Quarter-Scale Tractor Team

The Kansas State University quarter-scale tractor A-Team placed second overall at the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers’ (ASABE) annual International Quarter-Scale Tractor Student Design Competition in 2015 in Peoria, Illinois. This is the 17th time in the last 18 years that the university’s teams have won or placed in the top three at the event.

This year’s A-Team — juniors and seniors — in placing second out of 26 entries, scored first in the Sportsmanship Award, first in the Campbell Scientific Award, and second in performance events including three pulling and one durability contest.

The university’s quarter-scale tractor X-Team — freshmen and sophomores — placed first in pulling in the performance events.

The International Quarter-Scale Tractor Student Design Competition is unique among student engineering design contests in that it provides a realistic 360-degree workplace experience. Teams of students are given a 31-horsepower Briggs & Stratton engine and a set of Titan tires. Design of the tractor is up to each team.

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“One of the most important skills to bring to a professional career is how to work with people. Engineering classes can teach you many things but not this one. That’s why the quarter-scale tractor team and other student design teams are so important for the development of young engineers.”

— Tyler Siebels
A-Team President

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 they must sell their design in a formal presentation to the panel, which plays the role of a corporate management team. Finally, machines are put to the test in two performance events — three tractor pulls and a durability course.
“The largest challenge is utilizing the ideas generated by the members and working with the design team to create a successful tractor.”

“As a leader, the most important lesson I learned is to step away and trust your team members to complete the tasks they’ve been assigned.”

“Specific skills I’ve developed over this past year include managerial, financial, accounting, fundraising and general ‘people’ skills.”

— Tyler Siebels
A-Team President