GK Machine Newsletter

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GK Prepares for Production of New 2019 Mechanical Rapini Harvester

In 2016 D'Arrigo Brothers of California and GK engineers designed a revolutionary new machine that mechanized rapini harvesting. D'Arrigo has tested the 2016 prototype and the crews love the machine.

GK engineers are now upgrading and redesigning the machine for production of three new prototypes in 2019

Rapini (also known as broccoli rabe) is a leafy green vegetable from the mustard family that is very labor intensive to harvest.

The 2016 prototype of the Mechanical Rapini Harvester (MRH) has reduced the need for high skilled hand cutters, and allowed workers to bunch and pack rapini in a more comfortable environment.

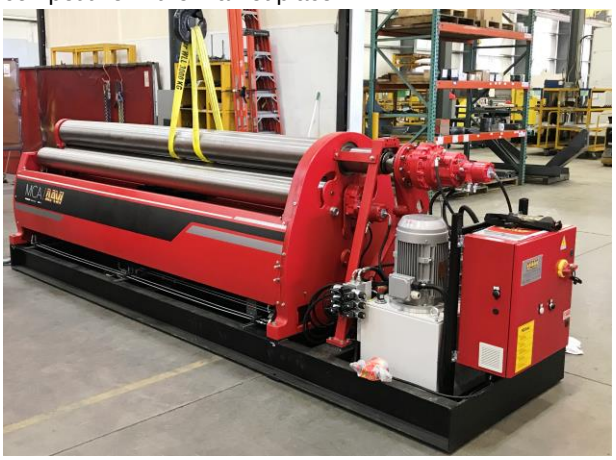
"The crews love the machine." said Peter DeGroot, project manager at D'Arrigo. "The workers on the machine don't want to go back to hand harvesting. There's a waiting list of people who want to get on the prototype."

Continued on page 3

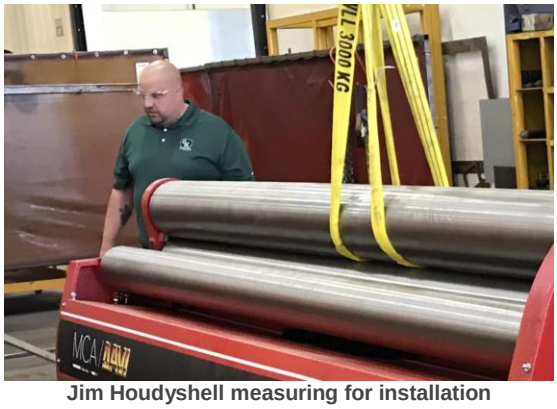
Inside This Issue

Installation of New Equipment

By purchasing the latest technology driven equipment, GK Machine continues to meet the goal of improving cycle times, and lowering maintenance and repair down time – all to stay competitive in the market place.



The newly purchased CNC operated MAX model roll forming machine can handle ultra-light gauges as well as thicker applications. The Davi Roll Forming 3R Max Series, manufactured in Italy, is designed to pre-bend and roll cylinders and cones.



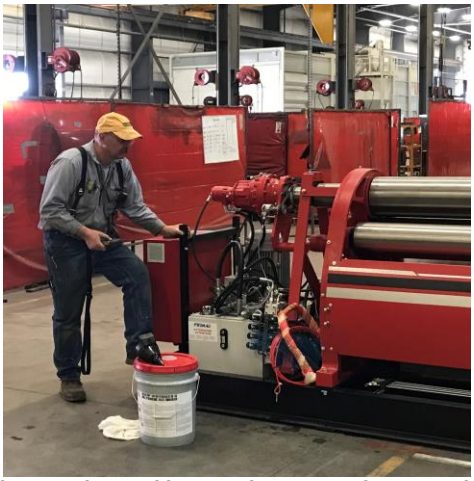
Jim Houdyshell measuring for installation

The benefit of this new equipment is the real hydraulic pre-bending. It clamps the material and pre-bends with minimum amount of residual flat end and straight edge. Full hydraulic movement and multiple independent hydraulic motors increase surface speed and ease of material handling.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

The MAX model will accommodate rolls up to 10 feet and 2 inches, and will handle high-resistance steel, heat treated, tested and certified carbon steel material. With friction-free rolling guides and self-aligning double crown spherical roller bearings, this machine is more accurate, faster and more reliable than previous models.



Alvin Beaudry working on placement of new machine

The machine features two independent but integrated parallel systems, just to prevent downtime in case of an electronic or other type of failure. And, high speed top roll rotation, with two hydro-motors that are free-to-tilt to absorb the rolls deflection and for cone rolling.

