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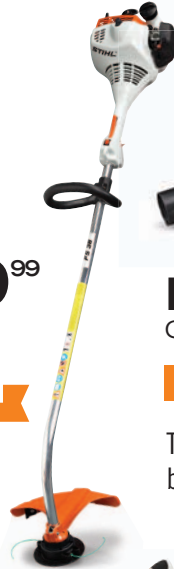
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THE BRAND THAT WORKS



On The Cover

The Kubota SSV65 skid steer is a perfect rental machine because it's both easy to use and affordable. At \$99 a day, the SSV65 is an economical solution to any job. GP Rents is now offered at all four Great Plains Kubota locations. By providing a rental department Great Plains Kubota has provided equipment solution options to their customers



and the communities they serve. **One the cover** a SSV65 is put to work by Rock Creek Pools at a job in Ada, Okla.
Photos By: Reed Boettcher

THE EVOLUTION OF FARM SHOWS · THIS EDITORIAL EXAMINES HOW FARM SHOWS FIT INTO THE ONLINE ERA OF BUYING AND SELLING GOODS **PG.4**

THE POWER OF LIGHTNING · STIHL INTRODUCES A BATTERY POWERED LINE OF TOOLS THAT WILL PROVIDE USERS POWER LIKE NEVER BEFORE **PG.6**

FACTORS OF FIRE · GUEST WRITERS GIVE INPUT ON BOTH THE DANGERS AND BENEFITS OF FIRE AND HOW TO AVOID AND MINIMIZE FIRE DESTRUCTION **PG.8**

GP RENTS · TAKING ROOT AND PICKING UP STEAM THE RENTAL DEPARTMENTS AT GREAT PLAINS KUBOTA PROVIDE AN AFFORDABLE, ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION FOR EQUIPMENT NEEDS **PG.12**

MOWERS OF SPRING · THE KUBOTA Z400 SERIES AND THE HUSTLER RAPTOR FLIP-UP MODELS PROVIDE LAWN MAINTENANCE SOLUTIONS TO A VARIETY OF CONSUMERS **PG.14**

SPOTLIGHT ON EMPLOYEE · ZACHARY TYNER OF GREAT PLAINS SHAWNEE HAS BEEN WITH GP FOR A WHILE BUT LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT THIS GP EMPLOYEE **PG.15**

GRASS HEALTH · LEARN HOW IMPROVING YOUR GRASS WILL ULTIMATELY LEAD TO IMPROVED LIVESTOCK HEALTH **PG.19**

TIPS FROM THE PROS · **M&M OUTDOOR MAINTENANCE** AND **CUSTOM POWER CLEAN** PROVIDE LAWN CARE TIPS FROM A PROFESSIONAL'S POINT OF VIEW **PG.21**

METAL HEADS · GARY HUFFSTUTLAR AND DERRELL MEEKS LOVE TO WORK WITH METAL; HOWEVER, THEIR CREATIVE PROCESS AND END RESULTS ARE DIFFERENT **PG.24**

THE BRANDING IRON · EXPERIENCE THE KUBOTA DIFFERENCE AT OUR "ORANGE EVENT DAYS" SET FOR THIS SPRING READ ABOUT THE FUN, FOOD, PRIZES, AND GREAT DEALS ON THE BRANDING IRON **PG.29**

AS YOU ARE GOING · BRAD CLAY IS MORE THAN A FRIEND AND PARTNER OF GP, HE'S A MAN WITH A MISSION **PG.30**

THE CODE · "TALK LESS, SAY MORE" IS EXPLORED IN THIS ISSUE OF THE CODE BY BILL CLARK **PG.31**



Farm Show Evolution

EDITORIAL



I have worked farm shows for as long as I've worked for Great Plains Kubota. We started off small in the beginning, but by 2012 our dealerships were displaying Kubota equipment at numerous trade shows and farms shows. We eventually ended up at the Oklahoma City Farm Show, still the largest show we attend. All shows have their differences, but they always start and finish the same. They begin with a mad fury of equipment dealers and vendors fighting to squeeze through a single access point into the designated building. The scene is frightening, and reminds me of a clogged artery waiting to burst! The end of a farm show isn't much different. There's always a designated "breakdown" time, but a questionable breakdown time begins when early birds start sneaking their booths out early. In fact, the early bird breakdown is quite an art form. It starts with a little box and a banner, then maybe a dolly loaded with materials, and by the time you get back to your booth to grab some more stuff, the building is filled with diesel exhaust because tractors have begun to negotiate their way around the remaining vendor booths. This all takes place an hour before the official breakdown time. The trick to smoothly breaking down a booth is to be early and be prepared to stay late.

You are probably thinking, "What does this have to do with the evolution of a farm show?" Well, in the madness of setting up and breaking down, I always ask myself, was this worth it? Do we really need to do another farm show? Shopping has evolved to the point where people don't have to leave the comfort of their homes to shop. The internet is a wealth of information, even from an equipment shopping standpoint with its specs, reviews, and product comparisons. However, the internet can not replicate hands-on demonstrations or the knowledge of our salesman. So farm shows do provide experiences that online shopping doesn't. Historically people attended farm shows to see the latest equipment and innovations dedicated to the agricultural industry, and in a way this hasn't changed. A good farm show has lots of vendors, as well as large numbers of farmer and ranchers in attendance!

