

2nd Annual Blooming Grove UMC Tractor Pull

Sunday, September 7, 2014

Lots of Fun!!!



Forty-eight tractors, their owners, and a big crowd of spectators gathered on September 7th under a brilliant blue sky and warm temps for the Second Annual BGUMC Tractor Pull. The day was set aside for Farm Stock tractors only (no “souped-up” professional pulling tractors in the competitive events), and attracted many neighborhood farmers and friends. As with last year, it was thrilling to hear and watch all of the tractors come down the road from

every direction, some hauled on trailers, and many under their own power! It brought back memories of the days when farming neighbors took turns helping each other with harvest: that sound of multiple tractors coming down the road meant that help was on its way, and the crop would be safely stored for the winter!

This year “the neighborhood” expanded, as we had pullers from as close by as ½ mile down the road as well as Morristown, Faribault, Owatonna, Waseca, and Waterville – and from as far away as Blooming Prairie, Montgomery, Bemidji, Kenyon, Adams, Albert Lea, Shieldsville, and even Clear Lake, Iowa! The tractors came in every color, make, model, and size, including International Farmall, John Deere, Minneapolis Moline, Massey Ferguson, Case, Oliver, and Allis Chalmers.

The first order of business was to weigh each tractor and place them in weight classes, of which we had nine. The oldest tractor, a John Deere D belonging to Brad Spinler, was built in 1930. Drivers came in all sizes and ages as well! We were honored to have our “Patriarch of Pullers”, Vernon Buscho, on hand with his 1949 John Deere G.



After weigh-in, participants attended a “Puller’s Meeting” in which rules were explained and questions answered. The pull itself started with the “Blessing of the Tractors”, led by Pastor Cindy Kennedy, in which she gave thanks for the number of hours and the amount of life-giving labor that each tractor, and its owner(s), had given in their years of farming.

The pull took place on a SW to NE pulling track prepared in the “Lord’s Acre” just south of the church – a field planted with oats this year. The tractors were lined up on the south edge of the field, along County Road 10, and were a sight to behold for passers-by. Larry Balzer was in charge, running each tractor through its paces with his pulling sled “The Equalizer”. He ended the day with a total of 73 “hooks” or pulls – 20 more than last year!



Spectators were everywhere...sitting on the church steps, enjoying food at the concession stand, and sitting on blankets and lawn chairs on the church lawn. Ages ranged from one-year-olds to 90+ with both ends of the spectrum enjoying the fun. It was a great day of “neighboring” among acquaintances, both old and new. Thanks to Michael Kanne, Shane Kuball, Brad Saufferer, and many others who took the time to share their love of tractors with our youngest on-lookers. It was also heartwarming to watch three generations of numerous families (and some at four!) work together to both host and participate in the day’s activities.





Weight Class Winners

Each of the following person received a “winner’s plaque” displaying the name and date of the event.

3500	Brad Spinler	Minneapolis Moline
4500	Parker Pitzen	International H
5500	Larry Spinler	John Deere 520
6500	Steve Judd	Minneapolis Moline UB
7500	Justin Krell	John Deere 720
8500	Parker Pitzen	International 450
9500	Bruce Marzahn	IH 856
10,500	Bruce Marzahn	IH 856
10,500 +	Thomas Mack	John Deere 4320



Among the highlights of the day:

- Mel Reineke, a church neighbor, entered his John Deere 530 and Dennis Hermel, another church neighbor, participated with his John Deere A.
- Both Pastor Cindy Kennedy, and Therese Riecke, under the coaching of Jim Southworth, had successful pulls using Jim’s International 450.
- This is the first time that Justin Krell has ever out-pulled his wife, Kristin – by two feet!
- Parker Pitzen drove his grandpa Steve Pitzen’s tractor, a Farmall H 1940, that Parker and his other grandpa, Jim Southworth, returned to running order.
- Michael Kanne entered his Grandpa Harold Kanne’s Oliver Super 77.
- The Kuball family entered a John Deere 60, a John Deere B, and also an Allis WD in memory of it’s former owner, church neighbor Dick Schold.
- Thanks to several guys who pulled their tractors as exhibition. Although these tractors were not farm stock, the guys just wanted to pull for fun and to donate to the church!

Funds raised from the tractor pull go toward the restoration of the BGUMC basement and toward church mission work. The UMW operated the concession stand and that money goes to their scholarship fund. Thanks to the generosity of all involved, we raised:

Hook Fees and Donations:	\$ 1,430.00
Proceeds from the concession Stand:	\$ 640.00
Total	\$ 2,070.00

Thank You

We extend our sincere thanks to the many, many people who made this event possible:

- ♦ Spear-heading the event and donating winner’s plaques: Brad, Tracie, Alex, and Mikayla Spinler and Justin and Kristin Krell
- ♦ Saturday preparation of the pulling track and site: Larry Balzer, Brad, Alex, and Mikayla Spinler, Justin and Kristin Krell
- ♦ Donating his pulling sled, weighing machine and time: Larry Balzer
- ♦ Registration Table: Kristin Krell and Sue Balzer
- ♦ Announcing and organizing the results board: Kristin Krell, Sue Balzer, and Mikayla Spinler
- ♦ Hooking: Dave Brisel and Alex Spinler
- ♦ Flags: Justin Krell and Jake Goldsmith
- ♦ Photographer: Theresa Riecke
- ♦ Managing the concession stand: Tracie Spinler
- ♦ Donations of all food/beverages: BGUMC members and friends
- ♦ Baling the oat hay after the event: Jim Southworth, Randy Southworth, Parker Pitzen

