



# Bus and Coach International launch bus here

## \* Open house held

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 All of this means a lot for Jennings and the area, said Mr. Oldridge. Already the firm has 20 buses presold. Most of the people who buy new buses have old ones to trade in, he said, and those need to be refurbished so they can be sold. Refurbishing buses should add jobs here, he said. The firm also has a transit bus, but the first one isn't here yet, he said. It probably will be a year or so before it arrives. In order to sell a transit bus in the United States, Mr. Oldridge added, 52 percent of the content has to be completed here. The firm would like to build a 20,000-square-foot facility out back, said Mr. Oldridge, and do that work here. This new 2007 BCI Falcon Motor Coach, built in China to American standards and design, has been signed off and approved, he said. It is ready for sale. This business in Jennings, said Mr. Oldridge, is a long-term project. This company is going to be here for a long time.



OBERLIN RESIDENT Kevin Cooper looked in the back of the BCI Falcon 45 Motor Coach at the firm's open house in Jennings on Saturday.

It is important to BCI to be able to get the parts and get people who want to come buy buses in and out of here, he said. An expansion at the airport will expand this community like there is no tomorrow, said Mr. Oldridge. Once BCI starts to move, businesses will be built around the headquar-

ters. The need is for an airport with a longer runway, he said. The company needs a facility to do transit sales and to ship parts from. BCI wants to do all of that from here, but it can't be done without someone in a truck driving 4/12 hours. "We aren't here to ask for tax

breaks or freebies," he said. "We want to be part of the community and support the community. "This is a fantastic location for us with people with a great education level." Mr. Oldridge invited everyone to take a look at the bus, but asked them to remember it was a handmade pro-

totype, so there are a few dings in it. Anyone with questions for the board members was free to ask them, he said. Once the building is finished, he added, the firm plans to have another open house. The audience gave Mr. Oldridge a standing ovation.

## \* Board flies in

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 were Phil Oldridge, president and chief executive officer; Larry Brennan, vice president and spokesman; Chuck Vanaveldt and Cathy Code, distributors; Brendan Riley, a business associate; Norm Freeman, a board member; Lee Gilroy, a board member, and his wife Alyson; Sally Shephard, David Elkaim and Natasha Vonflie, family members; Mark Rosenthal, national sales director; David Oldridge, national director of engineering and maintenance; Benny Yamagata and Chad Dixon, board members; and Lou Sardo president of Sardo Bus and Coach, a leading providers of interiors in the bus and coach industry.

One of the frequently asked questions was when the company would be hiring again. Mr. Brennan said that when the company does hire, they will be advertising in *The Oberlin Herald* and on their website [www.bcibus.com](http://www.bcibus.com), so people need to look in those places. He said he didn't have a date in mind. Mr. Brennan said the open house had been great. "We were thrilled to have so many people from the community come out and show support," he said.

The next thing is the expo, in which BCI is one of the sponsors, in New Orleans. The company will have a strong presence there and will publicly unveil the new coach. Mr. Oldridge said he thought the open house had gone well. It was good to touch on some issues that are important to the community and the success of BCI.

Standing just behind the prototype bus, Mr. Oldridge said five more of the 2007 Falcon 45 coaches have arrived at the port of Long Beach. They will be taken to Las Vegas, given a final check, then sold and distributed from there. Within the next 90 to 120 days, he said, the Jennings facility should be completed so they can start finishing buses here. Mr. Oldridge, who lives in Pasadena, said he travels a lot for BCI. He said he has purchased 550 acres outside of Oberlin and plans to break ground for a home this summer. He and Mr. Gilroy purchased a farm near Dresden too. Mr. Brennan, vice president, has a home in Oberlin where he lives.

## \* Cattle and people feel the stress from blizzard

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 the said. One herd of cattle, said Mr. Anderson, was on milo stalks and they were walking around trying to find some when they got fed. So far, said Mr. Anderson, he hasn't heard of anyone around him losing cattle in the storm. Last year during the storm after Thanksgiving some of the cattle in the area wandered off following the wind, but people found them latter. Last year's storm, he said, was worse. There were bigger drifts, people were without power longer and there were more cattle out in the fields. In the early '80s, he said, he can remember the year the area got back-to-back blizzards. A lot of the roads couldn't be opened by farmers, so the county did it. The roads were open for a day and people headed to town to get supplies, then another blizzard hit. It was hard to get the roads open again because there wasn't anywhere to put the snow. At the Decatur County Feed Yard north of town, Manager Kevin Unger said their first priority was getting the feed bunks cleaned out and roads plowed so they could get

the trucks moving for feeding. The feed yard, he said, has snow removal equipment. He said they try to get the snow pushed so that they can feed the herd. In this part of the country, said Mr. Unger, we just aren't used to getting a lot of rain ahead of a snow. This time it rained first and then snowed, so the pens were muddy underneath

the snow. Normally, he said, they would push snow out of the pens for the cattle, but couldn't do that with this storm. Anytime there is adverse weather like this, he said, it presents a stress problem for the cattle. That is why they try to get the snow moved quickly and get to feeding the animals on time.

