

# Investment in Kansas good idea for dairy

By Pat Melgares

Kansas State University  
mlpeter@ksu.edu

REXFORD – To some, Tom McCarty's decision in 2000 to move his family's century-old dairy from Pennsylvania to the plains of Kansas may have seemed like quite a leap of faith.

For McCarty – well, not so much.

"To make a long story short, there was absolutely no future (in Pennsylvania) long term to be in the dairy business," said McCarty, whose dairy was milking about 200 cows daily prior to re-locating near Colby.

Tom and his four sons – Clay, Mike, David and Ken – together own McCarty Family Farms, with dairies in Rexford, Bird City and Scott City. The operations milk about 7,200 cows – 24 hours a day, seven days a week – and produce about 59,000 gallons of milk a day.

Earlier this year, the McCartys announced the completion of a multi-million-dollar milk processor and evaporator at the Rexford facility. In June, they signed an exclusive rights agreement to provide all of the condensed skim milk for Dannon Yogurt's plant in Fort Worth.

"We are a family dairy; I think that's a key reason they chose to work with us," Tom McCarty said. "We're quality conscious; we believe in consistency; and I guess they look at us as a family."

## Modest Beginnings

Tom McCarty's great grandfather started the family business in northeast Pennsylvania 105 years ago, milking seven cows. Tom's grandfather had 20 milking cows, and Tom's father doubled the business to 40.

"In 1970, my wife and I built a new facility, and got up to 80 cows, (and soon after) we doubled it to about 150," Tom said.

All four sons were active in the dairy growing up. As young men, they showed an interest in being partners, but the Pennsylvania dairy was not going to grow enough to support five families.

"Our options were few and far between to stay in the ag side of things, to continue to grow and stay in the dairy industry," said David McCarty, who graduated from Kansas State University

with a degree in animal science in 2002. "You move to western Kansas, there's feed, and there's nothing holding you back as far as growing. That was the biggest draw."

## The Dairy Grows

In 2000, McCarty Family Farms' new Kansas operation was milking 800 cattle, and was primed for new opportunities.

"Economics changed, the dairy industry changed, the lending industry changed, and we were forced into milking more cows in a less expensive way," said Ken McCarty, also a K-State animal sciences graduate. "So we added some open lots, pushed up to about 1,200 head of milking cows, and a little bit later added more open lots and pushed upwards of about 1,600 head of milking cows."

By 2009, McCarty Family Farms added a heifer yard with 3,500 animals, and had nearly 6,000 head of livestock at the Rexford location alone.

## New Dairies

Soon, the company built a dairy in Bird City and leased one in Scott City.

"We went and asked them to consider expanding to Bird City," said Cathy Domsch, executive director of Bird City Century II Development Foundation. "The opportunity I saw was getting kids in our schools; that was my number-one goal in getting a dairy."

"We didn't realize that was an impact that we'd have when we moved out here," said Ken McCarty. "Where we grew up, the economy was very diverse and ag was just a small piece of the pie back there. Here, it's more of an ag-based economy, and ag-based communities. We didn't understand the impact that 20, 30, 40 kids would have on a local school district."

Domsch said that an added 30 students to her town's schools translates to more than \$200,000 in state money. Likewise, in Colby and the surrounding school district, enrollment has increased by at least 32 students.

"By bringing the McCarty Dairy to northwest Kansas and creating the jobs" Christy Rocca, director of the Thomas County Economic Development Alliance, "increasing the enrollment in schools, that has made a huge impact for us."

"This is what it's going to take to bring people back to northwest

Kansas. This is what it's going to take to stop that decrease in population."

## Care for Natural Resources

In the main facility at Rexford, McCarty Family Farms has positioned itself as a "net-neutral, or a net-negative water user," according to Ken McCarty.

"We've added 500 head of lactating cows," he said. "Cows drink a lot of water, (but) we actually draw less water out of our well today than we did a year ago."

Water from the facility is filtered, purified and eventually used as drinking water and stock water. Water is drawn from the milk in the new evaporator, and used to irrigate cropland.

"The lifecycle of a gallon of water on this farm is pretty dynamic," Ken McCarty said. "Water can be recycled anywhere from two to six times on this dairy before it eventually ends up out on the fields."

"We use zero commercial fertilizer on our ground and we also have enough effluent waste to spread on other farmers' grounds, where they have to use zero commercial fertilizers. We recycle all of our sand bedding. Everything is done on these farms for economic reasons but also for sustainability reasons. We try to recycle and re-use and be as efficient as we can be."

Taking care of the land "is what we do," Tom said. "We take pride in taking good care of cattle; employees get a lot of training in doing everything properly. Environmentally, we've had a very good relationship with the (Kansas Department of Health and Environment)."

## Relationship with K-State

David and Ken McCarty say their years at K-State helped them develop relationships that have extended into their professional lives. Tom McCarty said that several members of the extension and teaching faculty – especially Mike Brouk, John Smith, Joe Harner and John Shirley – helped the farm even before the move to Kansas.

