

E.D.G.E. & T.A.

# NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

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Jan-Feb-Mar 2025

Editor, Tina Brown



## From Jeff Fenske, President and Director-at-Large

Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. It's hard to believe that it's 2025!! Last year seemed to fly by. Guess it is true what they say.....The older you get; the faster time goes. We are on schedule to close the fiscal year of EDGE&TA with about the same membership as last year, approximately 6,200. A few years ago, we were losing branches and not opening any new ones but in the last couple of years we have added a few new branches and have heard from other places that are considering joining.

We want to thank everyone for having a safe and fun show year. It seems like people are out enjoying shows, parades, tractor pulls and fairs again. We have gone to shows in several states this year and everyone was having a good time. The last big show we attended was the SW Regional Show in Valley Center, California at the end of September. Great displays by the host branch and visiting exhibitors. We always enjoy Cliff Northcote's church service on Sunday morning. Thank you Branch 22 for hosting.

This year the National Show will be held in Shawnee, Oklahoma hosted by Branch 260, June 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>. We stopped by last summer on our way to

the National Show in Ohio and had a nice visit with Branch President, Shawn Singleton. He showed us the grounds and all around the area. He seems excited about hosting the National Show and plans to have good attendance of both exhibitors and the public. This will be their 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Farming Heritage Festival. Hope many of you will be able to take a road trip and come either to display or to attend. The SW Regional Show will be held in Durham, California, June 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> hosted by Branch 136. The Eastern Regional Show will be hosted by Branch 211, Stockton, Alabama on October 5<sup>th</sup>. The NW Regional Show is not confirmed at this time.

We are getting ready to go to our first show of the year, January 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> in Wellton, Arizona. This is always a great show with exhibitors and attendees coming from all over the country to escape the snowy winter. This area in southern Arizona is known for its mild winter weather which make it a perfect place for all the Snow Birds.



Here I am driving my 1936 John Deere Model B in our local Festival of Lights parade. This year I pulled a trailer with my 5 HP Rock Island and 4 HP CH&E one-cylinder engines running through the parade.

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS ON OUR WEBSITE**

[WWW.EDGETA.COM](http://WWW.EDGETA.COM)



As many of you know, we now have a new National Secretary/Treasurer, Tina Brown from Eagleville, Tennessee. All her contact information is on our website and the back page of this newsletter. Any dues or membership information, please contact Tina. She will be mailing out the new 2026 stickers soon. We have a new supplier for the stickers and next year plan to order them early and get them out to the branches in time for your annual meetings, many of them in December.

**REMINDER: Any correspondence including Emails and membership payments please remember to include your Branch number on the check and any paperwork. Your club’s name can be on your checks BUT, your branch number MUST be on the check so that we can identify you easily. The insurance company does NOT cover club names, they cover EDGE&TA Branches. Also, please update your branch officers any time there is a change.**

**Jeff Fenske, President and Director-at- Large**  
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**Hello All  
 Welcome 2025 Happy New Years**

Thank you Everyone for a Fun and Safe 2024. It was Nice for me to meet and talk with you at the various events. It was a busy show and event year this year. The summer and fall time had lots of shows happening here in the South West Region.



I would like to Thank Branch 22 for Hosting a Nice SW Regional show this year. It was held on the grounds of the Bates Nut Farm in Valley Center, CA. The participation and visitor attendance was great! Great Show Branch 22.

The 2025 SW Regional show this year is being organized by Branch 136. It will be held on the grounds of the Historic Patrick Ranch in Durham, CA. Located between Chico and Oroville, CA. The dates for this show will be June 7&8 2025. Please check on the EDGE&TA National website for more information on Registration details.

Also, the deadline is approaching to submit your considerations for the EDGE&TA National “Hall of Fame. The deadline for submission is February 20

2025. To submit a nomination for a person to be considered please follow the Guidelines as outlined on the EDGE&TA National website.

Please have a Fun and Safe 2025 Show Season. I look forward to seeing you at a Show or Event near you soon.

**Ron Hansen, Vice President & SW Regional Director**

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**Mike Pollock, NW Regional Director Greetings from the Greatland!**

Happy New Year! Tracy and I wish you all the best in 2025!

**Longing for longer Days.** December and January are our darkest times here in the North. At Christmas, we experienced around 5 hours of daylight. The January days are getting longer....but they're still pretty short! So, it's a good time to be working in my heated shop! New tires on my International AI and prepping a couple of tractors for our upcoming February Fur Rendezvous parade are the main agenda items right now.

