

# Competition keen in Expo's first tractor pulls

**SHEILA MILLER**  
**RRISBURG** — A John Deere 4440 and a Case DC 440 were the top two tractors in today's stock tractor competition.  
 The Case, driven by Paul of R1 Shippensburg, was the winner in the 5500 pound class. The winning tractor was 129 feet and an inch long.  
 John Deere was won by Albert Kiefer, Bangor. The competition was a close one with a pull off between Hoch's Case 970 and Gross's John Deere but Kiefer pulled the best load seven feet one farther than the other tractors.  
 This was the first year for pulling contests were at the Farm Machinery but the interest was strong with over

thirty entries in the 5500 pound class, and close to twenty entries each in the other two classes.  
 The final competition will take place on Saturday, with the 9000 pound class, and the pull-off for the championship.  
 Ten finalists were selected from the two weight classes that pulled on Thursday. These ten pullers then draw for their position for the Saturday evening finals.  
 "It can make a difference depending on what order you pull," said Charles Kershner, of the Franklin County Tractor Pullers Association. "The track only gets reworked between classes, and in between pulls it is just smoothed down a little."  
 Kershner, of R3 Greencastle, helps to run the weight sled for the pulling



Albert Kiefer had the winning pull in tough competition in the 13,000 pound class.

The competition at this year's Expo only included the stock tractors. The stocks have a speed limit of 3 m.p.h. and there can't be any visible changes on the outside.  
 Besides stocks and mini-tractor competition, tractor pulls can also include modified and super stock, where the speed is unlimited, along with visible changes to the tractors.  
 "In the modifieds, about the only thing that belongs to a tractor is the rear-end, everything else is out of a car," said Kershner. "You can do anything to it as long as you stay in your weight class."

Out of the twenty finalists from Thursday's competition over half of them are farmers, mostly in the dairy business.

Paul Hoch, winner in the 5500 class, farms in partnership with his brother. They have a herd of 95 Holstein dairy cows, and farm 550 acres of land. This was his first win with the Case DC.

And Albert Kiefer is a farmer too. He farms 2500 acres and has a dairy

operation. The tractor he used in this week's contests is one he uses to farm. His win at the Expo is added to a long list of first places in his six years in competition.

The ten finalists in the Thursday classes include:

- 5500 Class**
1. Paul Hoch, 129-1;
  2. Claude Homan, R1 Centre Hall, 123-4½;
  3. Richard Troxell, R1 Andreas, 122-9;
  4. Gilbert Watson, 122-8½;
  5. Mike Miller, R3 Carlisle, 121-4;
  6. Dale Shupp, R2 Tunkhannock, 121-1;
  7. Carl Modica, Asbury, N.J., 120-5½;
  8. Larry Klinger, R1 Selinsgrove, 119-2;
  9. George Easton, R1 Cogan Station, 116-10;
  10. Donald Remley, R3 Benton, 116-5.

- 13,000 Class**
1. Albert Kiefer, 121-9;
  2. Paul Hoch, 114-8;
  3. David Gross, R1 Hamburg, 114-5½;
  4. Larry Klinger, R1 Winfield, 174-9;
  6. Robert Kiefer, R1 Bangor, 172-11½;
  7. Barry Ott, R2 Bangor, 171-8½;
  8. Ray Reighard, RD Woodbury, 165-8½;
  9. Ronald Jumper, R3 Newville, 163-7½;
  10. Randy Greene, R2 Canton, 159-7½.

## Expo opens

(Continued from Page A1)

Noah Wenger, representative from Lancaster County.

"Farmers must be assured of sufficient energy at crucial times of the year," Wenger said. "The interstate highway systems have changed the face of Pennsylvania agriculture. We need to study energy and its usage and conservation, and look into alternate energy sources."

He added the Expo provides an opportunity for farmers to learn about some of the innovations in energy systems.

The young Expo drew a sizeable crowd for the tractor pulling competitions. The interest was high as far as the exhibitors were concerned, with entries reaching the upper limit in one of the classes. See accompanying story.

And, although not as full as its big sister, the Farm Show, the Expo had a good showing of machinery and equipment exhibitors. There

were numerous wood stove displays, along with other homesteader types, silo manufacturers, trucks, trailers, and grain dealers, and many, many others.

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 The American Falls is 182 feet high and the Horseshoe (Canadian) Falls is 176 feet high.

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 Passage across the international border is a routine matter at Niagara Falls for natural-born citizens of the United States or Canada.

Others also pass freely across the border, although it is suggested that they carry identification papers to avoid delays.

The United States and Canada agreed in a 1950 treaty that 100,000 cubic feet of water per second must flow over the Falls during daylight hours in the tourist season from April to October. At other times, in the off-season and during evening hours, the flow may be reduced to 50,000 cubic feet per second.

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competition. One of three in the state, the Franklin County pullers' sled is the largest.

"There are two others like it, but one is in North Carolina and the other is in South Carolina," he added. The other two sleds in the state, he said, are one foot smaller in diameter all around. These sleds belong to the North East club and the Buck club in Lancaster County.

The sled is specially designed to take the exhaust from the tractors and pipe it outside. This is almost a necessity in an indoor show, Kershner explained. As a matter of fact, one tractor was disqualified from the pull when the exhaust apparatus came off his tractor.

The sled, said Kershner, is capable of going from zero weight to 42,000 pounds. A system of gears moves a weight box from the back of

the sled, up over the axle, until all of the weight is on the front of the sled and the tractor is dragging the weight.

Air bags under the sled actually can lift it up off the ground, and the tractor is just rolling the load until the weight is added on.

The Franklin County puller said their sled has put 10,000 miles on in three years, going to tractor pulls around the state. Kershner added, "Tractor pulling is getting bigger all the time—especially the mini-tractors at 1500, 1700, and 1900 pounds. You don't need a big trailer to haul them around."

Kershner explained the mini-tractors can have more horse power than the modifieds. They are built from the ground up, he said, and aluminum parts are used to keep them light. "It can easily cost \$5000 to build one," he added.

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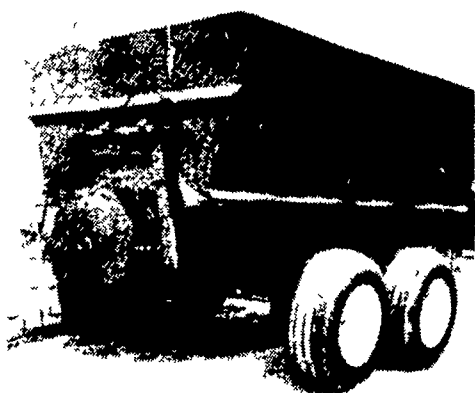
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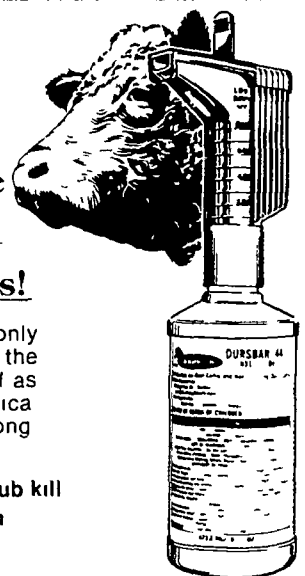
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