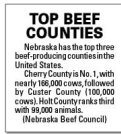


## Brotts moving livestock sales to Broken Bow

Written by Elizabeth Barrett  
Wednesday, 03 July 2013 21:28 -

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### Personal property sales will continue in Gothenburg

Instead of building a new sale barn in Gothenburg, Wendell and Kathy Brott will sell livestock from a facility they bought in Broken Bow last Thursday.

Tuesday morning Wendell confirmed the couple bought the Broken Bow sale barn from the Nebraska Livestock Sales Company.

“It’s an opportunity for us to grow our numbers in Sandhills cattle country,” Kathy said.

Although Wendell described the decision as a gamble, he noted that Custer County, where Broken Bow is the county seat, is second in U.S. cattle production. Cherry County ranks first.

Since March, the Brotts have leased the Broken Bow sale barn from the Nebraska Livestock Sales Company. Fire destroyed the Gothenburg Livestock facility on Feb. 25.

Wendell said he employs 12-15 full- and part-time employees at the Broken Bow business.

The Brotts said they realize that the absence of a sale barn in Gothenburg will have an economic impact on the town.

“We do understand it will be a hardship to our loyal customers,” Kathy said.

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Over time, Wendell said he'll move the portable pens at the old Gothenburg Livestock site to Broken Bow and determine, at later date, what to do with the property.

The Broken Bow facility needs some work just like Gothenburg Livestock did when the Brotts bought the business 22 years ago, he said.

"We remodeled the barn here and installed pens over the course of 20 years," Wendell said.

They said they appreciate the support they've received from the Gothenburg Improvement Company, noting that the Broken Bow community has supported them as well.

In the meantime, the Brotts plan to commute to Broken Bow for at least a year from Gothenburg where they have a home, land and a feedlot. Sales are Thursdays at the Broken Bow sale barn.

Kathy said they plan to continue Brott Auction, which continues to operate from a cafe building on the Gothenburg Livestock site, for local and area consignment sales.

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