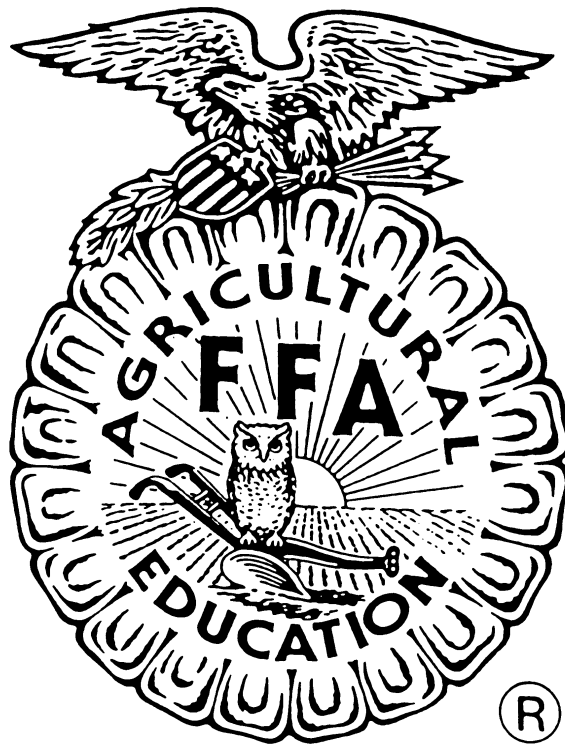


***ZERO-TURN COMPACT TRACTOR  
DRIVING  
Career Development Event***

*Central District Contest Only*

*RULES AND REGULATIONS*

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION



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Alabama State Department of Education, Dr. Eric G. Mackey, State Superintendent of Education

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**Revised September 2018**

# ZERO-TURN COMPACT TRACTOR DRIVING CONTEST CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT

## PURPOSE

The FFA Zero-Turn Compact Tractor Driving Contest provides a competitive activity for Central District FFA members to demonstrate their knowledge about the care and operation of zero-turn compact tractor less than 20 horsepower. The contest also gives members a chance to improve their knowledge of lawn care and safety.

(SAFETY WILL BE STRESSED THROUGHOUT THE CONTEST)

## ELIGIBILITY

For specific eligibility of participants, refer to the Contests and Awards Booklet.

Any active Central District FFA member currently enrolled in grades 7-9 is eligible. Contestants **MUST HAVE** a Release of Liability form signed by parent or guardian. If a cell phone is seen or heard in the possession of a competitor, that individual student will be disqualified from competition and receive a score of zero.

State Awards/Sponsor(s):  
Alabama FFA Central District

## LEVELS OF COMPETITION

The contest is conducted on the chapter, county and district levels, one county winner can compete in the district contest.

A county event is required when multiple chapters from the same county have a participant.

In the event there is only one participant from a county, at the county level, this individual will represent their respective county at the district event.

If two participants from the same county arrive at the District Event both participants will be disqualified and not allowed to compete.

## GENERAL RULES

1. It is the responsibility of the County Chairman to coordinate contests that will select the representative from each county in the District.
2. Only contest officials and operating contestants are allowed in the course area.
3. If a cell phone is seen or heard in the possession of a competitor, that individual student will be disqualified from competition and receive a score of zero.
4. Competitors must enter their name on the scorecard or they will receive a score of zero. Judges will not attempt to figure out who the card belongs to.

5. An orientation meeting for all contestants will be held prior to the contest. The meeting will include:
  - a. Introduction of judges and assistants.
  - b. Collecting Release of Liability Forms from contestants. (Form must be signed by parent or guardian and be with contestant at beginning of contest.)
  - c. Drawing lots to determine the order in which the contestants will participate.
  - d. Handing out forms to contestants and having them put their name and contestant number on the forms.
  - e. Explaining and walking through the driving course.
  - f. Explaining time and phases of the contest.
6. Scoring will be a weighted “fault points” system. Low score wins. Perfect score is zero.
7. Official Dress is NOT required for this event.
8. Failure to attempt all portions of the contest will result in disqualification.
9. **Any driver that is deemed a danger to him/herself or equipment during the driving portion or continually operates the tractor in an unsafe manner may be asked by the judges/superintendent to discontinue and will be disqualified from the contest.**

#### TIE BREAKER

1. The first tie breaker for the contest will be the amount of time it takes a driver to complete Part III.
2. A second tie breaker, if necessary, will be the nearest measurement to the perfect clearance on the shed measurements.
3. The participant with the fewest fault points on the driving portion of the contest.