Farm show concepts haven't evolved that much. It's the vendors and the way they display their booths that has changed. Advances in technology allow today's vendors to dynamically offer their goods and services with interactive screens and high resolution imagery. But the farm equipment still does the talking. When setting up a farm show booth, the goal of Great Plains Kubota is to replicate a small version of our showrooms. Basically, this means we create a clean and inviting space for people to view our Kubota equipment without being pressured into a purchase. When walking past our booth, attendees will be noticed, but not ignored, greeted, but not pressured.

So, do we still need farm shows? Of course we do, and as long as shows are held in our communities, *#thebrand* will be there to represent our equipment and our way of life. Hope to see you at the next show!

- Reed Boettcher

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“This expanded battery product range strikes the perfect balance of performance, features and value allowing users to have even more options to find the right tool for their homes and businesses,” said Brian Manke, product manager at STIHL. “STIHL's battery system allows the equipment to run smoothly and quietly in a lightweight, comfortable package, while still delivering the power to get the job done.”

Versatile Line Allows Users to “Pick Your Power”

STIHL offers one of the largest selections of battery-powered outdoor equipment available, providing customers multiple product solutions for a variety of applications. With a single battery, users can power a wide range of equipment, including chain saws, string trimmers, hedge trimmers, blowers, pole pruners, extended-reach hedge trimmers, lawn mowers and a cut-off machine. The products are available in three tiers of performance, including occasional, frequent and extensive use:

STIHL AI Battery Series: AI Series products feature an integrated battery, great performance and enough run time to take care of jobs around the house on a single charge. This value-priced series is perfect for smaller yards and condominiums in urban environments.

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To learn more about the STIHL Lightning Battery System™, visit STIHLbattery.com. Tell us your story. What can you do on a single charge? #RealSTIHL

About STIHL Inc.

STIHL Inc. manufactures the number one selling brand of gasoline-powered handheld outdoor power equipment in America,* as well as the number one selling brand of chain saws in the world. STIHL is also the number one selling brand of gasoline-powered handheld outdoor power equipment among U.S. landscape professionals.** STIHL products are sold through servicing power equipment retailers from coast to coast – not big box stores. Located in Virginia Beach, Va., STIHL Inc., the headquarters for U.S. operations for the worldwide STIHL Group, exports to over 90 countries around the world; and the majority of STIHL products sold in America are also built in America.*** STIHL products sold through U.S. STIHL dealers are for distribution in the United States only. For more information or for the name of a local STIHL retailer, call toll free 1-800-GO STIHL (1-800-467-8445), visit STIHLusa.com or text your zip code to 78445.

***Number one selling brand" is based on syndicated Irwin Broh Research as well as independent consumer research of 2009-2016 U.S. sales and market share data for the gasoline-powered handheld outdoor power equipment category combined sales to consumers and commercial landscapers. ***"Number one selling" claim based on 2007-2016 syndicated Irwin Broh Research of the U.S. professional landscaper market. ***A majority of STIHL gasoline-powered units are built in the United States from domestic and foreign parts and components.*

STIHL is pleased to support the work of Independent We Stand, the Tree Research and Education Endowment Fund (TREE Fund), International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), the Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA), National FFA, National Association of Landscape Professionals, the National Recreation and Parks Association, the National Association of State Park Directors and the North American Retail Hardware Association.

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*See www.kubota.com for specific Z700 model information and applicable limited time promotional pricing. Optional equipment may be shown. © Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2015



Fire Wise

BY TIM STEFFENS

This article was originally published in an email blast that included "Fire Wise" by Tim Steffens, Steffens is the Assistant Professor, Rangeland Resource Management, at West Texas A&M University Department of Agricultural Sciences. Steffens, with the consent of his supervisors, has given permission to republish this article in the Spring 2017 issue of Great Plains living. All of us at Great Plains Kubota extend our deepest regrets to the those affected by the loss of life, livestock and property due to the recent wildfires in Oklahoma, Texas, and Kansas.

A few things come to mind to be "fire wise". One is when you have a fire, the ONLY safe place to be with regard to the headfire is upwind or in the black, in that order. PERIOD. Most fatal wildland fires are grass fires. That is partly because nobody would charge a crowning headfire in a forest. Part of it may be that the forest fires are usually fought by professionals while there are often lots of volunteers on grassfires. Nothing against volunteers, they have put out a lot of bad fires and professionals make plenty of mistakes too – but often it has been volunteers who ended up dying in wildfires I have been associated with.

Part of it may be the rapid changes that can occur with regard to fire behavior, direction of spread, etc. with grass fires. In these really intense fires like we just had here in Texas, they can make their own wind because of the updraft from the flames. SO just because you see a column of smoke and you know which way the wind is blowing does not mean it won't be coming from a different direction soon. The smoke column may be traveling along the ground for quite a way before it rises, so the fire may actually be some distance from the smoke column. Think of the high winds that suddenly come up and often change direction around a convection shower in the summer. It is the same physics at work.

Several people, including fire fighters have been killed because they get lost in the smoke and/or have a vehicle quit, get stuck, break down or otherwise become incapacitated with a fire front coming on. I know of several who dropped their wheels in a deep cow trail or fell through a bridge where the fire had burned through and they were trying to get to another part of the fire. Bear that in mind.

