



American Society of
Agricultural and Biological Engineers

CONTACT

Dolores Landeck
269-428-6339
landeck@asabe.org

News Release

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Hi-res electronic images of 2009 teams available upon request

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS WINS 12TH ANNUAL ASABE ¼-SCALE TRACTOR STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION

Illini Knock Off 24 Other Teams for First-Ever Top Finish

ST JOSEPH, MICHIGAN – The University of Illinois Illini Pullers pulled off the ultimate upset this past weekend, breaking a multi-year Kansas State University winning streak by taking top honors at the 12th Annual ASABE International 1/4-Scale Tractor Student Design Competition, held May 28 - 31, in Peoria, Illinois.

Rounding out the 2009 top five were, in order: Kansas State University, Purdue University, Iowa State University and Texas A & M University

The five earned their top finishes by performing consistently well among all of the judging categories: Oral Presentation, Written Design Report, Static Design Judging, Maneuverability and Performance (tractor pull).

Results of the major categories are as follows:

Oral Presentation: University of Illinois
Written Design Report: Kansas State University
Maneuverability: Southern Illinois University
Performance (Tractor Pull): Nicholls State University

Individual awards were given to teams demonstrating outstanding effort in each of the design subcategories. These included:

Manufacturability: University of Missouri
Serviceability: Iowa State
Ergonomics: California Polytechnic State University
Safety: California Polytechnic State University
Sound Design: Kansas State University

Other awards, not factored into competition standings, were given for Teamwork (University of Wisconsin - Madison), Craftsmanship (University of Missouri), Best Appearance (University of Saskatchewan), Sportsmanship (Modesto Junior College) and Innovation (California Polytechnic State University for their PLC-controlled touch

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screen with fully enclosed operation station), Web Site Design (Université Laval) and Campbell Scientific Award for best use of data acquisition equipment (Kansas State University).

The ASABE Annual International 1/4-Scale Tractor Student Design Competition provides university students with a "360-degree" design experience, unique among collegiate vehicle-design competitions, in which they must build a tractor from the ground up, documenting their market research, testing and development; presenting their design to a mock corporate management team; and demonstrating performance in a live tractor pull. Students gain invaluable professional experience, and industry representatives, many of whom serve as competition judges, are able to find top job recruits among the participants. The contest draws teams from across North America.

As the contest matures, teams are learning that creativity can lead to success when supported by a strong design, and that's an important lesson for aspiring engineers. The variety of engine and drive train configurations seen in this year's competition all proved to be track-worthy, with Illinois's five-engine, two-wheel drive design edging out Kansas State's three-engine, four-wheel drive design for the overall championship.

"The allowable design configurations—four- or two-wheel drive, multiple engines allowed, team-designed drive trains—have created an endless variety of final product that make for a very interesting competition," says Travis Tsunemori, of ASABE.

Unofficial dates for the 2010 competition are May 27 – 30 in Peoria, IL.

Corporate sponsors for the ASABE 12th Annual International 1/4-Scale Tractor Student Design Competition were AGCO, Bridgestone/Firestone, Briggs & Stratton, Case, Campbell Scientific, Inc, Caterpillar, John Deere, New Holland, and SolidWorks. Additional support was provided by, Central City Scale, Claas, igus, Inc., Kelly Sauder Rupiper, Kentucky Corn Growers Association, MacDon Industries, Miller Electric, Star Equipment and Sukup Manufacturing.

The American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers is a professional and technical organization dedicated to the advancement of engineering applicable to agricultural, food, and biological systems. Members are consultants, managers and others who have the training and experience to understand the interrelationships between technology and living systems. Founded in 1907 and headquartered in St Joseph, Michigan, ASABE comprises 9,000 members from more than 100 countries. For further information, contact ASABE, 2950 Niles Rd, St Joseph, Michigan, 49085; 269-429-0300; hq@asabe.org; www.asabe.org.

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