**Hall of Fame.**

If there is a person(s) in your Branch that has gone above and beyond for your Branch and EDGETA, consider nominating them for the Hall of Fame. The criteria and the application form are on EDGETA's website. We're asking the form be submitted by a Branch officer. Please note, the application needs to be turned in 120 days prior to the National Show. The National starts on June 20<sup>th</sup>....my math says H-o-F applications should be submitted by February 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Branch Officer Update**

As President Jeff said in his note, the Officer Update form is on the website. Many Branches hold elections this time of year...be sure to update even if there are no changes. Thank you to NW Branch 26, President Matt, for setting the standard....they've already updated for '25!

**Northwest Region Activities**

There is a lot of activity in the NW Region. Here are a few photos of what some of the Branches have been up to.

**House Keeping Items:**

We hope that you are enjoying the Newsletters. Be sure to pass them on to all your Branch Members. When your Branch sends the next round of dues to Tina, would you ask whoever prepares the check to

be sure to include your Branch number?

**Well, that's it for now.** As always, if there is any way I can be of help to your Branch, please call/text to 907-229-3500. Stay warm...stay safe!

**Mike Pollock, NW Regional Director**



Branch 23, Vancouver, WA.



Branch 25, Fremont, NE. Plowing dirt, going to a parade and picking corn!



Branch 29, Worden, MT. Here are some nice shots from the '24 Regional show.



Branch 36 Falls City, WA.  
These pics are from their annual show.



Branch 38, Jerome, ID. These folks raised close to \$10K for scholarships at their annual banquet



Branch 150, Filer, ID. Displays at the County Fair





Branch 263, Oakley, ID. Some shots from a recent plow day.



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## **2025 National Show Hosted by Branch 260**

**June 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> 2025  
Shawnee, Oklahoma**

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**From David Scibek, Central Regional Director**

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Greetings from the Central Region.  
 2024 has finally come to an end and for our family not soon enough. We had a rough year; my family and I especially appreciate all the support and condolences we received from this community of collectors. It truly has meant a lot to us...Thank You.

With that said let's move onto better times. The Holiday parade season just wrapped up and it was a good one around here. The weather was cool, but the crowds were strong. Several members of our local clubs commented on how they thought more families were showing up with younger kids, and how more and more of those kids were getting their pictures taken sitting on or standing by the tractors. Hopefully, it is a sign of future interest in old tractors.

Regionally, the organization is holding its own in terms of membership. We had an increase in the number of new Youth Driver Licenses issued this year over previous years. (I take this as a good sign of things to come)

We are looking for a branch to step up and hold the Regional Show for the year 2026, so if interested please contact me to find out about the details necessary to host.

A branch from our Region is hosting the National Show this year. Branch 260 The Shawnee Tractor & Engine Club in Mcloud, OK will be hosting the 2025 National Show in Shawnee, OK this year. Shawn (no pun intended) Singleton and his staff promise a great show and one you do not want to miss. So, mark your calendars for June 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> 2025, and make an effort to attend, you won't regret it.

As this year comes to an end and I look forward to a better 2025 I find myself more melancholy than before. Memories are closer than ever; I reflect on moments that fill my heart. It is never too late to say you are sorry, never too late to say you love them. Never too late to make them proud.

### **Poem by Jan Millward**

*I am a poor old tractor  
Abandoned near a wood  
But I was once a work horse  
I'd tell you if I could.*

*I ploughed the fields and scattered  
The good seed on the land,  
Oiled and greased and ready  
To help my old farm hand.*

*We harrowed the old meadow,  
We rolled the gentle glen.  
We chugged along the byways  
The world was different then.*

*Churns were in the trailer  
Straw was in a stook  
Gentle honest farming  
Not learnt from any book.*

*But the wind was changing  
And I had been replaced,*

*With modern new machinery  
I was left to waste.*

*Abandoned near the gateway  
The rust soon took its toll,  
My tires went flat and useless  
My engine leaked out oil.*

*The brambles tried to hide me  
As if they were ashamed.  
And soon I was forgotten  
Old ways forever changed.*

*They bought a brand-new combine  
And had to move the gate,  
Once more I was discovered  
A long-forgotten mate.*

*No paintwork on my panels,  
No wheel to steer me by,  
No way to start my engine  
No one would even try.*

*Now I am just a memory  
I'll never pull the plough  
I look out in amazement  
At those that pull them now.*

*But once I was amazing  
Once I was brand new  
Once I was the engine  
That others came to view.*

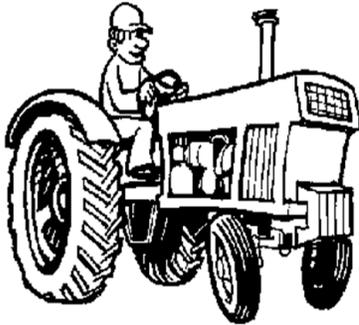
*Remember time keeps turning  
It never is too late  
To grasp the joy of living  
Before it's you left by the gate.  
Jan Millward©*

