

Kirk Pederson and Kori Cloud join the Teresa Boeken Agency in Sterling

Local is more than just an idea at the Teresa Boeken Farm Bureau and Financial Service Agency. With the addition of two more associates, the agency now has five licensed staff that are able to provide local, friendly, and professional service to their Rice County and area clients. Since she began her affiliation with Farm

Bureau in 2005 with a staff of one, the Boeken agency has continued to grow to what it is today. As the latest additions, Boeken is pleased to introduce Kirk Pederson as the most recent addition to the Sterling office. Kirk is a Veteran, Farmer and Consultant with 20 years in the insurance and financial services industry.

He specializes in Wealth Management, Chronic Care Protection, Life Time Income, Life Insurance, Buy/Sell, Key Man and Farm/Ranch Liquidity. Kori Cloud also joined the Teresa Boeken Agency in 2016 as a Service Associate. Kori is the mother of three and previously served as the Secretary for the United Presbyterian Church

in Sterling. Kori was born and raised in Sterling, and is excited about the opportunity to help Farm Bureau client/members prepare for the future and protect what matters most to them. These additions bring Boeken's Agency to a staff of five. With the purchase of the adjacent laundromat building with Sherry Jones, the AgMax Crop Agent in Sterling, more expansion is on the horizon.

Her other staff includes Ben Waters who has been a part of the team since April of 2013. He works

alongside Boeken to help educate new and existing clients about insurance coverage to help meet their changing needs. He specializes in Home and Auto, Life Insurance, and Commercial Insurance. Waters has been married for 13 years his wife Erica and they have three active children. He and his wife enjoy watching their kids' sporting events. Waters is also the New Account Acquisition Manager.

Becky Boeken has been part of the team since April of 2013. It is her pleasure to

serve and provide excellent customer care. She helps customers make change to their auto or home policy, quote requests, or just customer policy questions. Becky has three grown boys who've brought great joy. She spends free time with her nine granddaughters and one grandson. Becky enjoys shopping, taking pictures, attending church together and baking with her grandkids. Becky is Operations and Administrative Assistant at the Boeken agency.

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Zimms Feedlot growth continues; herd health safety processes evolve

Zimm's Feedlot, a moderate sized feedlot south of Lyons is making huge leaps in food safety practices, putting their small business on the map nationally.

Though the operation has a customer base of about 10 cattle producers, it is working towards putting in safety practices usually only used by larger operations. The measures are all part of a voluntary program known as the Progressive Beef Program. The program is third party verified through a membership Zimm's has through the Beef Marketing Group (BMG). BMG is a cooperative that works across the industry with ranchers, feedlots and even packing plants to help them set animal quality standards, environmentally friendly practices and supply chain management to ensure sustainability and quality.

Among the numerous measures include scale checks, clean water tanks, controlling flies, and electronic animal health tracking. These factors are all documented so that consumers can see that their product is high quality. "It helps standardize the processes across the board and offers better market options," said Zimmerman.

Meeting the standards while difficult, is not impossible. It is all a part of bring nutritious beef to the table for consumers. Zimm's has increased employee training, documentation, and accountability in every step of the process. "We've always had a clean facility, solid animal care practices and quality cattle. We were doing a good job, now we're doing

even better and we have the documentation to prove it," said Zimmerman.

Zimm's Feedlot is located north of Sterling. Zimmerman and his family moved there in the 1970s from their original home which was located four miles south of Sterling. The feedlot was started by Zimmerman's father Wendell and mother Pat who began the operation as a fully licensed feedlot in 1985. During the winter Wendell would work with a dirt contractor.

What is today a moderate size operation began as simply a 40 acre plot with a few pens. In 1985 Zimm's Feedlot was licensed for 3,000 head of cattle. In 2005 that changed to add on an additional 600. The current office building was built in 2009.

The feedlot has two full time workers. The foreman, Jim Scobee, has been with the feedlot since 1985. The other recently hired full time worker is Cody Neville who runs the feed truck. Zimmerman's wife Lillian takes calls and performs other duties in the office.

Though he is today the manager of the business, Zimmerman has been involved in almost every aspect of work at a feedlot working on the farm since high school. That tradition is currently being continued through Zimmerman and Scobee's sons who have been helping out on the farm during their school years. From farm to table the multi generational staff at Zimm's Feedlot is committed to providing the public with the highest quality beef possible.



Todd Zimmerman, Manager



Zimm's Feedlot has continued to add infrastructure and equipment over the years to improve the operations efficiency and feed capacity. Recently a shop and storage building was added for equipment maintenance. The feedlot is located south of the Kansas Ethanol plant East of Highway 14 between Lyons and Sterling.



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