

Tractor pulling



This is Donnie's Modified Tractor – it now has 4 motors instead of the 3 you see here

Tractor pulling, also known as *power pulling*, is a motorsport competition requires modified tractors to pull a heavy sled along a 300 foot track, with the winner being the tractor that pulls the sled farthest. The sport is known as the worlds most powerful motorsport, due to the multi engined modified tractor pullers.

All tractors, in their respective classes, pull a set weight in the sledge. When a tractor gets to the end of the 300 feet track this is known as a “full pull”. When more than one [tractor](#) completes the course, more weight is added to the sled, and the winner is the one who can pull the sled the farthest.

The sled is known as a *weight transfer sled*. This means that as it is pulled down the track, the weight is transferred (linked with gears to the sled's wheels) from over the rear axles and towards the front of the sledge. In front of the rear wheels, there is a 'pan'. This is essentially a metal plate and as the weight moves over this the resistance builds. The further the tractor pulls the sled, the harder it gets.

History of Tractor Pulling

It is said that around the 1860s when farming machines were pulled by horse, farmers would boast about the strength of their horses. They would claim that their horse could tow large loads, such as a fully loaded hay cart or wagon. Farmers would challenge one another to contests to prove who had the strongest horse. A barn door was removed and laid flat on the ground, and the horse was then hitched to it, the farmer would then urge the horse to drag the barn door along the ground. One by one, people jumped on the door until the horse could no longer drag it; the horse pulling the most people the greatest distance was judged the strongest. This event, called horse pulling, is still carried out today with specially bred horses trained to have high strength and low stamina, rather than low strength and high stamina which is normally the case with racing horses. Instead of people, fixed weights on sleds are dragged as far as possible. While it is said that the term horsepower is derived from this event, in reality the term was coined by James Watt.

It wasn't until 1929 that motorized vehicles were put to use in the first events at Vaughansville, Missouri and Bowling Green, Ohio, the latter being where the current national championships are held. Although the sport was recognized then, it did not really become popular until the 50s and 60s. It was also realized, at that time, there were no uniform set of rules. The rules varied from state to state, county to county, and competitors never knew what standards to follow. This made the sport difficult for new entrants.

In 1969, representatives from eight states congregated to create a uniform book of rules to give the sport the much needed structure, and created the National Tractor Pullers Association (NTPA). The NTPA's early years were events that used standard farm vehicles, with the motto "Pull on Sunday, plow on Monday". Pulling remained basically the same through the 70s, with only stock and modified tractors. Stock tractors were commercially available tractors produced by manufacturers, and modified tractors were the basic tractor chassis with another non-tractor engine mounted on it.

Tractors remained single engine until two Ohio brothers, Carl and Paul Bosse, introduced the crossbox which could allow multiple engines to be attached to a single driveshaft..

Subsequently, modified tractors with four engines were common, while stock tractors tried to catch up by adding multiple large turbochargers, along with intercoolers, but both retained the appearance of a tractor. Soon tractors became single use machines that were not used on the farm, making the "Pull on Sunday, plow on Monday" motto obsolete.

The growing popularity of the sport caused the creation of a new four-wheel drive division in 1976, which captured a large fan base. The engine sizes in these vehicles continued to increase, from 450 cubic inches/7.3 liters up to 700/11.5.

Blown engines were allowed, but only in the new 1986 division of two-wheel drives or "funny cars".

Three other divisions were created. The super stock, pro-stock and the mini-modified, which is a garden lawn mower mounted with a supercharged V8.

Super Stock Open class uses primarily methanol fuel (some are diesel versions). The Super Stock Open machines can generate over 5,000 horsepower. Super Stock tractors may use up to 4 turbochargers in 3 stages.