

As a 25-year veteran of the farm and ranch industry, Scott Dewerff didn't hesitate to sign on with KanEquip when it came to town last year. He was aware of KanEquip's reputation and wanted to be part of the team. Dewerff is store manager at the company's relatively

new location at U.S. 56 & Airport Road. "I knew KanEquip would be a great company to work for," Dewerff said. "It was created by a family and continues to be supported by that family. There is a great support network that we can depend on; everybody is happy to help."

That network includes a total of 14 locations in Kansas and Nebraska. The company was founded in 1967 as Meinhardt Farm Equipment in Wamego. And to the surprise of many, the Great Bend store is among the top performing locations in the KanEquip family of stores. In parts alone, the Great Bend location carries more than \$4 million in inventory.

"KanEquip has demonstrated over the years that it is a leader and trusted partner in providing products, support and innovative solutions to agricultural producers," Dewerff commented. "It is an established, successful company. This is the best career decision I ever made."

Product lines include CASE IH, JCB, Kinze, Exmark, Great Plains, Land Pride, Kuhn, KMW, MacDon, Drago, Duo Lift, HayBuster and J&M.

"These are amazing products and we have the team to back them up," Dewerff said. "We have the best employees you could ask for. They care about our customers, and make sure they are up and running. Our employees are skilled, gualified and professional. We wouldn't have been as successful during these first seven months in Great Bend without them."

Everyone who started at KanEquip on opening day, May 6, 2019, is still on the job. "That speaks volumes," Dewerff noted.



"You can tailor your resources to suit your needs and improve yields and accuracy."

For example, the new 2020 CASE IH AFS Connect Magnum is a game-changer. This whole new design was showcased recently when KanEquip hosted a two-day combine and tractor clinic. Such clinics are sponsored every year and feature a new piece of equipment.

KanEquip also prides itself on its professional service department. It can service any machine, no matter the brand. "We provide quality repairs with quaranteed workmanship," Dewerff said. "Our service department design includes large bays, overhead hoists and special tooling. This allows us to handle repair jobs quickly and efficiently to help minimize downtime in the field. We are here to ensure your equipment gets the job done, season after season."

KanEquip is always recruiting experienced technicians who are available 24/7 every day of the year. Not only do they offer competitive pay and benefits, but they also offer a unique opportunity for four years of paid training as well as a scholarship program at OSU. Currently, the local dealership employs 22 people.

While KanEquip employees focus on their customers each day, they never forget about the rest of the community. They donate time, cash and products to agricultural groups, school events, youth programs and other community causes.

"We are especially proud of our work with Kids' Aq Day," commented Dewerff, who is co-chair of the ag day committee. "Talking with these kids and demonstrating the equipment is fun and educational. They are the future of farming and ranching. And it all starts with teaching youngsters to love and care for the land.

"Since we live here too, we are proud to take care of the community that takes care of us. This makes for a great team," added Dewerff, who serves on the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and is the 2020 chair of the Kids Ag Day Committee.

Other community entities and events that have the support of KanEquip include fire departments, 4-H, Kids Tractor Safety Day and libraries. KanEquip is planning to attend the Great Bend Farm & Ranch Expo in April. They also sponsor numerous FFA groups throughout their service area.

Jim Meinhardt, KanEquip president, said the Great Bend site was attractive





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