

## Quarter-scale tractor, full-size success

Kansas State University's quarter-scale tractor design teams are the winners of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers' 16th annual International Quarter-Scale Tractor Student Design Competition, May 30-June 2, in Peoria, Ill.

The teams and their Powercat tractors won their ninth international championship title at the event. It's the 15th time in the last 16 years that Kansas State University has won or placed in the top three at the competition.

The competition requires teams to build a 31-horsepower engine quarter-scale tractor and document the market research, testing and development of their design. Tractor designs, oral presentations and a written report are presented to a corporate management team for evaluation. Each tractor also competes in a live tractor pull to test its performance capabilities.

Kansas State University's A Team beat 28 other universities from the U.S. and Canada to claim top honors, receiving first place for maneuverability, third place in oral presentation and second place in written report and in tractor performance pulls. The University of Kentucky, Modesto (Calif.) Junior College, Universite Laval in Canada, and Pennsylvania State University rounded out the top five in the A team competition.

Kansas State University's X Team received first place out of 11 teams in the X Team com-

petition, winning both the oral presentation and pulling performance categories. X Team members are freshmen, sophomores and students who are new to the competition.

Joe Harner, head of the university's department of biological and agricultural engineering, said the teams' strong performances at the competition reflect the quality of academic programs and activities available to students at Kansas State University, as well as the strides the university has made toward its goal of becoming a Top 50 public research university by 2025.

"The 2013 ASABE International quarter-scale tractor competition highlights the quality of extracurricular activities available to students at Kansas State University," Harner said. "They are the cumulative application of students' classroom and internship experiences. As such, they provide undergraduates the opportunity to contribute toward the goals and scholarly activities of Vision 2025."

Harner says participating in this competition helps equip students with the skills needed to solve the problems and confront issues they will face in their future careers.

"Nearly 200 industry professionals volunteer their time as part of the intensive review process of the undergraduate teams' design, product manufacturability and serviceability, ergonomics and safety, written and oral

communication skills, as well as tractor pulling performance," he said. "The cumulative outcome is preparing today's K-State students to address tomorrow's global challenges."

Advisers for this year's team were Pat Murphy, professor of biological and agricultural engineering; Ed Brokesh, instructor of biological and agricultural engineering; Jon Zeller, research technician in biological and agricultural engineering; John Kramer, adviser for biological and agricultural engineering; Lou Ann Claasen, administrative specialist for the department of biological and agricultural engineering; and Jim Schmidt, a K-State biological and agricultural engineering alumnus and the senior mechanical engineering manager for the Dell Corp.

Members of Kansas State University's A or X Quarter-Scale Tractor teams and leadership position, if applies, include:

Brad Wehling, junior in agricultural technology management, Abilene, A Team; Tyler Montgomery, sophomore in biological systems engineering, Alma, X Team president; Nathan Peterson, sophomore in agricultural technology management, Assaria; Erik Cummings, sophomore in agricultural technology management, X Team, and Darren Falk, junior in agricultural technology management, A Team shop foreman 2 and X Team member, both from Atchison; Andrew Koch, junior



Tyler Montgomery, Alma, a sophomore at Kansas State University, led his team to victory at the 16th annual International Quarter-Scale Tractor Student Design Competition, May 30-June 2, in Peoria, Ill. (Pictured left to right) Tyler, Ryan Strasser and Zach Stejskal stand next to their winning tractor. Tyler is a 2012 graduate of Northern Valley and his parents are Monte and Staci Montgomery of Alma. His grandparents are Keith and Charlene Ross of Long Island.