If you are in fire country, a shake roof should be illegal. They are generally made of cedar or some other highly flammable wood, and in a wildfire situation,

they will be extremely dry so that a smoldering ember could get your house totally enveloped in a few minutes, even if you have a low continuous fuel load up to the house. Asphalt shingles are only a little better. My vote is for a steel roof. The siding, soffits, etc. of your house can also be vulnerable and make it a target. Also, trees and shrubs, firewood, tall grass (basically anything combustible) next to the house is not a good thing. Anyone with a cedar tree near their house should get rid of it ASAP.

If you think you are safe with a nice short lawn and a brick house, consider this – it could be dormant season, like now, with dry grass, AND what about those weep-holes in the brick that they put there to allow condensation in the walls to get out. You could have just a small fire get into the wall and never know it until it breaks out. A suggestion I got from a friend the other day, who had to "bug out" before a wildfire got to his house a few years ago, is to have all your valuables gathered up in one place so you can get them in an instant and run. My wife has done that in the last few days.

The amount, the continuity, the volatility and the structure of the fuel has a lot to do with the rate of spread – as well as with the flame length and amount of heat generated. In the tallgrass areas of the recent panhandle fires, firefighters told me flames were higher than the electric lines. Bear in mind, that was with 50 mph winds blowing them horizontally to a considerable extent. Anything that has a pungent smell (e.g. cedar, sage, etc.) will have a high level of volatile oils that will make for hotter flames. Taller or denser vegetation is also a positive effect on fire heat and rate of spread.

If a fire is ONLY carried by combustion of the material within reach of the flame, I have been told that the maximum rate of spread is about 6 miles/hour on flat ground, even down wind. I can tell you from

experience, even that is pretty fast. HOWEVER, if being carried by blown embers, it can spread faster than the

speed of the wind as you get the 6 MPH on the ground plus the speed at which the embers can be carried out in front of the fire. A helicopter pilot helping fly retardant on the fires near Canadian said he clocked the movement of the headfire at >70 MPH. In an instance like that, if you are on the windward side of the headfire, you have fire starting in front of you and carrying up to it from behind at an extreme pace – a bad place to be. Fire will also travel MUCH faster up a hill than on flat ground or downhill, because the flame front is preheating the fuels in front of the flames. It will go even faster than that up a draw, gully, etc. because you are holding the heat in the sides of the draw.

Some folks blade or disk (or graze) in mineral lines around pastures or the border of their property. This is a good thing and may stop a ground fire, or at least slow it down enough for the fire fighters to get it under control as long as conditions aren't extreme. But in the conditions they had with these recent fires, with high winds, high temperatures, and high fuel loads that send burning embers often greater than 1/4 mile in front of the headfire, those will not stop the fire by themselves. They will, however provide something against which to start a backfire, if you have enough time. That might get enough black to stop the fire in that area.

I am a big fan of gravel, caliche, etc. all around the

headquarters for a ways to have a safe area from wildfire. The gravel combined with these firebreaks may provide enough difference to keep the homestead safe from an oncoming wildfire. Having these types of fireguards may also be a way to help provide a safe haven for livestock. Start the backfire against the bladed line, cut the fence and HOPE the livestock can drift in front of the fire front into the black. BUT DO NOT TRY TO DRIVE THE CATTLE TO SAFETY AND DO NOT be wasting a lot of time setting backfires and cutting fences with a fire front coming. Three young people were killed near McClean in these fires trying to save cattle and were overcome by the smoke. And I was told the cattle lived. There is not a HERD of cattle anywhere worth a human life.

I have not really done the following in the past, but plan to start ASAP. If you are in fire season, nobody should be without some way to make a fire themselves – a box of wooden kitchen matches, a butane lighter or best of all a road flare. Then, if you find yourself in a bad position with the fire front coming, you can find a patch of vegetation that is shorter and less dense – preferably next to a road or where you can drop the fire from a safe position. As the flame parts and the backfire heads to you, the flames should be lower and (hopefully), you can step over them into the black. If you're in doubt of what the backfire will be like, be sure you find a bare spot it can burn to safely and stand there until it is safe and then step into the black. Then, get as far out into it as possible from the oncoming fire

CONTINUED ON PG11



Opposite Page: High winds intensify the harsh conditions left in the aftermath of the recent fires in Oklahoma.
Pictured: In the midst of the devastation new life can be seen as it emerges from the ashes. Scenes such as this were the conditions that Clay Forst witnessed during his time spent helping repair fence. Forst is the Manager at Stuart Ranch Outfitters in Waurika, Okla.
Photos By: Clay Forst



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FIRE WISE CONTINUED...

front and GET LOW.

Folks think about the danger of the flames, but very few think about the hot gases and/or the smoke that you can be overcome by. My grad student's stepdad decided to save the ranch headquarters as a wildfire was approaching. This was in shortgrass country and the firefighters told him not to. The headquarters was on top of a rise. He saved the ranch and died a week later from smoke inhalation. The smoke and gases rise, so the safest place to be is down low.

BY CLAY FORST
STUART RANCH OUTFITTERS

Here at the Stuart Ranch we use fire as a tool to help manage our native grass, brush, and weeds on the ranch. Fire is something that Mother Nature has been using since the beginning of time to help manage her land when needed. At the ranch, we try to burn a portion each year depending on the needs of individual pastures. As I stated in my first sentence, fire is a tool, but it's something that must be respected, and your guard never let down when you are using it. In my opinion there is not a better way to manage your property than fire. There is a secondary benefit from the prescribed burns we do on the ranch, which is the enhancement of the wildlife habitat. Fire enhances what we do with our guided package hunting trips through our ranch's outfitting division, Stuart Ranch Outfitters. *Great Plains living* asked me



to provide the Top 10 benefits from a prescribed burn as it applies to wildlife and our outfitting division.

