SWVA 4-H Tractor Club to Give Away Tractor at RV Fair!

The Southwest Virginia 4-H Tractor Club is gaining more speed than an old Farmall headed downhill with the T/A pulled back! If you don’t know what that means then you are under the age of 55 for sure, but what I just said is “We are flying!”

Several local businesses have stepped up to help us with our 50s era E4 CO-OP Tractor. Many of you may have seen the tractor in the Memorial Day Parade this year. On July 4th, the motor roared to life and it is runner to be sure!

My Dad always said if you want to double the value of a tractor, put a new seat and new tires on it. Well, we are following his lead plus a few items. We have or will be replacing the steering wheel, alternator (12 volts), gauges, lights, lower water pipe, and adding an extension to the exhaust.

All this is possible because of the generosity of the following businesses (listed in order of the time of their assistance): Bart Long Reality and Auctioneering; Food City/KVAT Foods; Bank of Marion: farm Credit; and First Bank and Trust.

Of course, none of these gifts would matter if not for the generosity of the Old Glade Antique Tractor Association (OGATA) members that donated the tractor the Club to begin with. We will be giving the tractor away at the OGATA Summer Show on Friday June 16, 2023. For a dollar donation, you can place your name in the drawing for the tractor so stay tuned and see a club member early and often!

The Club has also received a generous from Mr. James (Jim) Johnson of Roanoke, VA. Mr. Johnson, who holds a bachelor's degree and master's degree from Virginia Tech, spent his professional career at Virginia Tech. Jim retired as director and associate professor emeritus of Virginia Cooperative Extension and has remained active in extension by heading up networking activities for Virginia Tech retirees.

Jim and his wife Janet were inducted into the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Science’s (CALS) Hall of Fame as part of the 2014-15 Inductee Class. Janet Johnson’s career was also spent at Virginia Tech after she obtained degrees from Purdue University and Cornell University. She is dean emeritus of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and has been active in the Department of Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise since her retirement.

Together, the Johnsons served as members of the college’s Campaign Steering Committee for the Virginia Tech: Invent the Future campaign. They were major donors to the initiative and hosted multiple events to assist the development office. The Johnsons are also members of the Ut Prosim Society, the university’s most prestigious donor society. Their philanthropy has made a mark on numerous areas of campus and funded four endowments. The Johnsons have supported 4-H and Virginia Cooperative Extension through annual gifts to local programs, service on advisory boards, and support of 4-H Educational Centers.

In keeping with the Johnson’s desire to help our young Tractor Club members, we will be offering one of the tractors as a prize to be given away at the Rich Valley Fair! Several of Mr. Johnson’s collection are Ertl Precision models valued at $200 or more… if you could find them for sale!

For a five-dollar donation to the club, your name will be placed in a drawing for the tractor which will take place on Friday, August 5th! For $20, you can increase you chances with five entries! You do NOT have to be present to win!

Club members will be under the maroon tent with the basketball gravity wagon (another Tractor Club project) so come support 4-H by donating to the Tractor Club and shooting a basket or two as well! Thanks for your support for our young members!

Upcoming Events

July 22 Last day to consign calves to the August VQA Calf Sale

August 1 Rich Valley Sheep and Goat Show Noon (Animals on the grounds by 11 AM)

August 2 Southwest VA 4-H Tractor Club Farm Toy Display Contest set-up, Community Building, Rich Valley Fairgrounds.

August 2-3 Inaugural SW VA 4-H Farm Toy Show

August 2 Rich Valley Dairy and Beef Cattle Show 4 and 6 PM

August 4 Tri State Beef Conference, Blountville, TN

If you are a person with a disability and desire assistance or accommodation, please notify 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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