



Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet National Farm Machinery Show

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Contact: Amanda Storment
502-367-5180

amanda.storment@kyvenues.com

Monster Machines Battle for Grand Champion Title in Freedom Hall

National Farm Machinery Show and Championship Tractor Pull

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (February 6, 2018) — Powerful pulling machines go for a wild ride down the unpredictable dirt track of Freedom Hall in an action-packed showdown of the most talented drivers in the country. Ask anyone who has ever been in the stands, there's nothing like the annual Championship Tractor Pull – from the scream of monster engines to the smell of burning rubber.

Championship Tractor Pull

More than 70,000 fans will flood Freedom Hall Feb. 14–17 for the super-charged Championship Tractor Pull at the Kentucky Exposition Center. Sponsored by Syngenta, the event draws the nation's top drivers as they compete for the title of Grand Champion and a share of over \$200,000 in prize money. In fact, competitors are not restricted to the U.S. Two drivers, William De Vos and Barend Huijbregts will travel from the Netherlands to hit the track.

Tractor Pull 101

Drivers compete in eleven divisions based on the weight of their machine, for example: 7,500 pound 4x4 super stock diesel trucks and 10,200 pound pro stock tractors. Competition begins when weighted sleds are attached to the machines. Competitors then “gun for a full pull” – pulling the sled the full length of the track for a win. If two or more drivers in a division nail a full pull, more weight is added. The driver who pulls the farthest wins. It's the kind of excitement that keeps people on the edge of their seats because a fraction of an inch can make the difference between first and second place.

Tip: Consider wearing ear plugs during the pull, because these machines are loud – some are even powered by modified airplane engines.

A Half-Century at Full Throttle

For 50 years the nation's best drivers and their powerful pulling machines have descended on Louisville each February for the Championship Tractor Pull. Sixty-six tractors competed in three classes (5,000, 10,000 and 15,000 pound tractors) in the first Championship Tractor Pull. There are now more than 190 tractors competing across eleven classes. A lot has changed in 50 years. The first truck class was added in 1977, an addition that helped the pull sell out for the first time. Additionally, numerous safety changes have taken place including fireproof suits and racing helmets for the drivers.

The Pit: Up Close and Personal

Want to check out the wheeled beasts before they roar into gear? Visit “The Pit” in Broadbent Arena and get up close to competing tractors and trucks, meet drivers, get autographs and take photos with favorite vehicles. Admission is free and open to the public Wednesday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Tickets on Sale Now

Tickets for the Championship Tractor Pull are available at the Kentucky Exposition Center Ticket Office, online at www.ticketmaster.com or by phone at 1-800-745-3000. Event times and prices vary by day:

- Wednesday, Feb. 14 7 p.m. \$20, \$30 and \$40
- Thursday, Feb. 15 7 p.m. \$20, \$30 and \$40
- Friday, Feb. 16 7 p.m. \$25, \$35 and \$45
- Saturday, Feb. 17 12 p.m. \$20, \$30 and \$40
7 p.m. \$25, \$35 and \$45

A detailed tractor pull schedule is available at www.champpull.org.

Biggest Indoor Farm Machinery Show

The Championship Tractor Pull is held in conjunction with the National Farm Machinery Show, the largest indoor farm show in the country. Each year more than 300,000 attendees from around the world explore the agricultural industry's most comprehensive display of equipment, services and technology – more than 1.3 million square feet of exhibit space to be exact.

With a nod to Kentucky's heritage as an agricultural state, it doesn't matter whether someone is in the industry or just curious about what the future holds for the world of farming. There's something for everyone to discover in the 880 booths.

Watch a live-taping of "U.S. Farm Report" market roundtable with Tyne Morgan and special guests Thursday, Feb. 15 at 2 p.m. Presented by Farm Progress in South Wing B105.

Free seminars are scheduled Feb. 14-16 in the South Wing, with subjects ranging from market and weather strategies to world record corn and soybean yields; tillage trends to technology; and combine innovations to crop fertility. Sponsors include Farm Progress and DTN/The Progressive Farmer.

Admission to the National Farm Machinery Show is free and open to the public Feb. 14-17 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Parking is \$8 per vehicle. More information is available at www.farmmachineryshow.org.

Farmers Market: Gifts and Crafts

For those who are more interested in shops than crops, head over to the South Wing Mezzanine to the Gift and Craft Market, with its nearly 80 booths of jewelry, clothing, cowboy gear, tractor-branded merchandise, handcrafted gifts, toys, collectibles, sweet and savory snacks, and more. The market is open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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The [National Farm Machinery Show](http://www.farmmachineryshow.org) (NFMS) is the nation's largest indoor farm show and features the agricultural industry's most comprehensive display of equipment, services and technology. Held annually at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, it attracts 300,000 attendees from the U.S. and around the world. The country's oldest indoor tractor pull, the Championship Tractor Pull, accompanies the show and provides an added element of entertainment and competition. NFMS contributes \$17 million in economic impact to the Commonwealth each year, and is owned and produced by Kentucky Venues.

Conveniently located adjacent to the Louisville International Airport and near the junction of three major interstates, the Kentucky Exposition Center is easily accessible and just seven minutes south of downtown Louisville. Entrances to the facility are located off Phillips Lane, Crittenden Drive and Preston Highway. Parking is \$8 per vehicle.