#### PHASES OF CONTEST

Designated judges will preside over the event and their decisions will be final. Contestants must abide by the rules and requirements. Any judge may disqualify a contestant because of unsafe practices or for acts unbecoming to an FFA member.

The contest will include:

Part I	Written examination (20 minutes).
Part II	Identification (15 minutes).
Part II	Zero-Turn Compact Tractor safety and operation. (Timed event.)

A contestant will accumulate penalty points which are found by adding the points missed in each part of the contest.

#### Part I - Written Examination

The written exam will consist of twenty (20) questions. The exam is made up of questions about tractor operation, maintenance and safety. There will also be questions about turf and lawn management. The subject matter included in the exam comes from the publications listed as references in this booklet. Four (4) penalty points will be given for each wrong answer.

## Part II - Identification

Ten (10) numbered items will be identified by each contestant. The items will include Zero-Turn Compact Tractor parts and lawn care equipment. Items to identify may be: (1) numbered on the Zero-Turn Compact Tractor or piece of equipment, (2) actual items, and/or (3) pictures of the items. Each item missed will be a penalty of 4 points. (See Parts List in this Document)

## Part III – Safety and Operation

The Zero-Turn Compact Tractor Driving portion of the contest gives FFA members an opportunity to demonstrate their skills in the operation Zero-Turn Compact Tractors. Safe work habits and safe equipment operation are stressed throughout the event. Penalty points will be added for errors in safety and for poor operation of the machine. There is a time limit of 8 minutes to complete the course. Sample score sheets are provided in this booklet.

Safety glasses/goggles and ear protection will be provided for this event. **Closed toes shoes are required for this event (not provided.)**

Each participant will be given a few minutes to study and to get acquainted with the machine and its controls. The tractor may be operated in the immediate area of the contest but not through the course. A Zero-Turn Compact Tractor will be provided at the contest.

The contest diagram on page 6 will help you prepare for the driving portion of the contest. Safety is scored throughout the driving part. A few steps to remember are listed below:

1. Approach the Zero-Turn Compact Tractor with a judge and introduce yourself. The first item on the score sheet is a pre-start check. You'll complete this according to the contest instructions before the contest begins. You will tell the judge what you are inspecting as you inspect it. You will then mount the mower and let the judge know you're ready to begin driving.
2. **SAFETY CHECK**  
When the contestant is ready to start Part III of the contest, the contestant must conduct a safety check of the tractor which includes: Before starting the engine, the contestant must check the following and don proper PPEs:
  - a. Tires: Touching or kicking with the foot will suffice. All four tires should be checked.
  - b. Fluid Levels: The fuel check will be a visual check of the fuel gauge (if applicable) or visually on the side of the tank and verbal acknowledgement to the judge, the hydraulic check will be a visual check and verbal acknowledgment to the judge, the engine oil will be a visual inspection and verbal acknowledgement to the judge.
  - c. Brakes: The brakes will be checked by setting the brake in the locked position
  - d. Throttle: The throttle must be set to the starting position **and adjusted to the correct operating rpm. (NOT WIDE OPEN).**
  - e. Complete the safety check by looking for loose or missing parts.
  - f. Seat Belt: The seat belt (if applicable) must be fastened before starting the engine.
3. Using what you have learned from your review of the course diagram and the contest leader's instructions, enter the course. Remember to be safe. One of the judges will put an obstacle in front of the machine to test your alertness and reaction to unsafe conditions. This will be done at random points in the course and will be done only one time for each participant.

