

Western Kansas Manufacturers Association Newsletter

1700 E. Wyatt Earp Blvd. • P.O. Box 1382 • Dodge City, Kansas 67801-1382
Phone: (620) 227-8082 • Toll-Free (877) 405-2883 • Fax: (620) 227-8090
Email: info@3ishow.com • Website: www.3ishow.com

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Otter's, Inc., Receives WKMA New Product Award

Otter's, Inc., received the Western Kansas Manufacturers Association (WKMA) 2016 New Product of the Year Award for their new line of customized skid steer attachments. The award was presented to Frank and Greg Otter on April 15 at WKMA's Annual Meeting. Each year, WKMA solicits nominations from its members for the New Product of the Year Award. This award recognizes ingenuity and new product development by Western Kansas Manufacturers. Otter's, Inc., is a family-owned operation building customized angle dozer blades since 1958. The company's founder, Marion Otter, previously operated under the title of Otter Manufacturing until 1997 when he retired. At that time, he turned the company over to his sons, Frank and Greg, presently known as Otter's, Incorporated.

Otter's, Inc., now introduces their new line of custom-width, heavy-built skid steer attachments focusing on use in land forming, construction, and cattle feedlots and pens. This new product line-up consists of small and large attachments that can be used on machinery from a small skid steer or loader to big track machines. The smaller versions utilize a 1/4 inch plate for the blade with 3 x 12 hydraulic cylinders for the angle. The larger versions utilize 3/8 inch material for the blade and 3 1/2 x 12 hydraulic cylinders for the angle. All blades have a hardened 4 inch cutting edge and skid pads, and the end of the mole board has a bolt pattern to adapt end traps. With each blade built to the customer's specified width, this blade is very versatile and can be used for many functions, including snow removal in parking lots, landscaping, pushing dirt and material around livestock areas, trenching backfills and more.

For more information about Otter's, Inc., visit www.otterdozer.com.



Roto-Mix Finalist for Governor's Exporter Award

Roto-Mix, a WKMA Active Member, was selected as a 2016 Kansas Business Appreciation Month winner by the Kansas Department of Commerce. In addition, as a Regional Business Excellence Award winner and top 5 finalist, Roto-Mix is in the running for the Governor's Award of Excellence, the top award given to a business by the state. The Governor's Award of Excellence winner will be announced on June 22, 2016 at the Team Kansas Awards Banquet in Topeka.

The Kansas Department of Commerce announced 26 Regional Business Excellence Award winners and 63 Merit Award winners as part of the 2016 Business Appreciation Month. The Commerce Department uses the month of June for its annual celebration of Kansas businesses and the contributions made to their communities and the state economy. "Business Appreciation Month gives the Commerce Department the opportunity to show its support, recognition and gratitude for the businesses who work hard to excel in the state of Kansas," said Kansas Commerce Secretary Antonio Soave. "The 89 businesses that have been selected as winners of the 2016 Business Appreciation Month represent the dedication of Kansas workers, the resounding infrastructure that these businesses are built on and the level of support created by the state of Kansas, for every type of business."

Good luck to Roto-Mix for the June 22 Governor's Award announcement!

"A North American Agri-Business Tradition"

WKMA ANNUAL MEETING

The 67th Annual Western Kansas Manufacturers Association Meeting and Banquet was held on Friday, April 15, 2016. The dinner celebration was attended by the WKMA Board, WKMA Members, 3i SHOW Committee Chairs, and representatives from Ford County, the City of Dodge City, Dodge City Convention & Visitors Bureau as well as the media. Each year, the meeting serves as a great opportunity to thank everyone involved in making the 3i SHOW possible.



Following dinner, the WKMA New Product of the Year Award was awarded to Otter's, Inc., for their new line of custom-width, heavy-built skid steer attachments focusing on use in land forming, construction, and cattle feedlots and pens. Each year, WKMA solicits nominations from its members for the New Product of the Year Award. This award recognizes ingenuity and new product development by Western Kansas Manufacturers. Congratulations to Otter's, Inc.!

Past Committee Chairs and Show Vice-Chairs were thanked for their efforts, and the 2016 Show Chairs were announced. Colleen Hastings, Dodge City CVB, and Debbie Allen, Ford County Volunteer Center & RSVP, will receive a title promotion to 3i SHOW Co-Chairs this year. These ladies have been Vice-Chairs and Committee Chairs for the last several years and have assisted in multiple other capacities since the show opened in Dodge City in 2012 and are a great asset!



A review of events from 2015 and a peek into what is coming in 2016 was presented. Eddie Estes, WKMA President/CEO, thanked the Exhibitor Reception Sponsors, Media Partners and Hotel Partners for all their continued support. Progress on the 2016 High School Ag Career Day was reported and 2015 partners thanked. After review of the Kansas Workforce Summit sponsored by WKMA and the WKMA Scholarship Program supported by the sale of limited-edition belt buckles, many great giveaways were given out. A special "Thank You" to the Kansas National Wild Turkey Federation for once again donating a phenomenal giveaway!

**It's time for
2016-2017
WKMA
Annual
Membership
Renewals.**

**See Enclosed
Form!**

SHRM of SWKS **SAVE THE DATE** AFFILIATE OF
SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Formal Invitation Coming Soon

"What's Your Game Plan?" **Presentations by: Attorney, Tim Davis and
President of Creative Business Solutions, Kristina Dietrick**

- **Want to Hire Character, Train Skill, & Retain Talent!!!**
- **Be in the KNOW regarding Employment Law!!!**
- **Social Media - Do's & Don'ts !!!**

WHEN: Thursday, August 18, 2016 Time: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
WHERE: Clarion Inn Ballroom-1911 E Kansas Ave Garden City, KS
WHO: HR Professionals, Supervisors, Managers, Business Leaders

REGISTRATION FEE: \$65 for members and \$80 for nonmembers by August 1, 2016. After August 1, \$75 for members and \$90 for nonmembers. Includes a continental breakfast, lunch, snacks, and workshop materials.

