

# Michigan tractor puller raring to go for Louisville farm show

By SHELLY STRAUTZ-SPRINGBORN  
Michigan Correspondent

"Those are big pulls," he said. "But, our goal at the beginning of the year was to make it to Louisville."

The men take turns driving in the various competitions. Capozzo drew the lucky straw for Louisville. "It's my turn," he said. "I was just the lucky one to get to drive this time."

Tractor pulling is a family affair for the men, who own and operate an excavating business. Tony Capozzo has been competing in tractor pulls since he was a boy. It's a hobby he passed along to his sons as they were growing up.

"My dad grew up working on a farm that was next to a John Deere dealer," Charlie Capozzo said. "That's how he got started with the John Deere. We've been raised with green running through our blood."

Capozzo started with garden tractor pulling when he was 10. At age 12, he moved up to pulling his father's John Deere 60 — a tractor the family still enjoys competing with at local fairs and tractor pulls.

"We still have that tractor. It's like a member of the family," he said.

His father added a modified pulling tractor to the lineup and Capozzo moved up to driving that at around age 14. Through the years, he said his favorite part of pulling is the people he has met.

"We've made a lot of friends," he said. "It's funny, but some of our closest friends live 500 ... 1,000 miles away."

This year's Championship Tractor Pull features Pro Stock, Súper Stock, Super Farm, Modified and Alcohol Tractors as well as Two- and Four-Wheel-Drive Trucks and is sponsored by Syngenta. Approximately 75,000 enthusiasts are expected to attend the four-day event.

The indoor roar of these pulse-pounding tractors and trucks begins at 7:30 p.m. each evening, Feb. 11-14, and an additional showdown takes place at 1 p.m. Feb. 14.

Visit [www.farmmachineryshow.org](http://www.farmmachineryshow.org) for more information or to order tractor pull tickets.

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