meet your needs. From specialized crop storage buildings to machine shops and sheds, Wick Buildings will build the perfect building to suit your needs.



Kevin Brown
SAPPA VALLEY CONSTRUCTION, LLC
1831 Hwy 83, Oberlin, KS 67749
785-475-3130

A product of Wick Building Systems, Inc.

Tame houseplants that grow too big

MANHATTAN – The gardener whose houseplants have outgrown their home is a bit like the lion lover whose pet reaches 500 pounds. Practically no one wants to take the problem off their hands.

With jungle-scale plants, however, owners may be able to bring things back to manageable size.

"In many cases, we suggest air-layering. That's encouraging a strong branch or main stem to form roots while still attached to the parent plant," said Ward Upham, Master Gardener coordinator for Kansas State University Research and Extension.

The process creates a much smaller plant that is exactly as large as the branch or stem that extends beyond the new root ball. The branch/stem tip becomes the new plant's top.

"After that, the rest of the parent plant can go in the compost pile," Upham said.

The technique doesn't work on all houseplants, he warned. But, it can do a good job with such favorites as the croton, dracaena, dieffenbachia, Norfolk Island pine, rubber plant and schefflera.

Upham listed these steps as the air-layering process:

* Locate 1-year-old wood (no older/younger) on a branch/stem, preferably 12 inches from its tip.

* Remove the leaves from the area to be air-layered for root development.

* Choose: Option 1 is to make a slanting, upward cut that is 1 inch or more in length and goes halfway through the stem. Place part of a toothpick in the cut so the wound can't close and heal. (If the stem is seriously weakened by this, also use a stick as a "splint" to prevent breakage.)

Option 2 is to strip the bark completely around the stem in a 0.5- to 1-inch-wide band.

* Apply rooting hormone to the cut surface or the stripped portion of the branch/stem.

* Pack a baseball-size wad of moist, unmilled (i.e., long, stringy) sphagnum peat moss around the wounded area. Use string, if necessary to secure the ball in place.

* Cover the ball of unmilled sphagnum peat moss with enough clear plastic wrap to overlap and keep the ball from drying out. Secure the wrap's top and bottom edges with electrical tape, string or other convenient fastener.

* Check periodically to ensure the peat moss remains moist. Water, if needed.

"Roots may appear in as little as a month, but it typically takes much longer for the new plant to actually be ready for transplanting," Upham said. "An air-layered plant is prepared to be severed from its parent only after new roots have filled the peat moss."

Got Debt?

We can help! Lance H. Cochran of the law offices of Kennedy Berkley Yarnevich & Williamson, Chtd. represents people in need of bankruptcy assistance. If you have questions about bankruptcy please give us a call. Our toll free number is (800) 289-2018 or you may call (785) 825-4674 M-F 8-5.



E-Mail: lcochran@kenberk.com
119 W. Iron Ave., United Bldg 7th Floor, Salina, KS

Visit us on the web at www.kenberk.com

KENNEDYBERKLEYARNEVICH&WILLIAMSON
CHARTERED

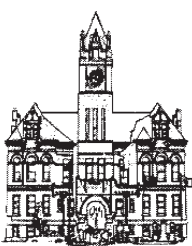
This notice, as required by the United States Congress, informs you that this law office is a Debt Relief Agency. We help people file for bankruptcy relief under the Bankruptcy Code.

Advertising Executive

Are you interested in a better job?
A professional position, dealing with
the business community?

The Colby Free Press, an award-winning daily newspaper, is looking for an advertising executive. This person will represent the newspaper and the Country Advocate with customers in the community as part of a three-person advertising department.

Call Steve Haynes, Publisher,
to set-up an interview. **EOE**



COLBY FREE PRESS

155 W. 5th
462-3963

ICBA Says Wall Street Should Shoulder Burden to Rebuild FDIC's Deposit Insurance Fund

Community Banks Should Not Pay for Sins of Wall Street

Washington, D.C. (February 27, 2009)-Camden R. Fine, president and CEO of the Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA), today issued the following statement.

"ICBA is greatly disappointed with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's (FDIC) decision to substantially increase the deposit insurance fund (DIF) premium assessment. Once again, Main Street community banks that didn't participate in the high-risk practices that led to the current economic crisis are being asked to pay for the sins of Wall Street.

"How ironic that on the same day that Citi is getting its third bailout from the government in six months, community banks are being kicked in the teeth by sharply higher FDIC assessments. The largest financial institutions are the ones that destabilized our economy. It is regrettable that the FDIC has decided to levy such a heavy burden on Main Street banks to indirectly pay for the economic wreckage caused by the incompetence and greed on Wall Street.

"Community banks are common-sense lenders that played by the rules, yet they are shouldering a disproportionate share of the premium to rebuild the DIF due to the structure of the assessment base. The FDIC should change the structure of the assessment base and be permitted to levy a systemic risk premium on the too-big-to-fail institutions that helped trigger the problems that led to the fund being depleted.

"During the fourth quarter of 2008, community banks had the largest percentage increase in lending across the industry. For every dollar paid in premium assessments, a community banks' ability to make loans and support economic recovery will be reduced at least eightfold.

"Fortunately, the majority of our nation's more than 8,000 community banks remain safe, sound and secure. They are well-capitalized, well-managed and continue to serve their customers and their communities in cities and towns throughout our country. Community banks will continue to be the economic engines that pull Main Street America and this nation out of these very troubled economic times."



100 S. Range Ave.
Colby, KS 67701
462-2224