



## Children's Tractor Attracts Excitement For Everyone

"Sign up and win a tractor." The invitation alone attracted considerable attention, but when passersby saw the tractor, broad grins spread across every face, and nearly all came over to the 580 WIBW booth at the Topeka Farm Show

Heavily involved in operating farm show booths more than 300 days in 43 years, coaxing farm folks to accept a giveaway token, or sign up for a prize, this was far and away the biggest attraction ever.



Suggested for children two to seven, the International Harvester Magnum tractor, with matching two-wheeled wagon, drew excited conversation from that age, and everybody else, most of all the great grandparents.

Children's tractors these days generally don't have to be pedaled. At least this one didn't. It was battery operated, seemingly making it even more appealing to everyone.

While the generous donor of the farm show giveaway said he had the pedal-operated ones, the kid's "tractors-with-power" were usually preferred by today's generation, and there really wasn't much price difference.

Some contended: "It's the wrong color," but that didn't deter their urge to register. Others commented: "Oh, I never win anything anyway," but after being reminded nobody wins without trying, they entered.

There were cautious ones: "We don't want to get solicitation to buy something." Our assurance: "All we need is your name and number, so we can call you to come get the tractor, then entry cards will be destroyed" convinced jotting on the line.

While some Dads and Moms detracted their kids from the tractor, we encouraged them to "go ahead and give it a try." Everyone was excited in the seat, but eyes still popped when they hit the throttle, and the tractor jolted forward.

Entry box was stuffed with thousands of sign-ups. Yet, Grandma's big smile upon getting the call she'd won the tractor did quickly turn upside down, when she found out she'd have to drive it home in the sub-zero weather.

Actually, Rita Smith of Holton was the winner, and she coaxed her husband J.R. to come with her to Rossville Truck & Tractor, where Alan Martinek, longtime International Harvester dealer, on the ground, generously handed over the keys and helped load the new red tractor and wagon on back of their pickup.

Obviously, the Smith grandchildren were happy their Grandma was a winner. Debi Jacobson, who keeps Alan in line at Rossville Truck & Tractor, was kind enough to provide us these great photographs of putting a new tractor to use on the farm.



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**Padre says:**

*"Never talk defeat. Use words like hope, belief, faith, victory."*