"K-State had and continues to have a great reputation," Tom said. "In Pennsylvania, we had a good relationship with Penn State extension and it was the same atmosphere here. People you can trust; we worked very well."

Ken said the university staff helped with design and financial decisions.

"K-State helped with the dairy's overall concept and the basic ideas and critical components," he said.

## The Future

The farm's system is so efficient that milk from Kansas goes from "cow to cup" in about 48 hours. That includes shipping the product to Dannon's Texas facility.

"Hopefully it will mean a more stable business for my son to come back to, my brothers' kids to come back to. Ultimately we hope a cheaper product for (consumers)," Ken said of the agreement.

Noted David McCarty: "It's a unique partnership. It's the only one that's really like this in the country at the moment. It's great to be part of, obviously. Plus, we get to do what we enjoy, which is pretty cool in itself."

Tom said that it's satisfying to look back over the farm's last 12 years in Kansas.

"Where we're going to be in a year, or five years, I don't know," he said. "We're always open to getting better; if it takes getting larger, we have no qualms about that. We'll do what we have to do to go with the flow and try to match whatever forces are there."

## Public Notice

In accordance with Kansas Administrative Regulation, K.A.R. 28-71-12(a), established pursuant to the Voluntary Cleanup and Property Redevelopment Act (Kansas Statutes Annotated 65-34, 161 through 65-34, 174), the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) hereby provides notice to the public of KDHE's acceptance of a **Voluntary Cleanup Plan submitted for the Agrilience LLC - Colby property situated south of Highway 24, approximately two miles east of the town of Colby, Kansas.** KDHE will accept written comments from the public concerning the proposed Voluntary Cleanup Plan during a **15-day public comment period beginning on September 24 and ending on October 8, 2012.**

The Voluntary Cleanup Plan is available for review at KDHE offices in Topeka, Kansas. If requested by the public, KDHE will make the Voluntary Cleanup Plan available for review by the public in Hays, Kansas. Requests to review and written comments concerning the KDHE-accepted Voluntary Cleanup Plan for the Agrilience - Colby property in Thomas County, Kansas, should be directed to the following address.

Kansas Department of Health and Environment  
Bureau of Environmental Remediation  
Attn: VCPRP Coordinator  
1000 SW Jackson St., Suite 410  
Topeka, Kansas 66612  
785-296-8064  
Fax 785-296-7030

(Published in the Colby Free Press on Monday, September 24, 2012)

# Cloggers to take stage in Atwood on Sunday

Joel Harrison, leader of the Tap This Cloggers from Nebraska, will present a show of dance steps at 3 p.m. Sunday in the Rawlins County High School Auditorium, sponsored by the Western Plains Arts Association.

Harrison, director of competition teams for the Capital City Cloggers of Lincoln, was the youngest instructor ever inducted into the National Clogging

Hall of Fame. He was director of the 2002 All Star Pro Team for the western United States.

This group recently competed on the television reality show, "America's Got Talent." The cloggers are recognized for their high-energy precision and innovative choreography. Admission is by season ticket or at the door, adults \$20, students \$10.

## Public Notice

### NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to K.S.A. 8-1102, the following abandoned motor vehicles which have been impounded by the Thomas County Sheriffs Office. These vehicles will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder after October 2012 on Purple Wave Auction.

If a vehicle was previously titled by a state other than Kansas, or as a non-highway vehicle, a Motor Vehicle Identification Number Verification Form will also be required to obtain title of any vehicle purchased and will be the responsibility of the buyer to request the verification and pay the costs involved.

The Thomas County Sheriffs Office reserves the right to withdraw any or all of the described vehicles prior to the time of the sale. No implied warranty of condition shall be understood by such sales.

Owners, if any, have failed to claim impounded vehicles. The owners thereof may claim their vehicles and contents within ten days of the date of the second publication of this notice by paying the removal and storage charges incurred.

All sales shall be made under conditions imposed by the auctioneer representing the Thomas County Sheriffs Office and all sales must be settled at the time of the sale. Titles will be transferred to buyers, if available. Requirements of the state regarding titles to abandoned or unclaimed vehicles will be met by furnishing an Affidavit of Sale and Proof of Publication.

