

## NewsWatch

# WKMA names New Product of Year

**T**HE Western Kansas Manufacturers Association, sponsor of the 3i Show, presented its annual New Product of the Year Award to Midwest Mowers of Cimarron.

Each year, WKMA solicits nominations from its members for the award, which recognizes ingenuity and new product development by western Kansas manufacturers.

Midwest Mowers was recognized for the debut of the Wegele 60 front deck mower, a bigger version of the Wegele, which has been whacking down the toughest weeds and brush for some 60 years.

The Wegele 60 features a high-capacity shaft-driven cutting deck with dual blades fitted to a deep deck with a cutting range of 1 to 5 inches. The deck is raised and lowered hydraulically. A 25-horsepower Kohler air-cooled motor, heavy-duty air cleaner, oil cooler, and 6-gallon fuel tank ensure hours of uninterrupted mowing. A larger motor is available.

The Wegele 60 offers a twin-stick hydraulic drive for easy maneuvering, along with high flotation bar grip tires, a longer wheelbase and a low center of gravity. All filters and drains are easily accessible. It features an open-mounted motor, spring-tensioned belts, and the trademark red and yellow paint finish.

Both Wegele products will be on display at the upcoming 3i Show in Garden City May 6-8 at the Finney County Fairgrounds. To find out more about the newest member of the Wegele family, call Jeff Monical at Midwest Mowers at 800-728-9944, fax him at 620-855-7145, or e-mail [jeff@midwestmowers.com](mailto:jeff@midwestmowers.com). For more information about the 3i Show, visit [www.3ishow.com](http://www.3ishow.com) or call 620-227-8082.



**WEGELE 60 WINS:** Midwest Mowers of Cimarron received the Western Kansas Manufacturers Association New Product of the Year Award for 2009. WKMA Board Chairman Frank Otter (right) presented the award to Jeff and Krista Monical for the Wegele 60 at WKMA's board meeting Feb. 6.

## Young Farmers and Ranchers learn to 'walk their talk'

**MORE THAN** 430 Young Farmers and Ranchers in Kansas attended this year's "Walk Your Talk" annual convention of the organization in Wichita Jan. 29-31.

**THROUGH QUIZ** bowl, speakers, seminars, workshops and vendor presentations, they learned more about telling the story of agriculture and helping urban dwellers understand the realities of farm life.

**THEY ALSO** had a chance to renew old friendships, make new friends, enjoy entertainment, and exchange news and views. These snapshots provide a glimpse of some of the people and activities that marked the event.



**YOUNG RANCHERS:** Addie Hoeme and her little sister, Allie, daughters of Luke and Tammie Hoeme from Pratt County, were maybe the youngest "ranchers" in the crowd. They turned a corner of the Grand Ballroom at Wichita's Hyatt Regency Hotel into a corral for their ponies while their parents listened to remarks from Kansas Farm Bureau President Steve Baccus. The girls also cheered for their quiz bowl favorites.



**PRACTICING SKILLS:** Chad and Leanna Hook (left) from Rice County and Carrie Edmonds, a Douglas County native who currently lives in Manhattan, discuss their responses during a "Speaking Effectively for Agriculture" workshop presented by P.J. Griekspoor of *Kansas Farmer*.

**ON THE MESSAGE:** Lucas Heinen (left), Brown County, Michael Springer from Montgomery County, and Chad Basinger from Reno County work on a communications assignment during a workshop at the convention.



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