1. Increased food supply
2. Nutritionally dense food supply
3. Clearing of overgrown brush and opening the canopy up
4. Better entry and exit points to stands
5. Access to new hunting areas once to over grown to hunt
6. Much easier to find sheds
7. Much easier to see trails and travel corridors
8. Increased moisture filtration into your soils
9. Potential access to new areas to introduce food plots
10. Helps control invasive species of plants and trees



For info on hunts at Stuart Ranch Outfitters visit www.stuartranchoutfitters.com

Background Image: A sun bleached deer skull is plainly exposed after a recent controlled burn on one of the many food plots at Stuart Ranch Outfitters.

Above/At Left: Rich, green new growth begins to take over while at left, large controlled burns aren't uncommon at the Stuart Ranch as a management tactic to improve the grasslands for both wildlife and livestock.

Photos By: Clay Forst

ORANGE RENTAL POWER

From the affordable SSV65 skid steer to compact tractors, GP Rents provides the power of Kubota

BY REED BOETTCHER



There's hardly a work-day that goes by where Great Plains Kubota doesn't get a phone call for Great Plains Rent-All. The days of renting man lifts and scaffolding are long since gone, yet the association with rentals at our company runs so deep we still receive phone calls for these sorts of rental items almost six years later.

The decision to get out of the equipment rental industry was decided in order to focus resources on Kubota dealerships. Since the Great Plains Rent-All exit, Great Plains Kubota has added locations, remodeled, re-built, and expanded inventory at all four Kubota dealerships. During this focus to create a bigger, better Kubota dealership a Kubota rental department was born. It's one thing to offer more product, but it's an entirely different thing to offer more services, and this is exactly what GP Rents does. It offers other ways to use **orange rental power** to customers.

GP Rents has expanded it's way through our company to grow into a stand alone service. Recently, more time and effort has been dedicated in developing the rental departments, and although GP Rents only offers Kubota equipment (with the exception of Ditch Witch trenchers) the rental inventory is capable of satisfying residential and commercial equipment needs. Equipment rentals play a vital role in today's economic times. Of course there has always been a niche for rentals, GP Rents simply creates more solutions by offering Kubota rentals. Now Great Plains Kubota can provide Kubota equipment solutions to a much wider audience.

The Kubota SSV65P

Like the Great Plains Kubota sales departments, GP

Rents has also expanded it's inventory. Most notably with the Kubota SSV wheeled skid steer. Perhaps one of the most popular rental models right now, the SSV65P can be rented for \$99 a day, \$300 a week, or \$900 a month. The low cost and high productivity of this machine is substantial to any prospective renter. It's affordable for both big industry jobs and small residential chores. The wide range of rentable attachments make the versatile SSV65 even more attractive as a rental choice. The SSV skid steer comes with a standard bucket, but there are various types of buckets, saws, augers,, mowers, tillers, trenchers, forks, spears, and even sweepers available, making this an all around perfect rental machine.

The Kubota ZG332

Another recent addition to GP Rents rental inventory is the Kubota ZG332 zero turn mower in both 60 and 70 inch decks. What makes the ZG332 a notable rental is the very fact that it's a zero turn mower. In general, lawn mowers aren't typically offered at rental stores. GP Rents will offer this mower for \$175 a day, \$575 a week, and \$1575 a month. Will Clark, GP Rents Operational Manager commented on adding a mower to the rental line-up.

"By offering a zero turn mower we can reduce down time for lawn care professionals. Also, these rentals would work for residential customers who mow large areas ever so often."

GP Rents isn't the rental solution for everyone, but for those wanting to utilize the reliability of Kubota it's a perfect fit. For more information on how to rent **orange rental power** call GP Rents at 855-4KUBOTA or visit www.gprents.com.



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Ada Duncan Edmond Shawnee





2 Must Have Mowers

Spring is officially here, which means grass is officially growing. This time of year is a blessing, and is welcomed by most. But, for those who put off purchasing that new mower last year or those whose mower is in the shop more than on the lawn, this year's spring green makes a problem. For owners of lawns that call for the use of a riding mower, deciding on which make and model to purchase can be a daunting task. This article will briefly explore the benefits and features of the Hustler Raptor Flip-Up, and the all-new Kubota Kommander Pro Z400 series zero turns.

The Hustler Raptor Flip-Up zero turn has been mowing lawns since last spring. This innovative mower is like no other. Simply put, the Hustler Flip-Up offers the Hustler Rap-

tor's well known performance and reliability along with a 48" and 54" mower deck that turns

up with the push of a button. With these mowers, cleaning the deck and changing blades, both of which extend the life of mowers, have never been more simple. The most noteworthy factor of the Flip-Up is their price has been reduced for Spring 2017! Hustler Turf Rep., Joe Pellegrin recently commented on the feedback he's received from Flip-Up owners.