4. **Before departure from the starting point the driver will set the deck height to the approximate cutting height. The suggested setting is 3" cut height.**
5. **Continue through the course to the finish point which represents a shed for the machine. You'll back the machine into this location, turn it off, and dismount. The judge may ask you to move the Zero-Turn Compact Tractor back to the starting line for the next participant.**

## **RESOURCE MATERIALS**

**Care and Operation of Small Gasoline Engines, 1990 Ed., AAVIM  
Grounds Keeping Equipment, Vol .1. AAVIM  
John Deere EZ Track Operators Manual**

<http://www.homedepot.com/catalog/pdfimages/44/440e439d-4d69-4292-a9f7-7534fff5e982.pdf>

**Husqvarna Zero Turn Operators Manual (Various)**

[http://www.husqvarna.com/ddoc/HUSO/HUSO2008\\_USen/HUSO2008\\_USen\\_O0803016\\_.pdf](http://www.husqvarna.com/ddoc/HUSO/HUSO2008_USen/HUSO2008_USen_O0803016_.pdf)

Operating Manuals are not exclusive to this contest and actual mowers used in this contest may vary. These documents should be used as a resource for this contest and only as such.

## **EQUIPMENT**

**Zero-Turn Compact Tractor less than 20 horsepower**

**Sidewalk Chalk for marking asphalt**

**Markers for laying out operation course**

**Source: Sargent-Sowell Inc., Tel 1-800-527-2450  
Miniature PVC 4" Cones - \$2.95 each.**

**Or**

**Local Building Supply – 3" PVC pipe (cut in 4" lengths  
- 2"x4" lumber (cut in small blocks for curb and shed layout)**