For registration information :
Catherine McMillen, President SHRM of SWKS @
hr@compassbh.org

2016 SHRM OF SWKS BUSINESS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

High School Ag Career Day

WKMA continues working on 2016 High School Ag Career Day (HSACD) sessions. HSACD will be held on Thursday, October 13, 2016. Sessions will be held on the hour, every hour, beginning at 9 a.m., allowing students to select which sessions they wish to attend. Students are encouraged to attend Opening Ceremonies at 10 a.m. The final session of the day will begin at 1 p.m. High schools planning to attend are requested to complete and submit the **RSVP** form available online on the Events page at www.3iSHOW.com. The following sessions have been finalized:

American Welding Society

Facing a critical shortage of over 400,000 welding professionals by 2025, the American Welding Society is taking its *Careers in Welding Trailer* across the country to give visitors the opportunity to try their hand at welding and learn more about a career path in the industry. The AWS trailer exhibit will be on display during the entirety of the 3i SHOW and will be hosting a session for HSACD! The AWS Careers in Welding Trailer gives students a first-hand look into the exciting world of welding. Once on board, they will get to learn about the science of welding through several hands-on exhibits. The trailer's main attraction is the four virtual reality welders that simulate two different welding processes. Information about careers in welding, scholarships, and other related topics are available inside.

In addition, any HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT attending HSACD with their school who attends an AWS *Careers in Welding Trailer* session will be eligible for a **\$100 gift card giveaway!** Each student will receive a ticket as they exit the trailer. The winning ticket will be drawn at 1:45 p.m. on Thursday, October 13, at the AWS exhibit located at O-485-486.

Dodge City Community College

DC3 will be hosting a session on *Robots in the Workplace*. A robot demonstration will be held with an explanation of careers available in various fields.

Foley Equipment Company & Dodge City Community College

Safety around machines and engines from both the operator and technician viewpoint will be discussed, including egress and basic potential pinch points. Basic maintenance will be covered. What is the difference between the fluids and what is their purpose? Career opportunities, career pathways and education needs will also be covered. What positions are available for both entry level and experienced career seekers? The career path and how to navigate/explore those options within a company will be explained as well as education requirements and what a high school student can do to prepare.

Kansas 4-H

Don't Fall in the Gap! The Top 5 Skills Needed to be Successful in the Workplace will be presented by Amy Sollock, K-State Research and Extension Area 4-H Specialist, and Amy Collins, K-State Research and Extension Stafford County FCS Agent. Discussion will be held about how employers across the nation struggle with hiring young people who possess the necessary skills to be successful in the workplace and how to avoid being one of the thousands let go and labeled "unemployable!" K-State Research and Extension 4-H professionals will explore the trends in the job market and share what students can do now to ensure success as an adult in the work world.

Northwest Kansas Technical College

Northwest Kansas Technical College will not only be exhibiting this year but will also be hosting HSACD sessions *GPS Guidance Training Rig* and *Infrared Field Mapping with an Unmanned Aerial System*. Northwest Kansas Technical College received final program approval on February 29 from the Kansas Board of Regents for their new Precision Agriculture Technology program. Precision Agriculture Technology is a comprehensive program that provides a solid background in the high-tech practices, equipment, and software being utilized in production agriculture today. Using a combination of classroom, shop and field environments, students acquire the skills necessary to succeed in today's competitive precision agriculture industry.

For the *GPS Guidance Training Rig* session, Northwest Tech will bring their 5-person Kubota ATV equipped with several of the latest GPS/GNSS tractor guidance and hydraulic auto-steering systems. The specially modified ATV will be used to train precision agriculture students in how to install, calibrate, and operate several different but integrated GPS tractor guidance systems all from within one easy-to-drive platform. The platform allows for more than one student at a time to engage and observe command console procedures, while still using familiar vehicular controls. The rig will also be used to perform electromagnetic soil mapping. This presentation will demonstrate several of the training platform's capabilities.

HSACD Continued . . .

The *Infrared Field Mapping with an Unmanned Aerial System* session will demonstrate the basic application of how a UAS acquires crop data and how the data is processed for agronomic use. The Northwest Tech Precision Agriculture program has several fixed wing and rotor-craft Unmanned Aerial Systems equipped with infrared and 4-Band sensors. These sensors can measure the performance of each plant's photosynthesis, along with each one's potential Nitrogen intake, within 10 major cereal crop varieties. This mid-season data allows growers and their consultants to identify potential infestations, disease, and other plant stresses before they grow in magnitude.

WKMA Scholarship Reminder

Scholarships remain available to area community colleges, technical colleges and universities for the 2016-2017 school year. Scholarships are available at Barton Community College, Colby Community College, Dodge City Community College, Garden City Community College, NCK Tech (North Central Kansas Technical College), Northwest Kansas Technical College, Seward County Community College/Area Tech School, Fort Hays State University, Kansas State University and the University of Kansas.

Scholarship applications should be made directly through the individual school's financial aid or scholarship department.

WKMA scholarships are partially funded each year by the sale of two hundred limited-edition belt buckles commemorating the upcoming 3i SHOW. Buckle order forms are available online at www.3ishow.com/3ishow/merchandise.

Save The Date!

**16th Annual
Kansas Workforce Summit
January 18-19, 2017
Topeka, Kansas**

**Kansas
Workforce
Summit**

- A DO NOT MISS annual forum for community
- leaders and chamber representatives, legislators
- and government officials, employers, educators, and
- local workforce board members to take action to
- address the new realities facing the workforce and
- economic development issues in Kansas.



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