"While working the Hustler Turf equipment booth at this year's OKC Home and Garden Show I was pleasantly surprised to have at least a half dozen attendees come to me and comment that they had purchased a Hustler Flip-Up since last year's Home & Garden Show. Every one of them told me

how much they appreciated their new Flip-Up and how the hydraulic deck tilting system simplified deck cleaning and blade sharpening. A couple of the owners commented how they could store the unit in a very small space by tilting the deck all the way up. One man commented about how easily he could switch from discharging to mulching by changing the blades and installing a mulch plate with the deck fully tilted. The overriding message that came across was that every one of these owners were very happy with their choice, and would buy another Flip-Up if they had it to do over. I was quite impressed with this feedback!"

Once you eliminate the off-

brand store models there are really only a few manufacturers of zero turns that stand the test of time. In today's mower market the

"The overriding message that came across was that every one of these owners were very happy with their choice and would buy another Flip-Up if they had it to do over."

I was quite impressed with this feedback!"
- Joe Pellegrin (Hustler Turf Equipment Rep.)



turn dominates, and of those zero turns Kubota, much like Hustler Turf mowers, offer innovative options for both the homeowner and the lawn care professional. Kubota's new Kommander Pro or Z400 series is an economical option for acreage owners and professionals alike. These new zero turns are designed for the residential user that seeks high levels of comfort and convenience, while perfectly designed for the professional user demanding superior durability and performance, both who want easy operation and top level performance to handle even the most challenging mowing tasks. The Z400 features powerful, proven Kawasaki engines that provide the torque needed to power through tough mowing conditions. The Kawasaki engines are matched with rugged transmissions, and are offset with smooth operational levers. Kubota's reputation is well known for manufacturing quality and durability. To back this up, Kubota is offering a 4-year, or 500-hour warranty on the new Z400 series for residential buyers, and 2 years for the pros.

The Z400 series is truly about comfort and convenience. These mowers are engineered to perform, but designed to keep the operator fresh and comfortable. For starters, the soft and spacious high back seat slides a full six inches forward and backward so the operator can find the right personal position. There's also a wide foot pan for plenty of legroom. The ergonomic control layout makes for easy operations and includes a cup holder and a 12-volt power

outlet to charge your phone, which can be stored in the integrated smart phone holder.

With three models in the series, the Kubota Kommander Pro offer mowers for a range of lawn sizes.

- The Kubota Z411KW-48 -

The 48" Kommander Pro is equipped with a 22 HP Kawasaki engine and commercial transmission, and again is designed for comfort, offering professional levels of performance with easy operations.

- The Kubota Z421KW-54 -

A 24 HP Kawasaki engine with rugged transmission powers this steel welded 54" mower deck. With a larger fuel tank, folding ROPS, and smooth operations this could easily be a mower for the pro or Joe.

- The Kubota Z421KWT-60 -

Ideal for professionals, but easy enough to use residentially, the Kommander PRO 60" tackles bigger jobs and features a wide, 5" deep, steel welded mower deck. Users will enjoy adjustable dampening for customized responsiveness of the machine, and can take advantage of the many comfort features these mowers have to offer.

The number one reason to buy either Hustler or Kubota has nothing to do with the machines themselves. It has to do with the fact they come from dealerships. Full-service dealerships such as Great Plains Kubota offer expertise and parts on hand to keep your mowers mowing, and the spring green under control.

SPOTLIGHT ON EMPLOYEE Employee

Zachary Tyner

- Great Plains Shawnee -

Before Zachary Tyner started working for Great Plains Shawnee three years ago, he was a professional digital media installer at Cory's Audio and Visual Production. During his time there he installed equipment for events at big corporations such as Devon, Cox, and Chesapeake Energy. Tyner took a position with Great Plains Kubota to branch out and build his career. Now, as a Service Tech Coordinator, Tyner is well on his way in doing just that. He's now become an important part of daily operations at the newly expanded and relocated Shawnee dealership off Hwy 177 and Acme Rd.

As a coordinator, Tyner assists the Service Manager, Brenda Birkle, to keep the shop running smoothly. He also helps Tim Robinson with the Shawnee branch of GP Rents by maintaining rental equipment. When asked what the most satisfying aspect of working for GP was, Tyner stated that building a stronger work ethic for himself and to satisfy customers from a sales

and service standpoint was most gratifying. In short, to "ride for the brand" and make the dealership the best it can be, is what drives his work day. Another enjoyable aspect about working for GP is the close relationships he's built with other employees. Tyner explained further.

"The employees at GP are like family to me. We work together, and when we get on each others nerves we put those things aside to tackle difficult tasks. We work as a team to accomplish any job."

In his spare time Tyner enjoys creating short films, special effects, and music for video production. So, it's no surprise that if he could do any career it would be in film production. Tyner recently turned 24 and surely has a great future ahead of him at Great Plains Kubota. Who knows? The next GP TV commercial you see might have input from Great Plains Shawnee's own, Zachary Tyner.

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\$24,000

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13' Kubota L3800HST
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GOOD GRASS

A good plan will assist with summer, fall and winter forages.

BY WILLIAM PAYNE
OF DESTINY RANCH

If you have cattle you certainly have a great challenge in feeding and caring for them throughout Oklahoma's dynamic seasons. Some options are to feed commodity grains, protein cubes, hay, or simply let them survive on their own. However, the last option is certainly not a viable solution if your living is made from raising cattle. Not all grasses are equal, and certainly not all grasses maintain the level of nutrients required to maintain the cow and calf.

