



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

Illinois, Indiana Competitors Wrangle Wins at Forklift Rodeo

Representatives from Dot Foods' Midwest DCs take the trophies at the company's Grand Nationals

MT. STERLING, Ill. – Three Dot Foods warehouse employees lassoed trips to Disney World, the Caribbean or one of seven other vacation destinations by maneuvering through an obstacle course on a sit-down forklift, mule (pallet jack) or narrow-aisle reach truck at the company's Forklift Rodeo Grand Nationals on June 25.

Dot crowned winners on each piece of equipment during the event, which encourages safe and efficient operation of material handling equipment. Competitors carried a trash can with a basketball balanced on it through a timed obstacle course, with penalties for safety infractions or contact with the course boundaries.

According to John Long, vice president of warehousing, "The event is designed for our employees, both for fun and to encourage safe and efficient operation of the equipment. While speed is key, safe operation is critical to successful performance, as scores take into account bumping into or upsetting the pallets that outline the course; stopping/honking in the proper manner; as well as general safe operating observations by the judges."

Each year, Dot Foods holds Warehouse Appreciation Week at each of its distribution centers across the country. As part of the week, employees compete in qualifying rounds of the Forklift Rodeo, and the top winner on each piece of equipment earns an all-expenses-paid trip to Mt. Sterling for the Grand Nationals. (Visit www.budurl.com/KHQAForklift for video from KHQA-TV in Quincy, Ill.)

"It was exciting to see employees from distant locations coming together to celebrate each others' success," said Mike Ford, Indiana warehouse manager and 2009 Forklift Rodeo coordinator. "This year there was even more of an emphasis on celebrating individual participants, with scheduled tours of the headquarters, dinner in St. Louis the night before, and a slide show during the contest with pictures and fun facts about each contestant."



30 finalists from distribution centers across the country competed in the Grand Nationals.

Clint Sutton from the Mt. Sterling frozen warehouse and Jeff Scrogum from the Mt. Sterling dry warehouse won on mule and narrow-aisle, respectively, while Jon Baker from the Cambridge City, Ind., warehouse was the forklift champion. The Illinois dry warehouse accumulated the best overall score to earn bragging rights as the all-around DC champion.



Mike Ford (left) congratulates mule champion Clint Sutton (right).



Jeff Scrogum, the narrow-aisle forklift champion, maneuvers through the obstacle course.



Illinois dry warehouse winners (from left to right) Jeff Scrogum, narrow-aisle champion; Jeff Higgins, Illinois dry warehouse manager; Don Manker, second place mule; and Noah Sheckler, second place forklift.



Jon Baker, the traditional forklift champion, poses with his trophy and equipment.

Dot Foods Inc. carries 83,000 products from 500 food industry manufacturers and is the largest food redistributor in the United States. Dot Foods and Dot Transportation sell and deliver foodservice, convenience, retail, vending, equipment and supplies to leading distributors in all 50 states. Dot Foods operates nine distribution centers in: Modesto, Calif.; Vidalia, Ga.; Burley, Idaho; Mt. Sterling, Ill.; Joliet, Ill.; Cambridge City, Ind.; Williamsport, Md.; Liverpool, N.Y.; and Ardmore, Okla. For information, visit www.dotfoods.com.