

**National Threshers Association, Inc.**

9749 Head O Lake Rd, Ottawa Lake, MI 49267

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 1, 2011

CONTACT: Sue Rupert @ (269)962-2157

**NATIONAL THRESHERS STEAMS UP FOR 67th CELEBRATION**

Ottawa Lake, MI - The National Threshers Association will hold its 67<sup>th</sup> annual reunion Thursday through Sunday, June 23-26, 2011 at the Fulton County Fairgrounds in Wauseon, Ohio.

Billed as the country's oldest and one of the largest events of its kind, the show features antique steam and gas engines that paved the way for modern gas and diesel powered equipment. From agricultural to industrial to personal use, the event relives this bygone era with a variety of historic demonstrations.

The feature for the 67<sup>th</sup> annual reunion is Gaar Scott steam engines as well as Cockshutt and Co-op tractors and equipment. The Gaar Scott feature includes the largest traction engine (40 hp), the largest portable steam engine (150 hp) as well as the smallest and the oldest known Gaar Scott portable. Weather permitting, the 40 hp will demonstrate its power plowing while pulling NTA's 10 bottom Cockshutt plow.

In addition, a variety of other restored engines test their power on full size and ½ scale sawmills, grain threshers, double incline, prony brake, Baker Fans and weight transfer sled. Equipment will also take to the surrounding fields for plowing, barley cutting and shocking demonstrations (weather permitting). A sanctioned antique tractor pull will take place Sunday at noon.

Originally organized in 1944 on a farm in Alvordton, Ohio, thresherman Leroy Blaker's goal was to provide a weekend gathering of fun, food and fellowship with his hardworking neighbors. Today, at the more accommodating Fulton County Fairgrounds, that same concept exists to help show others how many of today's farm tasks were originally handled.

From big kids to little kids, the show provides something for the entire family. While adults can view full-size equipment pulls and demonstrations, young children can participate in the Kiddie Pedal Pull on Saturday at 1pm. Now in its 12th year, this popular event lets kids test their pedal power against a mini weight sled. Trophies and participant ribbons are awarded by weight category.

In addition to equipment demonstrations, other activities include daily parades, musical entertainment next to the show arena, and on Friday night, the group Fiddlers Restrung will be performing at 6:30pm. Saturday night entertainment includes live bluegrass music beginning at 5:30pm. Sunday church service at 8:30 am, and you may even catch a spark show or two after dark. A lantern walk will take place each night through the gas engine area. The show also features a large flea market, variety of food, quality crafts, craft workshops, blacksmith shop and displays of gas engines, models and tractors. Nearly 50 steam engines are expected this year. Look for the steam boat in the Model building.

Thursday, June 23 is Old Timers' Day with special \$2 admission for guests over 65. Regular adult admission is \$5, while children under 13 are free. Association membership is \$10 per person and will get you in every day for **FREE**. Camping for members is \$80 Wednesday through Saturday night, or \$100 for those wishing to spend the week Monday to Sunday.

The Fulton County Fairgrounds are located on State Route 108 just north of Ohio Turnpike exit 34. For more information, visit the NTA's web site at: **[www.NationalThreshers.com](http://www.NationalThreshers.com)**.