MICHIGAN FFA

To view additional contest details, see the contest clarification sheet on the Michigan FFA Website

TRACTOR DRIVING

Career Development Event

Rules

1. Competition Is open to FFA members who have been enrolled In agriculture education In Michigan during the previous school year.
2. Contestants must use entry blanks furnished by the Michigan FFA Association.
3. The contest will consist of a written test, pre-operation check and practical demonstration of safe driving skills.
4. Contestants must use tractors & zero turn mowers provided by the committee.
5. Contestants must operate tractors & zero turns In a safe manner and at a safe speed at all times.
6. Judges will determine the maximum safe operating speed.
7. Scoring will be done by a "Points Penalty" system. The contestant with the lowest score will be the winner.
8. The time limit set by the judges will be enforced.
9. Participants should have passed the "Purdue/Dept. of Labor - Gearing Up For Safety - National Safe Tractor Driving Program" and have received a certificate of completion.
10. A maximum of two (2) students per class from each school will be permitted to participate. Chapters may enter a maximum of three students per class if they have at least 75 members.

TEAM MAKE-UP/ELIGIBILITY

Number of students

Each FFA Chapter may enter a maximum of two students per class. Chapters may enter a maximum of three students per class if they have at least 75 members

1. Garden Tractor Division - Grades 7, 8 & 9 the previous year
    a. Garden Tractor & 2 Wheel Trailer - Forward Only
2. Utility Tractor Division - Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12 the previous year
    a. Large Tractor & 2 Wheel Trailer - Bi-Directional Division
3. Zero Turn Mower Division - Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12 the previous year
    a. Commercial Zero Turn Riding Mower

Equipment

Tractors & zero turn mowers will be provided by the committee.

Students **must** wear close toe shoes.

CONTEST PERSONNEL

Judges

Judges will be selected by the contest superintendent.

Scorekeeper - Responsible for recording errors, measurements, and time used by the contestant and for calling out the contestants' name when It Is their turn to complete the course. The scorekeeper and supervisor have the authority to disqualify contestants for unsafe conduct.

Field Judge #1 - Pre-operational checklist

Field Judge #2 - Monitor the course and take measurements to determine how the trailer is placed relative to the center.

Other Personnel - Two tabulators to assist judges and record scores.

Superintendent

The superintendent will monitor the contest room and assist the judges as they compile their final placing.

The superintendent will adequately prepare the judges before the event competition.

PROCEDURE

Contest Procedures

To make the contest run as smooth as possible, we ask you to follow this procedure:

1. After checking in at the registration desk, contestants will report to the holding area.
2. All contestants will take their respective test at the same time.
3. After completing the test, return it to the registration area and report to the appropriate course.
4. Wait at the course until the scorekeeper calls your name for the pre-operation check.
5. After the pre-operation check, contestant will move to the driving course.
6. When you mount the tractor/zero-turn become familiar with the controls. Listen to the instructions and ask questions.
7. Start the course when you are ready.
8. Run through the course as shown in the diagram. After you have completed the course, place the tractor/zero-turn in neutral, set the brakes and raise your hand to tell the timekeeper that you are finished. You must complete the course in five minutes. If you exceed the limit, you will be stopped, and no score will be given. Contestants given a 'no score' will not be eligible for awards.
9. Dismount the tractor/zero-turn and you are finished. Final Scores will be posted at the end of the contest.

Awards

Trophies will be presented to the top five Individuals In each class.

Students placing first in a division will not be eligible for future participation In that division of the State FFA Tractor & Green Industry Safety Operation CDE.

Tractors and Equipment

The contest consists of three divisions:

- One utility tractor with a single-axle trailer course scaled to the width of the equipment
- One garden tractor with a single axle trailer course scaled to the width of the equipment
- One zero turn course

The courses will be marked by posts with golf balls on top. Contestants will be penalized If they knock off a golf ball or knock over a post.

SCORES

1. Ability to drive
2. Ability to park a trailer In exact position
3. Time used to maneuver a tractor and trailer while driving at safe speeds
4. Knowledge of tractor & zero turn safety
5. Pre-operation Safety Check

Contestants with the lowest score will be ranked the highest.

Two Wheel Trailer Event Measurement: the trailer must be parked In the center of the “shed”. If the trailer is not parked in the dead center, the difference will be between the right measurement and left measurement, divided by two.

Time Definition: Time starts when the tractor/mower moves forward and stops when the contestant raises his/her hand after completing the course.

Quiz: A quiz will be given to the contestants to determine their knowledge of a tractor and its safe operation. The number of mistakes they make will be recorded on the scoresheet and multiplied by 4.

Quiz References for Tractor Safety Quiz: The questions are taken from:

"Gearing Up for Safety" by Purdue/Dept. of Labor Curriculum Leaders Guide

Available at: Hobar Publications

8075 215th Street

Lakeville, MN 55044

Tie Breaker

In event of an individual tie, the placing will be determined in the order of:

1. Course score
2. Pre-check score
3. Exam score