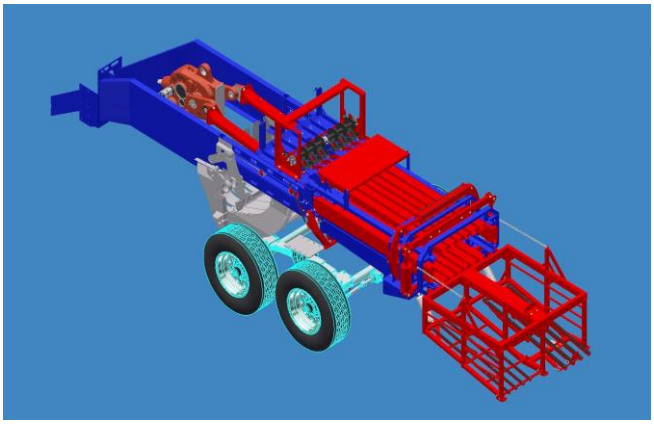
The Davi Roll Forming 3R Max machine is being installed end of May and training has been scheduled for those key individuals that will utilize this new machine for fuel tanks and cones. The second part of this machine purchase will arrive later this summer to add even more time savings and help GK Machine to improve efficiency for large tank jobs.

Happy Anniversary!

Mike Mader	**20 Years**	**Sales Department**
Brian Bingham	**20 Years**	**Fabrication**
JoAnn Agee	**15 Years**	**Administration/Finance**
Will Crawford	**10 Years**	**Counter Sales**
Kevin O'Connor	**10 Years**	**Fabrication**
Juan Espinoza	**10 Years**	**Fabrication**
Bradley Dayton	**5 Years**	**Fabrication**
Clem Fleck	**5 Years**	**Maintenance**
Miguel Valencia	**5 Years**	**Assembly**
David Goelzer	**5 Years**	**Assembly**
Stephen Hyson	**5 Years**	**Electrical Assembly**
Steven Foster	**5 Years**	**Laser Dept.**
Chad Christensen	**5 Years**	**Quality Control**
Zachary Gilmore	**5 Years**	**Counter Sales**

Grady Twin Pak Baler Project

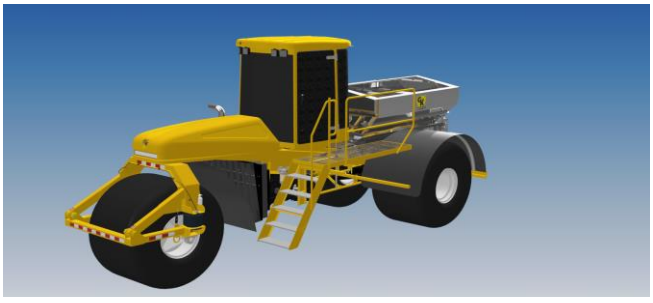
During the summer of 2018, Grady Press Trailers approached GK Machine about the development and design of a new dual baler system. The Grady Twin Pak Baler is designed to function as a typical in-line baler (small or large), but has additional chamber width to allow two hay bales to be created simultaneously.



"We are about 75% done with the design, and expecting to start production releases in June 2019. Assembly is currently schedule to begin this fall," says Bill Blankenship, Project Manager. GK's customer, Grady Press Trailers, has ordered two balers and planning to order another 14 balers to be completed by June 2020.

GK Updates 3W6 Look

The GK engineering team of Scott Grossen, Matt Steinke and Jacob Feller are working on a drastic redesign of the 3W6, including updating the look of the hood and front end. The only things that will remain the same between this 3W6 and the old 3W6 are the cab, dry box, and liquid spray system. The last update to the 3W6 design was in 2014 with a new rounded cab design and the addition of the stainless steel cab option.



Trivia Question: *What year was the first GK 3W6 sold?*
(see answer on page 3)

Welcome New Employees

We're glad you're on the team!

Jesse Buck	Engineering
Joshua Tjaarda	Paint Dept.
Chris Arneson	Machining
Andrew Maybee	Receiving
Dustin Ivy	Paint Dept.
Neil Livermore	Fabrication
Gabriel Watson	Engineering (Intern)
Gilbert Cruz	Laser/Forming
Robert Hunt	Saw Dept.
Taylor Berg	Fabrication
Steven Brown	Fabrication
James Houdyshell	Admin./Production Manager
Enrique Palacios	Inside Sales
Nathan Cooksey	Fabrication
Mario Torres	Fabrication
Bradley Tucker	Engineering (Intern)

GK Continues to Introduce Manufacturing to Youth

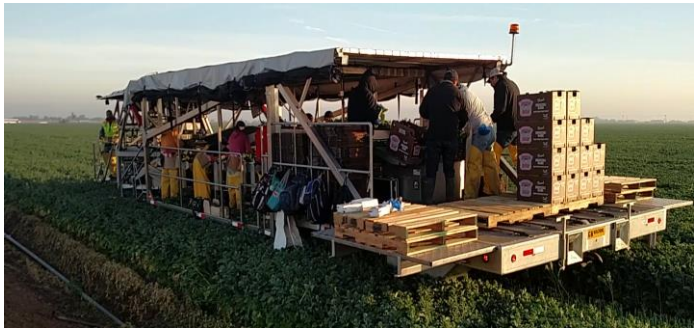
Throughout the school year, GK Machine gives dozens of shop facility tours to area students and not just high schools anymore. We are now seeing even younger groups of kids coming through the shop. "It is a great opportunity to show-case manufacturing jobs for these young people," says Gary Grossen. Thank you to all GK employees for helping ensure these kids have a great experience here at GK Machine.