**Numbers for parts identification**

**Numbers for driving order**

**Stopwatch**

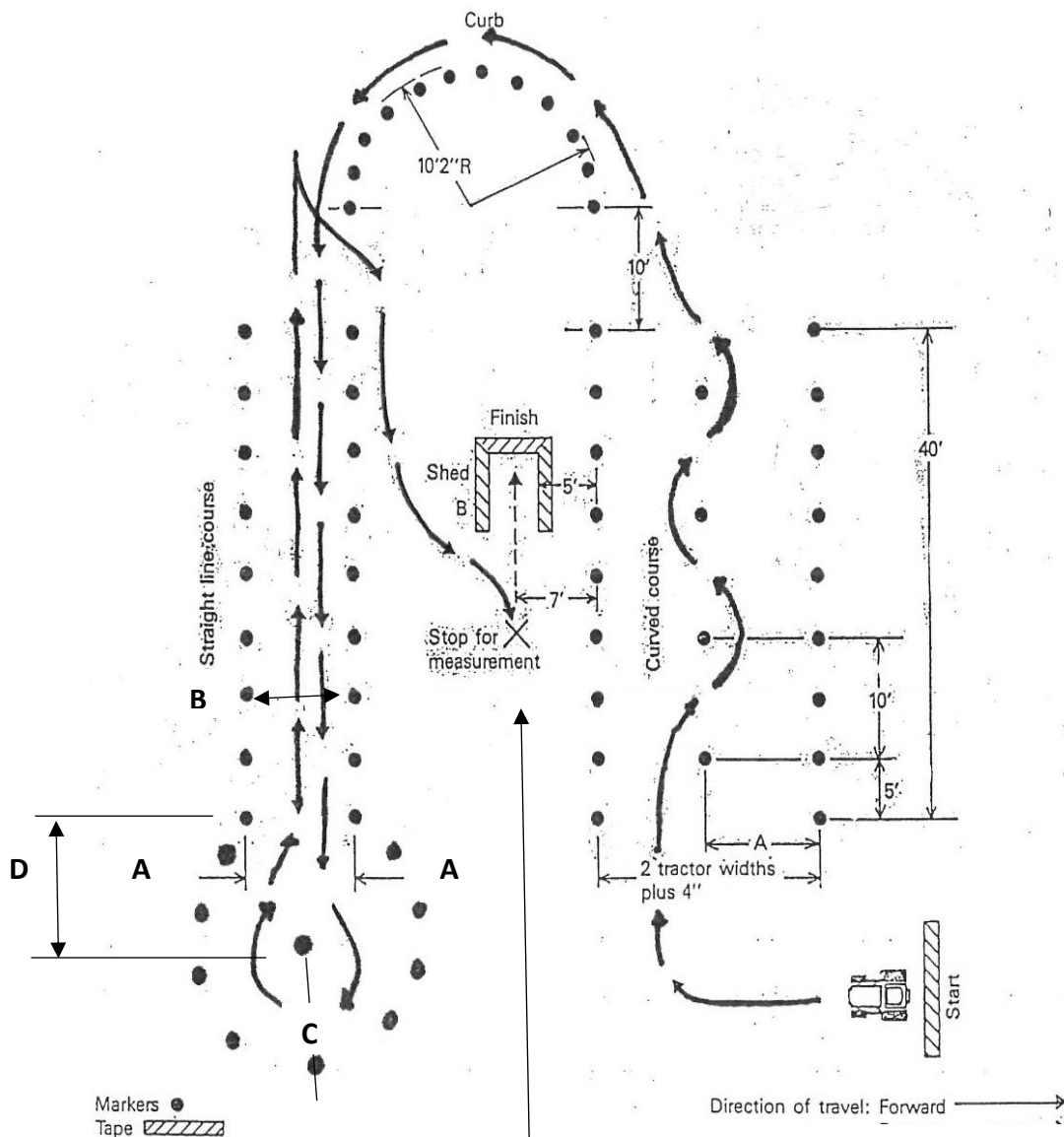
## ZERO TURN COMPACT TRACTOR CDE COURSE DIAGRAM

A = Width of mower plus 2 inches

B = Width of mower and discharge plus 1 inch; length required to fit tractor

C = Width of mower plus 2 inches (this is the distance from the center point to each cone in the turnaround portion of the course)

D = Total Length of Mower



**Pull in "trailer" pause, wait for judges instruction, back out again and return to starting point.**

# ZERO-TURN COMPACT TRACTOR DRIVING CONTEST

## SAFETY AND OPERATION SCORE SHEET

Contestant's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Safety Procedure: Each participant will be scored on safety throughout the Zero-Turn Compact Tractor operation portion of the event. At some point in the course, a judge will put an obstacle in front of the machine being operated by the contestant. The contestant is expected to stop immediately, remove the obstacle from the course, and hand it to the judge.

Part III: Safety & Operation Score Sheet INFRACTION	NO. OF INFRACTIONS OR INCHES	POINTS LOST FOR EACH INFRACTION OR INCH	TOTAL PENALTY POINTS
<b>Prestart Check</b>			
Failure to check fuel level		25	
Failure to check oil level		25	
Failure to observe hydraulic oil level		25	
Failure to observe tire inflation		25	
Failure to observe loose or missing parts		25	
Failure to don PPE (glasses/goggles and hearing protection)		50	
<b>Starting Safety</b>			
Excessive ignition or ignition starter grinding		25	
Failure to engage motion control levers while starting		25	
Failure to disengage parking brake/engine may shut off or begin to die.		50	
Failure to properly adjust throttle to appropriate operating rpm		25	
Failure to fasten safety belt (if applicable)		50	
Failure to set deck height to appropriate cutting height. Suggested 3 inches.		50	
<b>Mounting and Dismounting Safely</b>			
Failure to set brakes before dismounting		50	
Failure to bring tractor to a complete stop before dismounting		50	
<b>Driving Safety</b>			
Failure to engage motion control levers gently		25	
Failure to ride on seat		100	
Skidding or spinning tractor wheels intentionally or because of excess speed		100	
<b>Part III: Safety &amp; Operation Score Sheet INFRACTION</b>			
<b>Driving Scoring</b>			
Stops or interruption in the continuous movement of the machine where not required by the course		10	
Reverse change of direction other than what is necessary		10	
Any part of the machine extends over the boundaries of the course		10	
Markers are hit		20	
Markers are passed when operating outside the distance allowed around the curb (the contest leader will indicate what this distance is)		10	
<b>Obstacle Removal</b>			
Inches traveled before stopping (Inches)		5	
Failure to set brakes		50	
Failure to disengage		50	
<b>Measurements</b>			
Inches from the back line of the shed after parking (over 1 inch)		2	
Inches over 1 inch that the tractor is off center in the shed		2	
Exceeded 8 minutes		100	
<b>Other Safety Content</b>			
Excessive Tractor Speed		100	
Skidding or Spinning Tractor Wheels		100	
<b>TOTAL SAFETY PENALTY POINTS (DEDUCTIONS)</b>			_____