—Photo courtesy Staci Montgomery

in biological systems engineering, Auburn, A Team; Austin Schmitz, sophomore in biological systems engineering, Axtell, X Team; Nicholas Waltz, sophomore in agricultural technology management, Baldwin City, X Team; Zach Winkel, senior in agricultural technology management, Beloit, A Team; Zachary Stejskal, sophomore in biological systems engineering, Bison, X Team; Dillon Thompson, senior in biological systems engineering, Burdett, A Team president; Dalton Buckland, senior in agricultural technol-

ogy management, Concordia, A Team; Tanner Peroutek, senior in biological systems engineering, Esbon, A Team fundraising chair 1; Brad McVey, senior in biological systems engineering, Fredonia, A Team secretary; Ryan Strasser, junior in biological systems engineering, Garden City, X Team; Doug Niehues, senior in biological systems engineering, A Team treasurer, and Corbin Pfrang, sophomore in biological systems engineering, A Team, both from Goff; Jordan Reisinger, junior in biological systems engineering,

Havensville, A Team; Ben Belar, senior in agricultural technology management, Howard, A Team; Devin Mangus, senior in biological systems engineering, Kanorado, A Team vice president; Nathan Siemens, senior in agricultural technology management, Kingman, A Team; Stuart Wakeman, junior in agricultural technology management, Lawrence, A Team; Lars Peterson, sophomore in biological systems engineering, Lindsborg, X Team; Kyler Macy, junior in biological systems engineering, Minneapolis, X Team.

## SCHOOL MENU

### NCHS-NIHS Menu

Monday, Sept. 9  
Breakfast-Oatmeal chocolate chip bar, peaches, apple juice and milk.

Lunch-Chicken strip sandwich, lettuce and tomato, french fries, bananas and milk.

Tuesday, Sept. 10  
Breakfast-Biscuits and gravy, bananas, grape juice and milk.

Lunch-Taco salad, refried beans, lettuce and tomato, apple sauce and milk.

Wednesday, Sept. 11  
Breakfast-Assorted cereal, rosy applesauce, toast w/margarine, orange juice and milk.

Lunch-Loaded crust cheese pizza, salad, peaches and milk.

Thursday, Sept. 12  
Breakfast-English muffin w/sausage, oranges, grape juice and milk.

Lunch-Chicken Alfredo, Carnival salad, green beans, applesauce, Snickerdoodles and milk.

Friday, Sept. 13  
Breakfast-Pancake and sausage on a stick, pineapple tidbits, grape juice and milk.

Lunch-Hamburger gravy, whipped potatoes, rolls w/margarine, carrots, pears and milk.

### EES Menu

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

### NCHS

Saturday, Sept. 7  
FFA to State Fair  
Tennis at Colby, 9 a.m.

Monday, Sept. 9  
JV FB vs. Smith Center (H), 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 10  
Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.  
KAY Board, 7:45 a.m.

Tennis at Phillipsburg, 1 p.m.  
Sophomore ring presentations, 2:15 p.m.

VB at Stockton and w/Osborne, Phillipsburg, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 11  
S.A.D.D., A.P.

Bethany College representative available, A.P.  
Site Council, 5 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 12

Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.  
FCCLA board meeting, 7:45 a.m.

JV Tennis at Trego, 1 p.m.  
FCCLA meeting, A.P.

Friday, Sept. 13  
MTSS Team meeting at U.S.D. office, 9 a.m.

Drama Club meeting, A.P.  
Football vs Goodland (H), 7 p.m.

Post Prom Tailgate, 5-6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 14  
JV VB at Quinter, 9 a.m.

JV Tennis at Norton, 9 a.m.  
CC at Wamego, 11 a.m.

Sunday, Sept. 15  
National Honor Society  
Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up, 2 p.m.

### NIHS

Tuesday, Sept. 10  
Stuco meeting, 8:05 a.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 11  
Faculty meeting, 7:45 a.m.  
W.A.C.K.Y. Days at Hansen Scout Ranch, 9 a.m.

Thursday, Sept. 12  
JH VB and FB vs. Ellis (H), 4:30/6 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 13  
KAYS, MTSS

EES  
Wednesday, Sept. 11  
TEAM, 3:40 p.m.

Northern Valley  
Unavailable at time of publication

May 25-Daniel Penafior; Charge: Speeding 55 in 45; Plea: No contest; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$30, costs \$76, total \$106.

