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## Domestics at Detroit

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The stunning 2016 Ford GT has already been covered on these pages but just as impressive was the Shelby GT350R Mustang that is easily the "most track-ready road-going production Mustang ever built."

It is powered by a 5.2-litre, "flat-plane" crankshaft V8 with more than 500 hp and 400 lb/ft of torque. It also had an air-to-oil engine cooler and standard cooler for the six-speed manual transmission.

At the world press launch in Detroit, Ford said that every single component of the new Mustang was evaluated. If it did not add to the performance, the part was deleted, which is why there is no air conditioning or backup camera.

Changes were made to to the front splitter to maximize downforce, while an all-new huge high-efficiency carbon fibre rear wing has been added in anticipation of competition use.

With military grade aluminum body, the all-new Raptor gets an exclusive 3.5-litre EcoBoost V6 that pumps out more power than the 411 hp and 434 lb/ft of torque from the 6.2-litre V8 in the outgoing model.

A newly designed transfer case controls power distribution between the front and rear wheels, thus combining the best attributes of clutch-driven, on-demand all-wheel drive with durable, mechanical-locking four-wheel drive.

In other Ford news, the 2015 F-150 pickup was named North American Truck of the Year.

Ram:

Ram describes the 2015 1500 Rebel as bringing "one-of-a-kind off-road design to the full-size truck segment."

It starts with air suspension to increase ride height along with standard 33-inch tires on all-new 17-inch aluminum wheels.

Sold as a crew cab model with five-foot, seven-inch bed, buyers will have a choice of either a 3.6-litre Pentastar V6 (305 hp, 269 lb/ft) or a 5.7-litre Hemi V8 (395 hp, 410 lb/ft) with eight-speed automatic transmission. Both versions feature a rear anti-spin differential which turns both rear wheels in tandem when increased torque is applied, which is most helpful in off-road driving conditions.

The design automatically unlocks the differential for normal on-road driving, allowing the wheels to spin independently for improved drivability.

Prior to unveiling the Rebel, Ram announced the 2015 Ram 1500 EcoDiesel HFE now delivers the highest fuel economy among all full-size truck competitors at 12 per cent higher than the next-closest competitor. Its "HFE" designation is Ram's way of highlighting this model's excellent fuel efficiency.

Ram EcoDiesel HFE gets an EPA-certified (US) 29 mpg highway fuel economy rating. EcoDiesel HFE's city and combined mpgs are (US) 21 and (US) 24, respectively, also highest among all pickups.

Ram also took the time to announce it now holds the record for towing at 13,608 kg (30,000 lb) thanks to the 865 lb/ft of torque from the 6.7-litre Cummins turbo diesel 3500 model.