

## **Tractor Team Once Again Make Its Mark in International Competition**

**The Kansas State University [Helwig Farms Quarter-Scale Tractor Team](#) came home with two top finishes at the 21st annual American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers' International Quarter-Scale Tractor Student Design Competition.**

**The team competed May 31-June 3 in Peoria, Illinois, against 28 teams from universities in the U.S., Canada and Israel. Kansas State University's A team took second place overall and its X team first overall. This is the 19th time in the last 21 years that one of the university's teams has won or placed in the top three at the event.**

**"The students continue to build upon the tradition of excellence," said Joe Harner, head of the [biological and agricultural engineering department](#). "Year after year, our students come through and place in the top spots of this international competition. The success is a combined effort of our programs, the team advisors and, of course, our students."**

**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 — averaged fourth in pulls and took second overall. The X team — freshmen and sophomores — took first in the oral presentation and first overall.**

**Team advisors are Pat Murphy, adjunct professor; Dan Flipppo, assistant professor; Edwin Brokesh, instructor; Lou Ann Claassen, administrative specialist; and Jon Zeller, research technician, all from the biological and agricultural engineering department; and Ryan Zecha, Manhattan, biological and agricultural engineering alumnus.**

**The following students are members of the university's Helwig Farms Quarter-Scale Tractor Team; leadership positions are also noted.**

**Braden Mishler, biological systems engineering, A team sponsorship co-chair, Arnold; Corbin Baldwin, biological systems engineering, X team vice president,**

**Cimarron; Matt Loomis, agricultural technology management, equipment manager, Iuka; Megan Workman, agronomy, A team secretary, Lawrence; David Pullen, mechanical engineering, A team student council representative, Lenexa; Evan Ridder, biological systems engineering, A team, Leoti; E.J. Swihart, biological systems engineering, A Team, Manhattan; Logan Windholz, biological systems engineering, X team equipment manager, Marquette; Jace Shirley, agricultural technology management, A team, Oakley; Nicholas Meyer, biological systems engineering, A team treasurer, Tampa; Curtis Doughramaji, biological systems engineering, A team president, Topeka; Conor Hamilton, agricultural technology management, equipment manager, Turon; Brett Schwarz, agricultural technology management, A team sponsorship co-chair, Wamego; and Kaleb Keehn, biological systems engineering, X team president, Wetmore.**

**From out of state:**

**Alexander Nytko, biological systems engineering, A team vice president, Roscoe, Illinois; Grant Friesen, biological systems engineering, A team student council representative, Carthage, Indiana; and Drew Goddard, biological systems engineering, X team secretary, Omaha, Nebraska.**