Whether we have 10 acres or 4,000 acres, it's quite nostalgic to be called a rancher in this modern era. Here at Destiny Ranch we sometimes call ourselves grass farmers, because without our constant attention to the grass we could not have the 100 head cow herd, or the stocker cattle operation on a 900 acre ranch of which only 640 acres are used for the entire cattle operation.

A common question we get is how to maintain our cattle while waiting for the grasses to start growing in the spring. We do so with reserve forage from the year before. At Destiny Ranch we rely on our reserve forage throughout the winter. These reserve or dormant forages keep the ground insulated and protected. Then in February and March we start to see the young green sprouts of the cool season grasses. These early season forages need to grow in the spring to 6-8 inches before grazing. This is a hard task to complete, because we all want to get it early, but waiting only two weeks in some cases will really jump start a pasture with a lot of grazing and no input.

Grazing is like magic in some regards. If you eat it down to the ground there is a good chance the plant will be stressed and not grow back for 90-100 days or it will have to compete with weeds. If you eat off half the plant there is a good chance you can come back and graze the area again. We start moving cattle faster as the grasses

start growing which is a vital management task. It's important after grazing the winter grasses and dormant grasses grazed to let the Native grasses grow to maximum height before grazing. This sounds complicated, but in reality it is quite simple. The native grasses in the spring need approximately 45-60 days to reach full maturity, and of course we are going to graze them before they reach full maturity.

By mid to late April we are in full grazing mode, this is sometimes called grass harvest time. This is the time frame for really managing the grasses and forage production until approximately July 1st. We all know with Mother Nature seasons change, and so will the ground temperatures and growing seasons, so it is important to walk out in those fields to scout what is growing and when to start moving those cattle.

This is the most important date I would stress simply because the nutrients in the native forages start to fall dramatically after this date. The second issue to remember is from July 1st it is normally very hot and dry, and if the forages have been grazed properly then we can continue to grow a lot of forage during the heat of July, August and September. Remember these are the months to grow the reserve forage that will get you through the winter and back to the spring green up.

What about the rest of summer? Here lies more of the magic, because cattle do like to eat every day, all year long. Remember those early grazed pastures (April, May, June) that were grazed first? Those pastures in July and forward will be the fall forage. Those grazed in July, August, and part of September become the reserve forage for the winter. Keeping a good set of records and following the grasses sounds complicated, but it's simple, and more importantly it will ensure sufficient forage each year.

Until next time, keep those cattle moving and happy grazing!

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*For complete warranty, safety and product information, consult your local Kubota dealer and the product operator's manual. Power (HP/KW) and other specifications are based on various standards or recommended practices. Optional equipment may be shown. © Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2017.



TIPS From The Pros

Below: Always seen with a smile, Alonzo Albert is just one of the friendly faces of the local company M&M Outdoor Maintenance. From large commercial jobs at nursing homes, to small residential cuts, Albert and his team treat every job with top notch professionalism.
Photos By: Reed Boettcher

M&M Outdoor Maintenance and Custom Power Clean take time off their mowers for Q&A with GPL

BY REED BOETTCHER



If you live in the Ada, area you've probably seen Kubota zero turn mowers being used by either M&M Outdoor Maintenance or Customer Power Clean to mow local businesses or residences. When it comes to lawn care, and for that matter mower care, Alonzo Albert of M&M Outdoor Maintenance and Brandon Lefler of Customer Power Clean are two guys that know the importance of a quality mower. For this article GPL, asked a few questions that could help improve the life of your mower (no matter what make/model) and your lawns appearance.

Alonzo Albert - M&M Outdoor Maintenance

GPL: How many Kubota's do you currently run and how would you compare them?

A: We have two Kubota zero turns: A Z725 and a ZG332. The ZG332 is just a better mower. It has a Kubota gas engine and it isn't as light as the Z725.

GPL: Why should someone own a Kubota over another brand?

A: Their price is competitive to that of other major manufacturers, but the main reason would be the service of Great Plains Kubota. A good service department is a must for our machines.

GPL: What are some tips to keep your mower running

at peak performance?

A: We change our oil monthly. Now this would obviously be different for homeowners, but we grease every 3-4 days and change out blades every other week or so. Basically keep oil clean, grease points lubricated, and blades sharp.

GPL: What tips would you give homeowners to make their lawn more appealing?

A: I would suggest fertilizing and overseeding your lawn at least once a year.

GPL: How fast can your mowers cut, and what other factors do you look for when purchasing a new mower?

A: We can cut up to twelve miles per hour. When looking at a new mower, I'm always interested in speed and duration of a tank of gas. Fuel efficiency is a must as is speed. These Kubota zero turns can cut fast and clean. You want to be quick, but at the same time it has to be professionally and cleanly cut.

GPL: How long have you been in business and why do you use Kubota?

A: We've been in business for 30 years, and we use Kubota because of the good service and parts departments at Great Plains Kubota.

CONTINUED ON PG22



Brandon Lefler - Custom Power Clean

GPL: What type of mowers does your company use?

B: I run two Kubota ZD-1021 mowers. The ZD-1021 are powered by Kubota diesel engines which are great engines.

GPL: What is the biggest job you do with you mowers?

B: The biggest job we do at Custom Power Clean is a seven acre church property.

GPL: How many employees work for you?

B: My company has four employees.

GPL: How many lawns do you mow in a typical season?

B: I have about 85 yards on my list.

