

HUNTERDON COUNTY 4-H & AGRICULTURAL FAIR

GARDEN TRACTOR PULLS

Date: SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2023 – 8:30 a.m.

**All participants to meet on track at 8:30 a.m. - to discuss Rule changes
Weigh-In – 8:45 a.m.
Pull Begins – 10:00 a.m.**

Here is a summary of the rules.

If you have any questions, contact John Chiesa 908-202-7566

Email johnchiesa1216@gmail.com

All participants enter the pull at his/her own risk (or that of parent/guardian) and recognizes that they will be held responsible for any accident or injury incurred or property damage to others caused by them and their tractor at any time while on the fairgrounds during the Hunterdon County 4-H & Agricultural Fair.

SECTION I

1. All contestants must be **between the ages of 10-17 for the 900 lb. Junior Class** and must have written parental consent.
2. Contestants – Open to only New Jersey residents.
3. All contestants must wear helmets that conform to Chapter 62 Motor Vehicle Racetrack regulations.
4. All contestants must sign a release form.
5. All contestants must wear long pants and **footwear must enclose the entire foot.**
6. **Tractors may only pull once for the entire Garden Tractor Pull, except for the Women's Class**

SECTION II

1. Contest is open to all **gas** stock and air-cooled garden tractors. No four-wheeled drive allowed. No dual tires, tire studs or chains permitted. All power must be transmitted through the wheels. **No widening of rims. No cutting of tires.** No changing of tires or wheels. Turf tires only. Tractors must have hoods.
2. Minimum drawbar length 6 inches from center of rear wheels to point of hook. Maximum 12 inches from top of hitching device parallel to the ground. Drawbar is to be stationary in all directions. No turnbuckles allowed.
3. No pressurized fuels allowed. **No alcohol fuels allowed.** No oxygen fuels allowed.
4. No Portion of the tractor shall interfere with the sled or sled hitch during the pull.
5. All weights must be safely secured to the tractor. Front weights not to exceed 20" from the front frame and not to exceed 6" behind rear tires. Any ballast lost while hooked to the sled will be cause for disqualification.
6. Stock block tractors are tractors having standard block and crankcase for make for make and model being entered. Chassis must conform to manufacturer's specification for tractor being entered. Stock Classes: 900 lb. Jr.; 900 lb; 1000 lb; 1100 lb; 900 lb Women's
7. All stock tractors must have a safety device to prevent turnovers. This device is to have wheels or skid plate. Wheels are to be at least 1" wide and 5" in diameter. Skid pads to be at least 3" square at the ground contact point, wheels or skid pads must be no less than 5" behind the rear of the rear tires

and not more than 5" above the ground. Without skid plates, front wheels must not leave the ground. Device must be stationary in all directions. Must be able to support the weight of the tractor. **Tractors** without skid plates, the front wheels must not leave the ground.

8. The committee reserves the right to question the legality of any stock entry, and decisions are final.
9. All stock tractors must be equipped with a hood and grill.
10. All tractors must be equipped with workable throttles, brakes, and no governor overrides. **4000 maximum RPM.**
11. All Tractor engines must be shut off while on the scales.

SECTION III

OPERATION OF CONTEST

1. All contestants in weight class are to be lined up on the track before the class begins.
2. All pulls must start from a tight hitch. No jerking permitted. Contestants will be allowed 2 attempts and 30 feet to start the sled.
3. Tractors must be stopped immediately upon signal from judge.
4. Driver must remain seated during the pull and have complete control of the tractor at all times. A safely secured, normal size seat must be used. **No flat seats, no bouncing, driver must remain in normal upright driving position.**
5. Tractors must be operated in a safe manner at all times.
6. Any intentional loss of liquid by a tractor while on the track will be cause for disqualification.
7. Tractors and sled must remain within boundaries of contest course during the pull or will be disqualified.
8. Only one pull allowed each contestant unless tie is declared.
9. 9 the pull shall be considered over when forward motion of the load stops. The judge shall hold hole-digging to a minimum.
10. A dirt track of not less than 200 feet in length and not to exceed 300 feet and not less than 12 feet in width.
11. **No alcoholic beverages are allowed on the Fair Grounds at any time, including during the competing and at the pull.**
12. Contestants must pull at position give them at the scale, any delay will mean a disqualification.
13. Number 1 puller will be test puller and will pull to verify if weight machine is okay or he may pull in 3rd position. He may also pull in 3rd disqualifying 1st pull.
14. Only the contestant pulling, and officials are allowed on the track.
15. All tractors in weight class must stay **in designated area**, until winners are announced.
16. 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winners must re-weight immediately following the announcement of placings.

SECTION IV

1. Violation of any rule shall constitute a disqualification.
2. Contest to be governed by a judge of judges with all decision's final. Judges have the right to stop and disqualify any tractor if it is not being operated in such a manner as would be considered safe.

SECTION V

Jr. 900 lb. Class Rules

1. Ages 10-17 must have parental permission.
2. Judges have the right to disqualify contestant if operator's feet cannot reach the pedals or if the person can't fully operate the tractor.

SECTION VI

Women's 900 lb. Class Rules

1. Women can drive a tractor that had been pulled in another class.
2. Ages 10-17 must have parental permission.
3. Tractor can only be entered once in each class.
4. One woman can only pull one tractor in a class.

SECTION VII

Trophies awarded to first place winners. All classes will be awarded ribbons for the first three placings. 900 lb. Jr. Class, all Jr.'s will be awarded participation ribbons.

Blindfold Driving Contest – started in 2018

There will be teams of 2 persons, one to drive the Garden Tractor and one to direct the blindfolded driver by tapping the driver on either the left or right shoulder with a stick to make them turn in that direction. The back seat driver can only say two words. Giddap and Whoa! as they drive through the winding obstacle course.

Blindfold Garden Tractor Contest Rules

1. The same standard transmission tractor will be used for all contestants.
2. All contestants, or parent of anyone under 18, must sign the letter of indemnity.
3. All Contestants both drivers and passengers are to be over 16 years of age.
4. Each driver will be given a new large handkerchief as a blindfolded. The handkerchief will only be worn once by the driver and is theirs to keep.
5. Two judges will be used, one on each side of the tract to verify if the driver commits an error and goes over the chalk lines.
6. The team with the least errors will be declared as winners and will receive a trophy.

Revised: Garden Tractor Committee: 5/19, 7/21, 4/2022

Irvin Hockenbury

John Chiesa

Larry Fleming