**Part II -- Identification  
Score Sheet**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Chapter** \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Write the name of the item beside the correct number.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

**Scoring:** Mark the incorrect answers. Multiply the number of incorrect answers by 4 to determine the number of penalty points for Part II.

<b>Number of Incorrect Answers</b>		<b>Total Penalty Points Part II</b>
	<b>X 4 =</b>	

## Zero Turn Compact Tractor Parts Identification List

<b>Air Cleaner</b>	<b>Grease Fitting</b>
<b>Battery</b>	<b>Hourmeter</b>
<b>Belt Cover</b>	<b>Ignition Key Switch</b>
<b>Bypass Valves</b>	<b>Motion Control Lever</b>
<b>Caster Spindles</b>	<b>Mower Deck Lift Lever or Mower Deck Lift Pedal</b>
<b>Choke Control Lever</b>	<b>Oil Drain Plug</b>
<b>Deck</b>	<b>Oil Filler Cap</b>
<b>Deck Belt</b>	<b>Oil Filter</b>
<b>Deck Height Pin</b>	<b>Parking Brake</b>
<b>Deck Wheels</b>	<b>PTO (Mower Engagement Switch)</b>
<b>Oil Dip Stick</b>	<b>Quick Lock Pins</b>
<b>Discharge</b>	<b>Roll Over Protection Structure (ROPS) (If Equipped)</b>
<b>Drive Tires</b>	<b>Seat</b>
<b>Exhaust</b>	<b>Seat Adjustment Lever</b>
<b>Foot Plate</b>	<b>Seat Belt (If Equipped)</b>
<b>Fuel Filter</b>	<b>Spark Plug</b>
<b>Fuel Gauge</b>	<b>Starter</b>
<b>Fuel Pump</b>	<b>Throttle Control Lever</b>
<b>Fuel Tank</b>	<b>Transaxle Oil Reservoir</b>
<b>Fuel Tank Cap</b>	
<b>Flywheel Cover</b>	

TABULATION SHEET

**ZERO-TURN COMPACT TRACTOR DRIVING  
CONTEST**

		Event Phase	Penalty Points
<hr/> <b>NAME</b>  <hr/> <b>CHAPTER</b>		Written Examination	
		Identification	
		Tractor Safety/Operation	
		<b>Total Penalty Points</b>	
		<b>PARTICIPANT'S RANKING*</b>	

\*The contestant with the smallest number of penalty points will be the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner, the second smallest number will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner, etc.

**Zero Turn Compact Tractor Driving CDE**

**Ranking Sheet**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>SCORE</b>
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____
11.	_____	_____
12.	_____	_____
13.	_____	_____
14.	_____	_____
15.	_____	_____
16.	_____	_____
17.	_____	_____
18.	_____	_____
19.	_____	_____
20.	_____	_____

**ZERO-TURN COMPACT TRACTOR DRIVING CONTEST**

***Release of Liability***

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby release all  
(Parent or Guardian)  
parties involved of any liability for accident or injury occurring during  
the \_\_\_\_\_ FFA Zero-Turn Compact Tractor Driving Contest.  
(Year)  
Specifically released of liability for accident or injury are farm machinery  
dealers or their employees, the State Department of Education or its  
employees, \_\_\_\_\_ High School  
(Name of School)  
and the \_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education and  
(City/County)  
its employees, the judges and assistants assigned to conduct the  
contest. Contestants will operate the compact tractors at their  
own risk.

Parent or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

FFA Advisor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Contest