There are times, he said, where workers have to stay at the yard so there is someone there to move the snow and feed the cattle. With this storm and the holidays, he said, it was more difficult. The storm wasn't just hard on the cattle; it was hard on the people, too. For the cattle, he said, they have to worry about weight loss in

weather like this and their health. It helps to feed them on time and some of the health concerns are taken care of through the feed. Mr. Unger said there is no way to put a number on what the storm will cost in money or weight gain. Lost performance is as much or higher than any death loss that they have experienced, he said.

## \* City OKs opening

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 restrictions inside the city limits last fall, the council agreed to keep the dock closed since the area was still in a drought. Mr. Shike said County Commissioner Ralph Unger called him as a farmer and on behalf of the county to ask if the city could open the dock for people to use after the storm and then to keep it open while the city isn't on water restrictions. Councilman Ray Ward said he doesn't have a problem with opening the dock during emergencies, but the area is still in a drought and he doesn't think the dock needs to be open all the time. The council agreed to keep the water dock open until everyone in the county has power. After that, it will be shut again.

### Cover Your Acres Winter Conference

**January 23-24, 2007, at the Gateway in Oberlin, KS • Kansas State University and the Northwest Kansas Crop Residue Alliance**  
 Discussing the latest technology, methods, and conservation practices to improve crop production on the High Plains

Time	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4	Room 5	Exhibit Hall
7:45-8:15 a.m.	Registration					
8:15 - 8:35	Welcome					
	<b>University Sessions</b>			<b>Industry Sessions</b>		
8:45 - 9:33	New Weed Control Options for Grain Sorghum*	Chloride, Sulfur and Slow-release Urea in Crops	Government Programs for No-till	All New Sprayer Technologies	Sunflower Management	Sponsor Displays
9:40-10:28	2007 Farm Bill	Managing Crops with Limited Irrigation	Starter Fertilizer in No-till	The State of Fertilizer in 2007	Quality Forage and using GRP/GRIP for Silage	
10:35-11:23	Starter Fertilizer in No-till	Getting the Most out of Glyphosate*	Crop Yields and Costs in No-till	Kansas Corn: Keeping Tools in the Toolbox	Avoiding Strip-till Mistakes	
11:30-12:30	Flexible Fallow	New Weed Control Options for Grain Sorghum*	Noon Meal			
12:40-1:40	Auto-guidance: Does it Pay?	Government Programs for No-till	Noon Meal			
1:50-2:38	Crop Yields and Costs in No-till	Ogallala Aquifer: Where are we going?	Corn Trait Management		What Precision Ag Can Do for You	
2:45 - 3:33	Government Programs for No-till	Dryland Soybean Production (farmer)	Flexible Fallow	New DuPont Herbicides for RR Corn	Benefits of Ammonium Chloride	Sponsor Displays
3:40 - 4:28	Getting the Most out of Glyphosate*	Yields and Economics of No-till Wheat	Chloride, Sulfur and Controlled-release Urea in Crops	Global Technologies	Sunflower Management	
4:35 - 5:23	Sprayer ownership. Is it for You? (farmer)	Skip-row Corn	2007 Farm Bill	Economics of Biofuels	Q and A: No-till Drills, Sprayers and AMS	
5:30 - 7:30	Industry Sponsored Bull session (refreshments and heavy hor d'oeuvres provided) in commercial display area - <b>will only be held on Tuesday, January 23</b>					

CEU credits for CCAs have been applied for all university sessions except farmer panels. \*CEU credits for IA for Commercial Pesticide Applicators have been approved.

**Diamond Sponsors: Hoxie Implement, Southwest Implement, Lang Diesel, and the National Sunflower Association**

**Registration - The conference will be held for two days with the same program each day. Early registration must be postmarked by January 18. Please register early.**

\$17.00	Tues. 23	Wed. 24	Early registration - Attend all the sessions for one day. Please mark which day.
<b>\$32.00 - Early registration to attend both days which will have the same program each day.</b>			
<b>\$35.00 - Registration per day or at the door after January 18.</b>			

All registrations include proceedings for conference along with refreshments and meals. For questions, please call 785-462-6281.

**Mail registration and check, payable to KSU to the following address:**  
 Northwest Area Office, ATTN: Brian Olson, PO Box 786, Colby, KS 67701

Please include the following information:  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Program will be held regardless of weather.