GPL: If you had to list five reasons to purchase a Kubota zero turn over another make/model what would they be?

B: They cut great, are well built, comfortable, built to last; and are offered by a dealership family with great service.

GPL: How has your experience been with Great Plains Kubota?

B: I can never complain! They're always helpful, and have friendly service that does work in a timely manner.

GPL: What other equipment do you use?

B: I have a Kubota SVL 95-2 skid loader, Harley rake, Tree Saw, Echo weed-eater's blowers, and chainsaws.

GPL: What are some tips to keeping your mower in top performance?

B: Keep the deck clean. Blow out filters, and service them when needed.

GPL: Do you have any good lawn care tips for homeowners?

B: Get on a spraying and fertilizing schedule, and mow your grass at a higher height, (around three inches). If possible, mow your grass in opposite direction every other time.

GPL: How fast can your mowers cut?

B: Our Kubota ZD-1021 mowers can mow around 10 miles per hour.

GPL: How long have you been in business?

B: We've been in business for 20 years.

GPL: Who makes up your business?

B: The customer always comes first. Then having great employees and a good service provider for my equipment would be next.

GPL: When you're not mowing what other jobs do you do?

B: I have a mobile power washing company, and I do a lot of land clearing and landscape work with my SVL 95-2.

GPL: Why did you choose Kubota?

B: Because of the quality equipment, great service, and the friendly atmosphere.

Both Alonzo and Brandon offered great advice for our readers; however, one element of each professional's operation took center stage. A good service department is a key ingredient to successful mowing, both in commercial and residential settings.



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Derrell Meek AND Gary Huffstutlar

Metal

HEADS

BY REED BOETTCHER

Like most employees at Great Plains Kubota, Derrell Meek and Gary Huffstutlar are multi-taskers, as well as multi-talented. At the Ada Kubota dealership, Derrell Meek is both the Service and Site Manager. Gary Huffstutlar, being one of the longest working employees at Great Plains Ada, is one of the dealerships most recognizable faces. Before becoming part of the sales team, Gary was the parts and service guy. Both men are great at what they do and have a deep understanding of agriculture equipment and the AG industry as a whole. Another shared trait is they are both skilled at working with metal.



Derrell started working in a machine shop when he was 19 years old. He began to really work and create with metal in the early 80's. By 1991 he'd made his first pair of spurs. Since then he's created bits,

spurs, and buckles. He also does engravings on various kinds of mild steels, stainless steel, silver, and hardened steel. His works, such as these, have sold from south Texas



to North Dakota. "It's all about the end product. To create something that's both visually pleasing and useful to cowboys is satisfying. This type of work is a great way to keep my mind and hands busy, especially during the winter months," said Derrell.

Derrell credited Bill Maddie, a spur maker from Shawnee, Oklahoma as his mentor. Maddie helped Derrell get

started with this art form, and taught him how to engrave. Derrell also mentioned if he could do a job for anyone it would be Maddie.

Like Derrell, Gary is also skilled in metal working and creates metal signs and fixtures as a source of extra income. **GMAK Metal Works** is a family operated (after hours) business which includes Gary, Monica, and their two daughters Ashton and Kaylee, hence the name **GMAK**. While Gary does most of the heavy lifting, Monica does the drawing and from time to time everyone pitches in on the bigger jobs. For ten years Gary has been cutting mild and stainless steels into signs and designs for both exterior and interior decoration. Most of Gary's work is created for customers in Oklahoma and Texas, but each design is specific and custom drawn, then cut. He's done jobs for municipalities such as the City of Stratford, and celebrities like Blake Shelton and Miranda Lambert.



"It's fulfilling to see the finished product in metal. First the idea starts out on paper, then it's transferred to the computer. When it gets cut out, that's when everything comes together. It's a clean, simplified art form that I think everyone can appreciate.



Gary Huffstutlar and Derrell Meek aren't just a couple of metal heads. They're hard working employees that use spare time to create metallic expressions for both a hobby and extra income.





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*No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited. Must be 18 years of age or older.
Enter at dealer Orange Days Event. See dealer for details and official rules.

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INGREDIENTS

1. Freshly Cracked Black Pepper
2. Coarsely Ground Kosher Salt
3. 2 Tomahawk Cut Ribeye Steaks 1" Thick/1 lb each

READY
FOR
THE
OVEN



DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 250°F.
2. Place steaks on a rimmed baking sheet fitted with a rack. Season generously with salt and pepper.
3. Roast in the oven for 45 minutes to 1 hour, until an instant-read thermometer reads 125°F for medium rare. (Check them around the 40-minute mark first as oven temperatures and steak thickness will vary.) Let rest 5 minutes.
4. Place a lightly greased cast iron skillet in a heated outdoor grill. Get the skillet EXTREMELY hot. Lightly grease with grape seed oil which will not scorch at high temps! Cook steaks one minute per side, until a dark brown crust forms.
5. Let rest another 10 minutes, slice, and serve.