"Wellness Wednesdays" are on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Please join us in the large lunchroom for a lunch and learn. Topics focus on employee heath, wellness and benefit programs.

Trivia Question Answer: *The first 3W6 was sold in 1986*

Updates include: a brand new engine package, a redesigned chassis, and simplified plant handling. The 2019 version of the MRH will also be more efficient and have improved manufacturing design.

"It's been a challenging but worthwhile project these past few years," remarked Trevor Scheck, the GK project manager. "We at GK have learned a lot working with D'Arrigo, and it's been rewarding to watch this impressive piece of equipment do its job in the field. We're very excited to see how successful the redesigned machines are."



The harvesters will begin production in fall of 2019 and will pass through every GK department. Parts will be passing through the saw, laser, and machining with special planning to ensure throughput. Harvesters will be made almost entirely from stainless steel and fabricating the frames will involve teams of welders working for a few months.

The large scale and complexity of the trio of harvesters will mean that production lasts almost a full year as they move through the shop and undergo onsite testing. Each harvester will use over 25,000 individual piece parts before they are complete, and there will likely be over 60 individual work orders.

"Rather than hit the shop floor with a tidal wave of work all at once, we're going to do our best to slowly release work over a couple months" said engineering manager Joe Graham. "It's thousands of hours of work, so it's going to be a challenge." The engineering team has been working hard to keep to the projected schedule. Parts will begin their journey through the shop starting September 2019.

Dates to Remember:

May 27	Memorial Day
June 16	Father's Day
July 4	Independence Day
July 4-7	Saint Paul Rodeo
July 31	Pacific Nut Growers Field Day
August 21-23	Farwest Nursery Show
September 2	Labor Day
September 5	GK Customer Appreciation Day

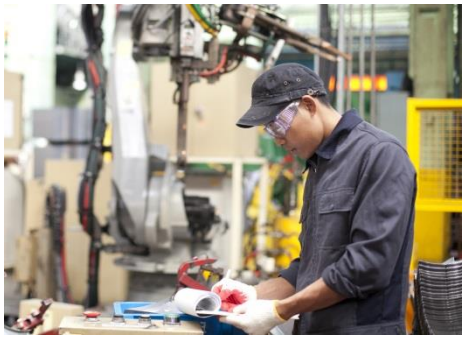
GK Recruits New Production Manager

This picture says it all…it was a very good day! It was the day Jim Houdyshell and his wife, Sam (Samantha) decided to make the move to Oregon from Illinois to join the GK family. So how did this all come about?

While attending a manufacturing machining tour in Europe, Gary and Connie traveled via bus with 30 people from all over the US involved in the manufacturing industry. "We met Jim while attending the Bystronic facility tour and we were both immediately impressed by his ability to communicate and positively interact with every person on the tour" says Gary Grossen. Just after the final evening dinner and reception, Gary and Connie approached Jim and pitched the idea of him coming to Oregon and visit the GK facility, with the hope of creating an interest to join our team.

After Jim and Sam visited the area, met with GK staff and talked extensively with Gary, they decided to move their family to Oregon. Jim started his position as Production Manager on April 29th and his family will join him this summer after the school year ends. Please help us welcome Jim and Sam to Oregon and to the GK Machine team!

To anyone who thinks eye protection may not be a crucial component of PPE in the workplace, think again…



Nearly **3 out of 5 injured workers were not wearing eye protection** at the time of the accident or were wearing the wrong kind of eye protection. The majority of workplace eye injuries are caused by small particles or objects (such as metal slivers, chips or dust) striking or abrading the eye, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) found that **70% of eye injuries resulted from flying or falling objects or sparks** striking the eye. Injured workers said that nearly three-fifths of the objects were smaller than a pinhead.

As with other types of PPE, protective eyewear won't protect workers if it stays on the shelf or is worn on top of workers' heads. So it is essential that protective eyewear be worn while working. An on-the-job eye injury can cause lasting and permanent vision damage, potentially disabling a worker for life.

Even "minor" eye injuries can cause long-term vision problems and suffering, such as recurrent and painful corneal erosion from a simple scratch from sawdust or cement. However**, an estimated 90% of eye injuries can be prevented through the use of proper protective eyewear**. It's common sense to do everything possible to make sure you have the right PPE to protect your eyes on the job. GK Machine values every employee's safety, so we encourage you to please use proper PPE at all times.