

Leon Atkins Motors becomes Ag Power Equipment Company

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Customers and friends of Leon Atkins Motors were given the opportunity to say goodbye to Leon Atkins and hello to the new owners/partners of Ag Power Equipment Company at a celebration held Saturday, Feb. 19.

The change in ownership was effective Jan. 3. Ag Power Equipment Company has two other locations in Goodland, Kan. and Sharon Springs, Kan. Owners/partners include Ken Kuhlman, Tim Elder and Dennis Sharp, all of western Kansas, and Curt Parker of Holyoke.

Parker will be the Holyoke store manager. Staff and the general direction of the dealership will not change, according to the new owners. Kuhlman will be in Phillips County from time to time. He is always willing to be available to speak with customers and will be happy to arrange to sit down and talk to farmers and even venture out to see their operations.

“In the industry today, the farm equipment manufacturers tell us we need to be buyers or sellers,” the owners stated. “Leon was at a point where he was ready to sell and begin his retirement. As we had a prior relationship with Leon and Curt, we got together and decided to join up the businesses to expand.”



Leon Atkins, pictured second from left, was honored Saturday, Feb. 19 at a retirement celebration at Phillips County Event Center. New owners/partners of Ag Power are pictured from left, Dennis Sharp, Atkins, Ken Kuhlman, Curt Parker and Tim Elder.

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Ag Power Equipment Co. plans to provide the same service the customers in Holyoke, Haxtun and the surrounding areas are accustomed to. "We will continue to grow and adapt to changes in farming and machinery needs," the owners said.

The dealership was originally called Witzel and Rhea, but when they moved into a new building in Sharon Springs on Jan. 1, 2009, the name changed to Ag Power Equipment Company.

The business began in Sharon Springs. The Goodland location was acquired, followed by Holyoke on Jan. 3.

Kuhlman and wife Karen have two daughters, Audra and Hallie. Elder and wife Beverly have four children, Kyle, Natalie and her husband Nolan Cox, Taylor and Lauren, and one grandchild, Ayson Cox.

Sharp and his wife Jean have four children, Desireé, Jordan, Tessa and her husband Travis Rhorberg and Alex. Parker and wife Chandra have three children, Brooke, Ryan and Megan.