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**David Scibek, Central Regional Director**

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## “Practice Safety First”



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### From Travis Brown, Eastern Region Director

It's getting into winter here in Tennessee which means we are nearly through with the show season. I say nearly because one of our club members is intending to try a December threshing at his house this weekend. Sounds crazy but it might just work out. He did a similar late season threshing last year and it worked out great. It's supposed to be high of 50 so it might be ok after the sun comes up. I will go up and man a pitchfork and catch a little late season coal smoke. It's odd not sweating as you feed the thresher, most times you are handling wheat bundles the outside temps are enough to melt a person, especially in Tennessee.

We are working through our off-season tasks, the Christmas dinners, and such. Our local club has already ordered and received the show buttons and plaques. Also on the list is a building extension on any days where the temps and weather allow.

Folks we have had a lot of members and branches drop due to COVID and my concern is there are a lot of people out there who would still like to associate but have lost their local club and do not know what to do. We are working on ways to help with this so if you know of any such people, please have them contact the directors or President. We also need to find ways to get the word out about the benefits of our organization, this is more complicated every day with the major hobby associated with magazines going out of print.

I have gotten some great feedback from different members, and we have made a few minor changes to help with some of the clubs to better enable them to put on their events. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of the directors if you have ideas or concerns, we are here to assist you.

Next years National show will be in Shawnee Oklahoma hosted by Branch 260 in June, I hope to see you there.

The Eastern Regional show will be in Stockton Alabama hosted by Branch 211 in October, which should be a great time of year to be in lower Alabama





Threshing in December? It happened. Most times long before freezing weather sets in all the steam engines are drained and winterized for a long winters nap. But for one EDGETA member it's actually the perfect time to thresh the wheat bound in June. With the show season and then his business obligations Josh Starrett is booked solid every year until after the local university has its last home football game. So, for the last two years he has had a late season threshing at his place. He tried for a third year, but the weather broke wrong, and he ended up having to cancel.

His threshing machine is a Keck Gonnerman made in Mount Vernon Indiana. It is powered by his 19hp Keck Gonnerman Steam Traction engine serial number 1964. This is one of the last numbers built before Keck Gonnerman stopped making steam engines.

Josh and Branch 202 Vice President John (Tree) Ford were up early on the day of the threshing building a fire. They had filled the boiler the day before but kept the steam engine in a heated shop as overnight temps had dropped into the 20's. But the temps soon rose to be in the high 40's a perfect day to be steaming.

Later Josh would be joined by Branch 202 members David Bush and East Region Director Travis Brown. They would all trade off feeding the thresher and firing the steam engine while they threshed the last loads of wheat for 2024. Soon enough all the wheat was separated into grain, piles of straw and chaff. Josh reported they later baled the straw and got 51 bales to use. Firing in cold temps makes you appreciate the warm boiler!

**Travis Brown, Eastern Region Director**



Please note we have a new secretary to submit those dues, also come the start of the year we will need to update the branch officers on the website.

**Tina Brown, Secretary and Treasurer**

Hi everyone! I thought I would introduce myself a little and tell you some about me. I am the new secretary/treasurer for the EDGE&TA club. I am the wife of our Eastern Region Director, Travis Brown. I have been around tractors and steam engines for many, many years starting when I was a young girl. I grew up on a dairy farm in Watseka, IL and on our farm, we used Farmall tractors mostly. My grandfather bought a Farmall M brand new in 1944 and now my son, Caleb Brown, has restored it. I drove that tractor a lot in the field while baling hay for many summers growing up. Farm life was hard work and at the time I didn't care much about it. But now I get sentimental when I think of the past days.



Here are the rest of my children. Pictured are Savannah (8 months pregnant at the time and driving) Ethan on gears, and Caleb. Also in the picture in white is family-friend Nathan.



Pictured above are my sons Caleb and Ethan Brown on my grandfather's Farmall M.



[WWW.EDGETA.ORG](http://WWW.EDGETA.ORG)

*Utilize the website for helpful information*  
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**2025 National Show**  
*Branch 260 – 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Farming Heritage Festival*  
*June 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> 2025 Shawnee, OK*

- Always include your Branch # on all correspondence including e-mail and checks. This is the best way I can identify your organization—not just by name.

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**Tina Brown**  
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## **2025 National Show**

### **Hosted by Branch 260**

**June 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> 2025**  
**Shawnee, Oklahoma**

**Visit our website!**  
**[www.EDGETA.ORG](http://WWW.EDGETA.ORG)**