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Note: The Tomahawk Ribeyes pictured on this page were not purchased from Destiny Ranch.
Photos By: Reed Boettcher

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GP THE BRANDING IRON

Kubota Orange Days Set For Spring

Don't miss our lowest prices of the year during our special 2-Day events

Spring is a busy time at Great Plains Kubota. The dealerships are in full swing, and there's always lots of shows and events to attend, but we always make room to host open houses for our customers, clients, friends, and public. This year instead of the typical customer appreciation type of open house we are taking off the gloves and calling upon attendees to try the Kubota difference for themselves. Our Kubota dealerships will have comparable John Deere and Mahindra compact tractors on site to put to the test. When comparing apples to apples, we truly feel there is no comparison to Kubota in the compact tractor segment, so much so we are proving it to the public! We invite you to join us in a friendly, no pressure, fun environment where you can learn the true differences in our products versus the other guys while enjoying a free lunch. We will have special limited time offers during these two day events featuring our lowest prices of the year. Lunch will be provided both days. These Kubota Orange Days Events are going to be the biggest dealership events we've ever had, so don't miss them!



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Friday May 5th 11-5
Saturday May 6th 8-5

3rd Great Plains Ada
Friday May 12th 11-5
Saturday May 13th 8-5

4th Great Plains Duncan
Friday May 19th 11-5
Saturday May 20th 8-5

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Man With A Mission

Brad Clay, host of Final Descent Outdoors, never planned on hosting a hunting show for TV. In fact, he knew that the Lord had called him to the ministry, and for 13 years he served as a youth pastor. In 2007 Clay and a few buddies were led to start Final Descent Outdoors, which is now the longest running TV Show on the Pursuit Channel network in it's seventh season and in it's third year airing locally on KAUTV43 in Oklahoma.

"People have this idea that if you are on TV you must be rich, that just isn't true," said Clay.

"I felt like the Lord was calling me to resign from my position at Crossway Church in Sulphur where I had served for nearly 10 years to do the show and outdoor ministry full-time. The problem was the cost to air the show. To pay for airtime, editing, and closed captioning we were looking at a cost of about \$130,000. That was before we ever went on a hunt. As a youth minister I didn't have an extra \$130,000 laying around. Our sponsors helped us pay those bills, but after it was paid we didn't have enough to provide for a family. God said "Trust Me" and five years ago I resigned to pursue the show and Outdoor ministry full time."

Since Clay's leap of faith, God has allowed the show to be aired in nearly 45 million homes across the US,

and he also gets to travel and speak at men's events all across the nation. In 2016 he spoke in nine states to nearly 15,000 people, and through speaking engagements and the show, the ministry saw 417 men come to the Lord.

"It's been a crazy ride. All I can say is, that when you're doing what God called you to do, He will always make a way."

By chance, a few years ago Clay was contacted by Great Plains Kubota about an article for their magazine over his show, and from that a partnership between Final Descent Outdoors and Great Plains Kubota was formed.

Clay commented further, "The Clark family has been a family of faith for generations. The partnership just made since. Not only do Kubota products fit what we do from a hunting standpoint with food plots, land management, and travel in the field with the RTV, but the fact that we are equally yoked when it comes to Christ makes the relationship such a blessing."

Great Plains Kubota is the title segment sponsor for Final Descent Outdoors on KAUTV43 out of Oklahoma City and airs every Sunday at 5:30 am and again at 10 am.



THE CODE

Talk Less, And Say More

BY BILL CLARK

How can you tell if someone is a “real” cowboy or if they are “all hat and no cattle”? Actually, it can be a little difficult to sort the real ones from the “dudes”. You can’t always tell by their looks, but there is one good way to spot a fake, or what my father called a “drug store cowboy”. And that is, if that person can’t wait to tell you they’re a cowboy, well they’re probably not. In fact, the more someone tells you who they are, probably the less it is true. The mark of a true cowboy was, and still is defined by what he does, not what he says. Actions speak louder than words, and we respect people who quietly perform their duties without excess words. Proverbs 17:28 says “Even fools are thought wise when they keep silent; with their mouths shut, they seem intelligent.” Talking less can say more. Completing his duties with a level of skill and pride that proved he could perform without having to speak a word was an important part of the Cowboy’s Code.

I can think of several instances where I have met someone for the first time and later learned that the person was famous for some reason or another, yet they never mentioned their notoriety. It always impresses me when I find out who they really are, and that their actions were much stronger than their words. As a teenager, one person I met stands out as someone who exemplified the meaning of the Cowboy Code of “talk less and say more”. My dad and I were attending a cattle sale in Beeville, TX. While eating some barbecue before the sale, a large man came and sat beside me. He talked with me quite a bit while we ate our lunch. I was impressed because not many adults would spend as much time as

he did talking to a teenager. After he left, my dad said, did you know who that was? I didn’t know, but was surprised to find out that he was a “real cowboy”, actually a Dallas Cowboy, Lee Roy Jordan. The powerful All-American linebacker said a lot more about who he was by never telling me what he did.

There is one exception to “speak less, and say more”. His words were more powerful than the strongest NFL athlete or for that matter, more powerful than any human that has ever lived. His words were so powerful that He was called “The Word”. John 1:1-4 tells us that: “In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone.” John was referring to Jesus as the Word. The simplest reason why Jesus was called the Word is that as our words explain our mind to others, the Son of God was sent in order to reveal his Father’s mind to the world.

I was blessed to be raised in a Christian home and was introduced at a young age to the Word. During my childhood, my relationship with the Word, was a lot like eating lunch with Lee Roy Jordan seated next to me. The Word was right there beside me, but I didn’t really know Him. Fortunately, there came a time in my life when I recognized the Word as my Lord and Savior. Have you meet The Word? If not, give me a call, email me, or come see me, because I would like to introduce you.

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