

**4-H AG TRACTOR, LAWN & GARDEN TRACTOR and ZERO TURN
LAWNMOWER: DRIVING CONTEST
Date, Time and Location to be announced**

OPERATORS CONTEST - GENERAL RULES

1. There are two divisions, Junior and Senior, in the contest.
Junior Division contestants must be in grades 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 on January 1 of the contest year.
Senior Division contestants must be in grades 8, 9, 10, 11 or 12 on January 1 of the contest year.
2. Contestants must be enrolled in the 4-H petroleum power or small engine program.
3. Contestants participating in the area and/or state contest must have their project records completed before entering the contest.
4. Contestants are judged on safety at all times while at the contest site: before, during, and after their contest operation. At the discretion of the judges, unsafe operation may disqualify a contestant.
5. At the state contest a separate course is provided for each division.
6. The driving order should be determined by allowing the contestants to draw numbers.
7. The penalty scoring system is to be used. Unanswered or incorrectly answered questions and violations of rules draw penalty points for the contestant. In each division the contestant who completes the event with the lowest total score or number of penalty points is the contest winner.
8. While at the contest, all participants are scored on safety, written quiz, parts identification, operation on the course, and time.
9. The driving event is timed and scored on the basis of *one-penalty point for each second of operation*. However, penalty points for safety violations, hit stakes, etc. are severe enough that the importance of speed is minimized.
10. In both divisions, failure to complete the course in eight minutes results in the driver being assessed a penalty of 400 points.
Note: Officials, prior to the contest, may waive the eight-minute time limit.
11. In case of a tie score for an award, the tie is broken using the contestants' scores in the specific scoring categories: safety, written exam, parts identification, obstacle course score (lawn and garden tractor operation on course), and time on course. The order for breaking a tie is:
 1. safety
 2. written exam
 3. parts identification
 4. obstacle course score
 5. time
12. If comparing the contestants' scores in each of the above categories fails to break the tie, the contestants re-drive. (Safety, obstacle course score, and time will be counted.)
13. The superintendent and assistants of the contest decide any rule or interpretation not covered here. Their decisions are final.