

Tractor Driving

Senior Division



Overview

Revised:12/2024

Purpose: The purpose of the Tractor Driving Career Development Event is for FFA Members to demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and proficiencies related to the safe operation, maintenance, and driving skills of tractors and skid steer loaders.

Eligibility: This event is held during the Delaware State Fair. It is open to all high school and middle school FFA chapters and FFA members in good standing. The two (2) FFA Members designated for this event must be *certified by the respective local advisor. He/She must attend a mandatory practice event in order to be eligible to compete in the event. Members who have participated in a previous regional event in this area are ineligible. *Certified means a responsible individual who holds his/her actions accountable.

Event Procedures

A. Only the (2) FFA Chapter Tractor/Equipment Operating participants that are certified by their respective local advisor and have attended the mandatory practice event are eligible to compete in this contest.

B. Waivers, including Delaware FFA Waiver and The Big E waiver must be presented at check-in in order to compete. FFA Members will not be allowed to compete without waivers due to the operation of large equipment for safety reasons.

C. Appropriate Dress: An FFA T-shirt with sleeves (bearing the "FFA" logo or "FFA" letters on the shirt), long pants, a belt, and work shoes are required. It is recommended that long hair be pulled up and jewelry be taken off. Gloves are optional. The shirt should be tucked in for safety.

D. It is recommended that you bring the following: At least two (2) pencils, a Clipboard, and a non-programmable calculator. All other equipment will be provided. **E.** Each contestant must complete all events.

F. Participants will not be allowed to possess any personal electronic devices (i.e., cell phones, smart watches, AirPods, etc) other than those approved by event officials. Participants who bring personal electronic devices to the event without prior approval from the event officials will be disqualified.

G. Excessive tractor brake steering will disqualify the contestant.

- H.** Contestants will be disqualified if they are observed not following safety standards, which may endanger themselves or the public.
- I.** Contestants will be disqualified if they do not wear their seatbelt while operating the equipment.
- J.** Contestants will be disqualified if they do not adhere to the designated path through the course.
- K.** Tractors and equipment will be provided for each event. All contestants will use the same tractor and piece of equipment supplied at that event.
- L.** All persons other than the judges, the scorers and the contestants will be barred from the contest area during the contest.
- M.** The Chair(s) in charge of this contest will select judges and scorers.
- N.** In the event that any situation arises that is not covered by the rules, the judges' decision will be final.

Event Format

A. 1.1 High School: The contest will consist of five (5) parts, each of which will be scored separately: written test, tools/ tractor parts ID, a two-wheeled manure spreader event, a four-wheeled trailer event, and a skid-loader event.

B. 1.2 Written Exam: 1. The written exam will include up to fifty (50) questions centered on the skill, safe operation, and operator maintenance of a tractor. 2. A total of 30 minutes will be allotted for the members to complete the exam. The written exam will be administered in the bleachers at the arena, so clipboards should be provided by the student's advisor. 3. Refer to the SAFE OPERATION OF AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT (Student Manual from HOBAR PUBLICATIONS (800) 846-7027) for possible questions or contact the CDE chairs. 4. The test will include true-false, completion, and/or multiple-choice questions.

Test Question Examples:

1. T____ F____ Example: 2. Check the ____ in air cleaners once daily. Example: 3. All grease fittings should be A. Well cited B. Painted periodically C. greased on schedule 5. Each question answered incorrectly or left unanswered will be valued at ten (10) points. (500 points possibly added to overall score)

C. 1.3 Tools/Tractor Parts ID: 10 minutes allotted---administered outside the "ring" 1. Each contestant will be given 10 minutes to identify mechanical tools and tractor parts from a gas or diesel tractor. Up to 30 tools and parts will be identified. They may include a torque wrench, open-end wrench, flywheel, piston, starter, and other components. Contestants will choose from a bank of answers. 2. The identification section will be administered outside of the show ring. 3. Refer to www.snap-on.com, www.valu-bilt.com, or www.craftsman.com. 4. Each answer missed or left unanswered will be valued at ten (10) points. (300 points possibly added to overall score)

D. 1.4 Operating Skills Events for High School:

1. Two-wheeled manure spreader event
2. Four-wheeled trailer event
3. Skid-Loader event

These events will test the contestant's skill and ability to operate Skid-loaders, tractors, and equipment safely.

Each contestant will start with a visual inspection of the skid loader, tractor, and equipment. Judges will expect a verbal response.

The contestant will follow the course outlined by the judge (see attached illustrations).

4. Each event is allotted a total of 10 minutes for completion. Time starts with a signal from the judge and stops when the contestant returns to the original point and the engine comes to a complete stop.

