First Annual Farm Toy Show One Month Away!

Farm toy shows are nothing new to folks in the Midwest; there are dozens of shows, sales, and auctions to choose from within driving distance. For farm toy enthusiasts in Southwest Virginia and Eastern Tennessee, the opportunities to attend a show is very limited at best.

That lack of opportunities was the motivating factor for the Southwest VA 4-H Tractor Club to host their first farm toy show in Abingdon on March 21 and 22, 2025. Vendors from all over the region will be setting up their displays as early as Thursday March 20, so then the doors open Thursday March 21 at Noon, you can browse through farm toys, construction equipment and trucks, and other items for purchase.

Another opportunity that will be happening on March 22 is the drawing for our 1945 Farmall H the club recently was gifted and repaired. This running piece of history turns 80 years old and can be yours for as little as $5. Club members will be selling tickets… $5 per ticket (or 5 for $20 and 30 for $100) up until the drawing. You do not have to be present to win.

The club will also be hosting a farm toy display contest from age 5 to adults during the Farm Toy Show. Contestants are asked to bring a display depicting farm or rural life, accompanied by a brief write-up describing what is going on in your scene/display.

Displays cannot be bigger than 32 inches by 32 inches and must use 1/64 scale (matchbox) equipment. Displays need to be on plywood or a similar material. Tables will be provided, but when table space runs out, contestants may bring their own.

Write a few sentences, up to one page (can be typed or hand written) describing your farm scene. Displays will be judged by a panel the evening of March 21. The competition is open to all youth ages 5-19. Membership in the SW VA 4-H Tractor Club is not required to participate; however, you are welcome to join during the contest.

Suggestions:

Equipment, small barns, silos and grain bins can be purchased (i.e. Ertl) or homemade. Ideas on both displays and write-up can be found on-line. Just Google “Farm Toy Displays 1/64.”

Displays will be judged on the following basis: Originality; Content; Neatness; and Overall Appearance at 25 points each.

Division I – ages 5 - 7

Division II – ages 8 – 10

Division III – ages 11 – 12

Division IV – ages 13 – 15

Division V – ages 16- 19

Age is the youth’s age on July 30, 2024.

There is also an adult division. Adult displays can be 4x 8 or larger as approved. Different scales may also be employed as approved.

Contest details

Participants may set up their displays by noon Friday, March 21,. Judging will be done on Wednesday at noon unless an alternative plan has been approved by show host. The exhibits will be closed for judging. Displays must stay in place for viewing until 2 PM, March 22; however, early pick-up can be arranged if necessary. Participants will be given two passes to access the show. All participants will be asked to show good sportsmanship, including refraining from negative comments or disturbing another contestant’s display.

Any questions can be directed to: Dr. Andy Overbay; aoverbay@vt.edu; (2760 780-9486

Upcoming Events

Feb 24 BQA Training for Beef Grant Applicants, Extension Office 6:30 PM

March 3 Smyth Washington Cattleman Meeting, 6:30 PM, 4-H Center, Topic Mineral Nutrition

March 11 Washington County Chamber of Commerce Ag Day, SWVA Higher Ed Center 7 PM

March 18 VQA Calf Sale

Mar 20 Farm Toy Show Set Up, SWVA Higher Ed Center, 8 AM-5PM

March 21 National Ag Day

March 21-22 First Annual Farm Toy Show, Friday Noon to 8 PM and Saturday, 8 AM to 3 PM

March 22 SW BCIA Bull Test Sale, Wytheville

March 24 VQA Steer Take-up

March 26 VQA Heifer Take-Up

April 1 AFCA Bull Sale

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Andy Overbay or Pam Testerman at (276) 783-5175/TDD (800) 828-1120) during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.

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