

Helwig Farms Quarter-Scale Tractor Team



The Kansas State University Helwig Farms Quarter-Scale Tractor Teams, formerly Powercat Tractors, came home with two top-five finishes in the 20th annual American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers' International Quarter-Scale Tractor Student Design Competition.

The teams competed June 2-4 in Peoria, Illinois, against 27 teams from universities in the U.S., Canada and Israel. K-State's A team took fifth place overall and its X team second overall. This is the 19th time in the last 20 years that one of the university's teams has won or placed in the top three at the event.

"Our now 20-year record speaks for itself," said Joe Harner, head of the biological and agricultural engineering department. "To continually rank in the top tier of this international competition

reflects well on our program, our students and our advisers."

A panel of industry experts judge each design for innovation, manufacturability, serviceability, maneuverability, safety, sound level and ergonomics. Teams submit a written design report in advance of the competition, and on site must sell their design in a formal presentation to the panel. Finally, machines are put to the test in three performance events — three tractor pulls, a maneuverability course and a durability course.

The A team — juniors and seniors — won both the Safety and First-Time-Through awards, and placed third in written report, first in oral presentation and fifth overall. The X team — freshmen and sophomores — took first in the pulling event and second overall.

Team leaders

A Team

Lucas Weller	President
Gabriel Bergmann	Vice President
Megan Workman	Secretary
Alexander Nytko	Treasurer
Wade Stroda	Shop Foreman
Curtis Doughramaji	Jr. Shop Foreman
Conor Hamilton	Fundraising Co-Chair
Braden Mishler	Fundraising Co-Chair
Jesse Meier	ESC Representative
William Moreland	ESC Representative

X Team

William Friesen	President
Brett Schwarz	Vice President
Jace Shirley	Secretary/Treasurer
Evan Ridder	Shop Foreman
Garret Schneider	Shop Foreman

Faculty advisers

Ed Brokesh, BAE instructor
Lou Ann Claassen, BAE administrative specialist
Dan Flippo, BAE assistant professor
John Kramer, retired BAE extension ag engineer
James Pat Murphy, BAE emeritus professor
James Schmidt, vice president of engineering, Mechanized Design
Jonathan Zeller, BAE research technician



Second and fifth place overall at 2017 ASABE annual International Quarter-Scale Tractor Student Design Competition

