Pearson Livestock Equipment has consolidated its Thedford manufacturing facility with its Vernon, Texas, location, closing the end of the company's history in the Sandhills that began when L.B. “Bud” Pearson built the first self-catch automatic head gate on his ranch shop south of Thedford and received a patent in 1964.

Pearson’s Inc. hosted an open house in January of 2016 and showcased a renovated facility. The Nebraska Department of Economic Development awarded the business $75,000 in state and building development fund money to construct a blast facility used in powder coating the housing of the company’s innovative livestock equipment. The business was launched in 1965.

At that time the Raters had a long-term strategy to expand and grow the company. The company ceased manufacturing in Vernon, Texas, in 2020, online story posted by the Nebraska Business Development Corporation. The company began shipping a package to a local mail carrier, and eventually became more efficient in its operations to remain competitive.

Ricky Rater, owner of Pearson’s, Inc., met with BDC board of directors May 20, 2015, to discuss his business wanting to relocate for more efficiency in its operations to remain competitive. According to the story, Pearson’s Inc. hosted an open house in January of 2016 and showcased a renovated facility. The Nebraska Department of Economic Development awarded the business $75,000 in state and building development fund money to construct a blast facility used in powder coating the housing of the company’s innovative livestock equipment. The business was launched in 1965.

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