July 28-Joseph Dole, Norton; Charge: Dog at-large (not registered); Plea: Guilty; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$25, costs waived because dog got loose during an emergency situation.

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## Making a difference helping others and being first

By Ron Wilson

Huck Boyd Institute

Overland Park, Kansas. It's time for the big annual meeting of the League of Kansas Municipalities. The president of the organization is calling the meeting to order. Interestingly, the chairman of this meeting is not a man — it's a woman. In fact, this woman is the first female city clerk to ever hold the office of president of the League of Kansas Municipalities — and she comes from rural Kansas.

Brenda Chance is the city clerk of Phillipsburg in northwest Kansas. In addition to her community duties, she serves as president of the League of Kansas Municipalities, the statewide association of city governments.

Brenda is a Phillips County native. She helped with her father's custom harvesting business, attended Colby Community College, and worked as a parts manager in a John Deere dealership.

In 1981, she joined the City of Phillipsburg as a waste water treatment facility operator. Over time, she gradually worked her way up through the city organization.

"One day in 1987, the mayor called me into his office," Brenda said. "He told me that I should be city clerk. I told him no thanks, but he had been a drill sergeant in the Army and he told me: I should be city clerk!" With his encouragement and the support of her husband, Brenda agreed to give it a try.

She was appointed to the position on April 1, 1987. Two days later, a massive snowstorm hit western Kansas, dumping a big load of snow on communities including Phillipsburg. "We couldn't get out our front door or our back door," Brenda said. "We had to go through the garage and dig our way out from there."

Of course, the phone started ringing off the hook about city business.

"When the phone rang about the tenth time, my husband answered and said grumpily, 'What do you people expect?!' It was a city councilman," she said. Fortunately the city survived the blizzard and so did Brenda's career.

She went on to a distinguished career at the city. Sadly, the mayor passed away from cancer that first fall.

Brenda was active in her professional association, the City Clerks/Municipal Finance Officers Association. She served that organization as president and was named Clerk of the

Year in 2008.

When a friend of Brenda's stepped down for health reasons from the board of directors of the League of Kansas Municipalities, the friend recommended Brenda for her unexpired position.

Brenda joined the board of the League of Kansas Municipalities in 2005 and then became an officer, being elected president in fall 2012. Brenda is one of only eight women to have held that position since the organization was founded in 1910.

She is the first city clerk to be elected president of the organization since 1937 and the first female city clerk ever to be elected president. That's quite an accomplishment for a young woman who grew up near the rural community of Glade, population 112 people. Now, that's rural.

"I'm very honored," Brenda said. "Our city officials across the state are an amazing bunch. The mayors of Overland Park and Wichita have problems on

a different scale, but when we get to talking, we find we still have a lot of the same type of issues."

League meetings are also a time to share a lot of ideas. "We like to pick up ideas and think, how could we do that back home?" Brenda said.

What does Brenda like about being city clerk in Phillipsburg? "I love my job," Brenda said. "I love to see a project come through to completion. We just opened our new aquatic center in Phillipsburg. It was great to see the delight on the faces of those kids, as well as the adults in the therapy pool," Brenda said. "It's about service and being there to help."

It's time to leave the annual meeting of the League of Kansas Municipalities, where the presiding officer is the first female city clerk ever to hold that position. We commend Brenda Chance for making a difference with service — not just to her community, but to her state.

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## PUBLIC RECORD

### Municipal Court

These transactions were taken from the records of filings in the offices of the Norton Municipal Court. These cases were given to the paper with the date of the hearings.

### Aug. 8

July 24-Earline Gibson, Norton; Charge: DUI-drugs; Plea: Guilty; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$750, costs \$76, total \$826, 48 hours time served, 30 days

house arrest, and ordered to get alcohol and drug evaluation.

July 2-Charlotte Gasper, Norton; Charge: Dog at-large (not registered); Plea: Guilty; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$25, costs \$76, total \$101, and ordered to register dogs.

July 31-Brandy Kauten, Norton; Charge: Speeding 40 in 30; Plea: No contest; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$30, costs \$76, total \$106.