

# Will County Threshermen's 56th Annual Antique Tractor, Steam Show Opens Thursday

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By Karen Haave

The Will County Threshermen's Association expects to welcome more than 1,200 visitors to its 56th annual Antique Tractors, Steam Engines & Gas Engines Show this week in Manhattan.

The event is a crowd-pleaser and will run Thursday through Sunday, July 19 – 22, at the Spiess Family Farm, featuring International Harvester Tractors & Equipment Manhattan.

The show "gives people a chance to see agriculture as it was in the near past – 40-50 years ago," said WCTA President Al Heatherwick.

"My personal favorite is probably the field demonstrations. We will be threshing, corn shelling, combining, baling, plowing, and also sawing wood."

The show has been held at various locations in the county over the years. The Spiess farm, Heatherwick noted, is "an ideal location, including a small 10-acre grove of trees.

"We also have about 50 acres of wheat for field demonstrations."

Although the 2018 event has "nothing too much new," there are some added attractions.

"We plan to have a petting zoo for the kids along with the pedal pull, magic show, corn box, and duck races," Heatherwick said.

"Friday is usually busy with the antique tractor pull. I believe there will be a number of people who will come on Sunday to hear the Frankfort Brass Band."

The show also offers a daily Parade of Power, with the hulking black steam machines on display, as well as demonstrations of the vintage engines and tractors used decades ago for plowing, corn shelling and threshing.

At the same time, there are kids' games and a magic show, as well as other activities every day, including the steam sawmill, a flea market, crafts, and a variety of great food, such as fresh sweet corn steamed by a steam engine.

Camping is permitted, and there will be a free shuttle around the grounds and to the parking lot. Horses and wagon rides will be available on Saturday and Sunday.

Grounds open at 9 a.m. Thursday, July 19, with a threshing demonstration at 10 a.m. Corn shelling is at 10:30 a.m. The Noon Whistle will signal lunch time, and the Parade of Power starts at 2 p.m. on the track. Threshing and corn shelling demonstrations are at 3 and 3:15 p.m.

The Threshermen's Association's Members and Exhibitors Picnic is a 5 p.m.

On Friday, July 20, grounds will open again at 9 a.m., with threshing and corn shelling at 10 and 10:30 a.m.

An Antique Tractor Pull is at 10:30 a.m. on the track.

Following the Noon Whistle there will be Kids Games and Magic Show at 12:05 p.m., the Parade of Power (on the track) at 2 p.m., threshing, plowing with steam engines and gas tractors at 3 p.m., corn shelling at 3:15 p.m., and an Antique Tractor Pull at 3:30 on the track.

Grounds open on Saturday July 21, at 9 a.m. Events will include threshing and corn shelling at 10 and 10:30 a.m., a Garden Tractor Pull at 10:30 on the track, Kids Games and Magic Show at 11 a.m.

Afternoon events on Saturday include the Kid's Pedal Tractor Pull at 12:05 p.m., the Parade of Power at 2 p.m., and threshing, harvesting – field demonstrations and plowing with steam engines and gas tractors at 3 p.m., and corn shelling at 3:15.

At 5 p.m. there will be more sweet corn steamed by a steam engine.

Grounds open on Sunday, July 22, at 9 a.m., with a worship service. Threshing returns at 10 a.m., followed by corn shelling at 10:30 a.m.

The Kids Games and Magic Show are at 11 a.m. Events after lunch feature patriotic music by the local favorite Frankfort Brass Band at 1 p.m.

The Parade of Power sets off at 2 p.m. on the track, followed by threshing, corn shelling and plowing at 3 p.m.

For the Antique Tractor Pulls on Friday, weight classes will be: 4,500, 6,000, 7,500, 9,000, 10,500, open/12,000 pounds. Weigh-in starts at 9 a.m.

For the Garden Tractor Pull on Saturday, Lawn Stock up to 1,200, Stock-850, 1,050, 1,150, Altered-1,050, Prostock-1,050, Small Tractors up to 2,000, Both Pulls are non-sanctioned.

All times and events are subject to change. To confirm an event time, visit [www.steamshow.org](http://www.steamshow.org).

Admission is \$7 for adults, or \$3 for children age 11 and under.

The Spiess Family farm is three miles south of Manhattan, on U.S. Rt.52, a half mile east of Wilton Center, 14151 W. Joliet Road, Manhattan. For more information or directions, go to [www.steamshow.org](http://www.steamshow.org) or call -815-467-3004.