5. The contestant will be allowed ten minutes for each event. The contestant will be notified at eight minutes that two minutes are left. If the contestant does not finish the event in ten (10) minutes, the judge will stop them, and a 500-point deduction will be added to their score.

6. Excessive tractor brake steering will disqualify the contestant.

7. Contestants may be disqualified if they are observed not following safety standards that could endanger themselves or the public. A student can also be disqualified if they run through the course incorrectly. A contestant can be disqualified from each course. Disqualification will result in a 2000 point addition to their scores for that event.

8. A 30-60 hp compact diesel tractors are typically used in these events. Manufacturers may include John Deere, Case IH, New Holland, Kubota, Bobcat, and Gehl, among others, offering tractors and skid loaders.

9. The Skid-Steer event will use pallet forks to move loaded pallets around a course. One pallet will have four (4), five-gallon buckets of sand, while the other has one (1) Large tub of water.

A. 2.1 Middle School: The contest will consist of two (2) parts, each of which will be scored separately: tools/tractor parts ID, and the two-wheeled manure spreader event.

B. 2.2 Tools/Tractor Parts ID for Middle School: 10 minutes allotted---administered outside the "ring" 1. Each contestant will be given 10 minutes to identify mechanical tools and tractor parts from a gas or diesel tractor. Up to 30 tools and parts will be identified. They may include a torque wrench, open-end wrench, flywheel, piston, starter, and other components. Contestants will choose from a bank of answers. 2. The identification section will be administered outside of the show ring. 3. Refer to www.snap-on.com, www.valu-bilt.com, or www.craftsman.com. 4. Each answer missed or left unanswered will be valued at ten (10) points. (300 points possibly added to overall score)

C. 2.3 Operating Skills Event for Middle School:

1. The next event (a two-wheeled manure spreader event) will test the skill and ability of the contestant to operate the tractor and equipment safely.

2. Each contestant will start off with a visual inspection of the tractor and equipment. Judges will expect a verbal response.

3. The contestant will follow the course outlined by the judge (see attached illustrations).

4. This event is allotted a total of 10 minutes for completion. Time starts with a signal from the judge and stops when the contestant returns to the original point and the engine comes to a complete stop.

5. The contestant will be allowed ten minutes for this event. The contestant will be notified at eight minutes that two minutes are left. If the contestant does not finish the event in ten (10) minutes, the judge will stop them, and a 500-point penalty will be added to their score.

6. Excessive tractor brake steering will disqualify the contestant.

7. Contestants may be disqualified if they are observed not following safety standards that could endanger themselves or the public. A student can also be disqualified if they run through the course incorrectly. A contestant can be disqualified from each course. Disqualification will result in a 2000 point addition to their scores for that event.

8. A 30-60 hp compact diesel tractors are typically used in these events. Manufacturers may include John Deere, CASE IH, NEW Holland, Kubota, Bobcat, Gehl, and other tractors. NOTE: CONTESTANTS WILL BE STOPPED BY THE JUDGE WAVING A RED FLAG IF IT IS FELT THAT THE CONTESTANT IS NOT IN FULL CONTROL OF THE SKID-LOADER OR TRACTOR AND SAFETY OF THE OPERATOR AND JUDGES ARE JEOPARDIZED! CONTESTANTS WILL RECEIVE A 500-POINT DEDUCTION!

Scoring:

The contestant with the lowest deductions will be the winner. In other words, a low score wins. Please take a look at the scorecards in this section to see the possible deductions in each event.

Tiebreakers:

Tie breakers for High School will be as follows: 1) test score 2) parts I.D. score 3) four-wheeled event score 4) two-wheeled event score 5) skid loader event score.

Tie breakers for Middle School will be as follows: 1) parts I.D. score, 2) two-wheeled event score.

Awards:

Awards will be presented to individuals based on their rankings at the DSF FFA Awards Breakfast. The first-place High School individual will represent Delaware at the Big E. The top three (3) individuals from the Middle School and High School will be awarded a trophy sponsored by the local equipment dealers, if available, and a gold, silver, and bronze pin to be placed on their official FFA jacket. The top ten (10) individuals will be announced.

References:

Possible websites for tools identification: www.snap-on.com, www.valu-bilt.com, www.craftsman.com, 4-H Engineering. Possible websites/keyword searches for tractor parts ID: John Deere, Hooper, Inc., CASE IH, New Holland, 4-H Engineering. Website for safety instructions/review www.bobcat.com HOSTA Training– use as a resource, sample test, etc