### Vehicles to be sold:

1991 HONDA CRX SEDAN 2 DOOR  
VIN- JHMED8459MS016334  
LAST REGISTERED OWNER- RICARDO PINON

1993 CHEVROLET EURO SEDAN 4 DOOR  
VIN-2G1WN54TOP9146128  
LAST REGISTERED OWNER- KAYLA BRYANT

1998 GMC SIERRA 1500 PICKUP  
VIN-1GTGEC14W2W543016  
LAST REGISTERED OWNER- TRAVIS GRAVES

(Published in the Colby Free Press on Monday, September 17, 24, 2012)

## Public Notice

### IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of Alice Theresa Gartner, deceased  
Case No. 12-PR-29

### NOTICE OF HEARING

The State of Kansas to All Persons Concerned:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in this court by Tammy Morton, as an heir of Alice Theresa Gartner, deceased, praying for the determination of the descent of the following described real estate located in Thomas County, Kansas, to-wit:

Lots 6-7 in Block 14 of the South Park Addition to the City of Colby, Thomas County, Kansas.

and you are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before October 9, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. of said day, in said court, in the City of Colby, in Thomas County, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition.

Tammy Morton, Petitioner

Laurence A. Taylor #9496  
Attorney at Law  
1480 W. 4th Street, P.O. Box 509  
Colby, KS 67701  
(785) 462-6736  
Attorney for Petitioner

(Published in the Colby Free Press on Monday, September 17, 24, October 1, 2012)

GIVE BLOOD.  
SHARE LIFE!

For more information on donating blood, please call 1-888-719-8929 or in the Wichita area, 268-0834



Send local news to colby.society@nwkansas.com

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

To have your ad placed in the Business Directory call Sharon or Kathryn today at 785-462-3963



## Auto | Home | Life

Call today to see how I make Insurance simple and can help you protect what matters most.



FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES

Insurance • Investments

Securities & services offered through FBL Marketing Services, LLC - 5400 University Ave., West Des Moines, IA 50266, 877-660-2904, Member SIPC, Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company, Western Agricultural Insurance Company, Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company, West Des Moines, IA. \*Affiliated Company providers of Farm Bureau Financial Services PC02E-ML-BC (2-12)

## ROOFMASTERS

Serving Colby for over 30 YEARS!

425 East Hill, Colby, KS  
785-462-8642  
Licensed  
Bonded  
Insured  
FREE ESTIMATES  
WHO YA GONNA CALL?

RESIDENTIAL  
Heritage Shingles  
Wood Shingles  
IR Shingles  
Stone Coated Steel  
Metal Panels

COMMERCIAL  
EPDM Rubber  
White TPO Single Ply  
Modified Systems  
Built up Systems  
Elastomeric Coating

## NEW SYSTEM PROFESSIONAL WINDOW CLEANING

(800) 611-6735

www.MyWindowCleaner.net  
Serving Colby since 1992!

Commercial • Residential • Free Estimates

## James DesRoches | High Plains Plumbing

785-672-5032 Available 7 days a week



We offer a large range of quality service, repair & new construction in the residential & commercial market.

Gas Certified • Water Treatment & Filtration • Water Heaters  
Solar • Service & Repair • Home Addition • New Construction

High Plains Plumbing | 462 US Highway 83, Oakley, KS 67748  
www.highplainsplumbingks.com | Email: highplainsplumbingks@gmail.com

## UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

### Mobile Home Lots for Rent

\$175 Month  
(includes water, sewer & storage shed)  
FREE Month with approved application

Friendly Acres  
Mobile Home Park  
1150 S. Franklin, Colby  
Call 785-462-6445

## Dr. Tom Barlow DENTIST

785-460-7538

Appointments  
Readily Available

505 H N. Franklin, Colby

## Meadow Lake Restaurant & Lounge

Monday Nights  
\$1 Draws

Saturday Nights  
Prime Rib



785-460-6443  
1085 E Golf Club Rd. • Colby, KS

## THOMAS County INSURANCE AGENCY

Serving NW Kansas for over 100 years.

Representing many companies to provide all your insurance needs:

- Home, Auto, Boat, Motorcycle, RV
- Farm and Crop Insurance
- Commercial Property, Automobiles
- General Liability, Workers Compensation
- Inland Marine, Builders Risk
- Auto Service Shops
- Body Shop and Collision Repair
- Contractors
- Restaurants
- Salons and Day Spas
- Strip Malls, Condominiums
- Churches, Schools, Day Care Centers



Dennis R. Tubbs/Agent

P.O. Box 506 • 490 N. Franklin  
Ph: 785-462-3939 • Fax: 785-462-3752  
dtubbs@thomascountyins.com • www.thomascountyins.com

## Baalmann Mortuary

190 S. Franklin • P.O. Box 391 • Colby, KS 67701

(785)462-2331

"Family Serving Families"

- Funeral & Cremation Services
- Monuments & Prearrangements

All Harrison Chapel Prearrangements will be honored



Live at the resort in your RV Oakley/Colby!

Live in your RV at the #1 rated RV resort in Kansas.  
\$495 monthly rent - includes water, sewer, electric & cable TV!

Swimming pool, hot tubs, clean restrooms, Propane available, clubhouse and laundry room, and store!

We only have a few sites available for monthly guests, so call us now.  
High Plains RV Resort • (785)672-3538 • www.HighPlainsCamping.com  
We sell PROPANE PROPANE PROPANE!