

***SAFE TRACTOR DRIVING  
CONTEST***

*RULES AND REGULATIONS  
INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION*



***ALABAMA FFA ASSOCIATION***

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

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**Revised September 2024**  
**Safe Tractor Driving Contest**

# SAFE TRACTOR DRIVING CONTEST

## PURPOSE

The general purposes of this contest are: (1) to provide competitive activities which reflect certain abilities and areas of emphasis needed in the education of the successful agriculturist; (2) to advance safety, skill and efficiency in the use of tractors and equipment; and (3) to give FFA members who are participating in the FFA Safe Tractor Driving Contest an opportunity to demonstrate their skill in operating a tractor and their knowledge of tractors.

**(SAFETY WILL BE STRESSED THROUGHOUT THE CONTEST.)**

## ELIGIBILITY AND REGULATIONS

- For specific eligibility of participants, refer to the Contests and Awards Booklet.
- County eliminations must be held in order for the county winner to participate in the District Contest.
- The top four winners in the North, Central and South Districts are eligible to compete in the State Contest.
- Competitors must enter their **first and last name as well as their chapter number and name** on the scorecard or they will receive a score of zero. Judges will not attempt to figure out who the card belongs to.
- Scantrons cards that are incorrectly completed (i.e. chapter numbers are not correctly shaded in, stray marks, etc.) will not be scored thus receiving a score of zero.
- If a cell phone or smart watch is seen or heard in the possession of a competitor, that individual student will be disqualified from competition and receive a score of zero.
- Contestants must have a RELEASE OF LIABILITY FORM with appropriate signatures.

## DISCLAIMER

In the event that contests (CDE, LDE, TDE's) cannot be held in person, a virtual option may be conducted. Contest rules and guidelines are subject to change to meet the needs of a virtual experience.

## DRESS CODE

Participants must wear closed toed shoes/boots (no sandals, crocs or slides) and long pants (jeans with no holes/ khakis/dress pants) or skirts (for religious reasons) that cover the knees if not in official dress. Leggings, jogging pants, yoga, lycra, are not permitted. Shirts should be long enough to be tucked in (no crop tops or midriff showing) and not contain vulgar or suggestive material or language. Contest where oral reasons are given should respect the professionalism of the event, and dress aligning with the profession is preferred. Official FFA Dress is an allowable form of dress for all events. **Consequences for not being in dress code will result in disqualification, and the participant will not be 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. The first tie breaker for the contest will be the amount of time it takes a driver to complete Part III. A second tie breaker, if necessary, will be the nearest measurement to the perfect clearance on the shed measurements.
8. Tractor(s) used in the contest must have a seat belt and roll bar.
9. The tractor size should be 30-60 horsepower.
10. Failure to attempt all portions of the contest will result in disqualification.

11. 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.

## PHASES OF CONTEST

Part I - Written Examination (10 Minutes)

Part II - Parts Identification (15 Minutes)

Part III -Tractor Safety and Operation (15 Minutes)

### PART I -- WRITTEN EXAMINATION

The written examination is made up of twenty (20) questions about tractor operation, maintenance, and safety. References for the written examination are (1) Operator's Manual, John Deere; and (2) Safe Tractor Operation and Daily Care, AAVIM. Five (5) penalty points will be given for each wrong answer. Each contestant will have up to ten (10) minutes for the written examination. The written examination is optional for the county contest.

### PART II -- PARTS IDENTIFICATION

Each contestant will identify ten (10) tractor parts from the Tractor Parts to Identify List. Each item missed will be a penalty of 5 points. Answers must be written as presented in the list below to be considered correct. (Ex. A "Head Light" in place of a "Head Lamp" would be considered incorrect. The correct answer would be "Head Lamp") Only parts from the parts list below will be used in the identification portion.

**Parts to identify will be:(1) numbered on tractor, (2) actual parts, and/or (3) pictures of the parts.**

#### Tractor Parts to Identify List

Adjustment For Ride Comfort	Oil Filler Cap
Air Cleaner	Oil Pressure Gauge
Alternator	Outlet (To Connect Remote Electrical Equipment)
Battery	Park Brake Indicator
Brake Pedals	PTO Lever
Center Link	Quick Lock Pins
Clutch Pedal	Radiator
Coupler Receptacle	Range Shift Lever
Differential	Recovery Tank
Dip Stick	Rockshaft
Draft Control Lever	Rockshaft Position Control Lever
Drawbar	Roll Over Protection Structure (ROPS)
Filler Cap	Seat Adjustment Lever
Fixed Draft Links	Seat Belt
Foot Throttle	Slow Moving Vehicle Emblem
Fuel Filter	Steering Wheel Adjustment
Fuel Gauge	Sway Chains
Fuel Injector	Tachometer
Fuel Tank	Thermostat Housing
Gear Shift Lever	Throttle Lever
Hand Throttle	Tractor Serial Number
Head Lamps	Turn Signal Switch
Hydraulic Hose	
Injection Pump	

Key Switch  
Lift Arms

### **PART III -- TRACTOR SAFETY AND OPERATION**

- The Tractor Safety and Operation phase of the contest includes the safety check of the tractor and driving through the course.
- Each contestant will be limited to a total of fifteen (15) minutes for Part III. Contestants must complete Part III in the specified time limit or be disqualified.
- The contestant will be scored on safety throughout the driving phase of Part III. This will include starting safety, driving safety, mounting and dismounting safety, and general safety. The number of penalty points given depends on the safety error(s) made.

### **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:

- a. Tires: Touching or kicking with the foot will suffice. All four tires should be checked.
- b. Fuel: The fuel check will be a visual check of the fuel gauge and verbal acknowledgement to the judge.
- c. Brakes: The brakes will be checked by depressing the pedals and then setting the brakes in the locked position, if the tractor is not equipped with a park position.
- d. Gear Shift: The gear shift must be set in the park or neutral position.
- e. Throttle: The throttle must be set to the starting position (NOT WIDE OPEN).
- f. Seat Belt: The seat belt must be fastened before starting the engine.

*After the engine has been running, the contestant must indicate verbally to the judges that the following are normal:*

- a. Oil Pressure: The oil check will be made by observing the oil pressure indicator and verbal acknowledgement to the judge.
- b. Ammeter: The ammeter check will be made by observing the ammeter gauge and verbal acknowledge to the judge.
- c. Temperature: The temperature check will be made by observing the coolant temperature gauge and verbal acknowledge to the judge.

### **DRIVING COURSE**

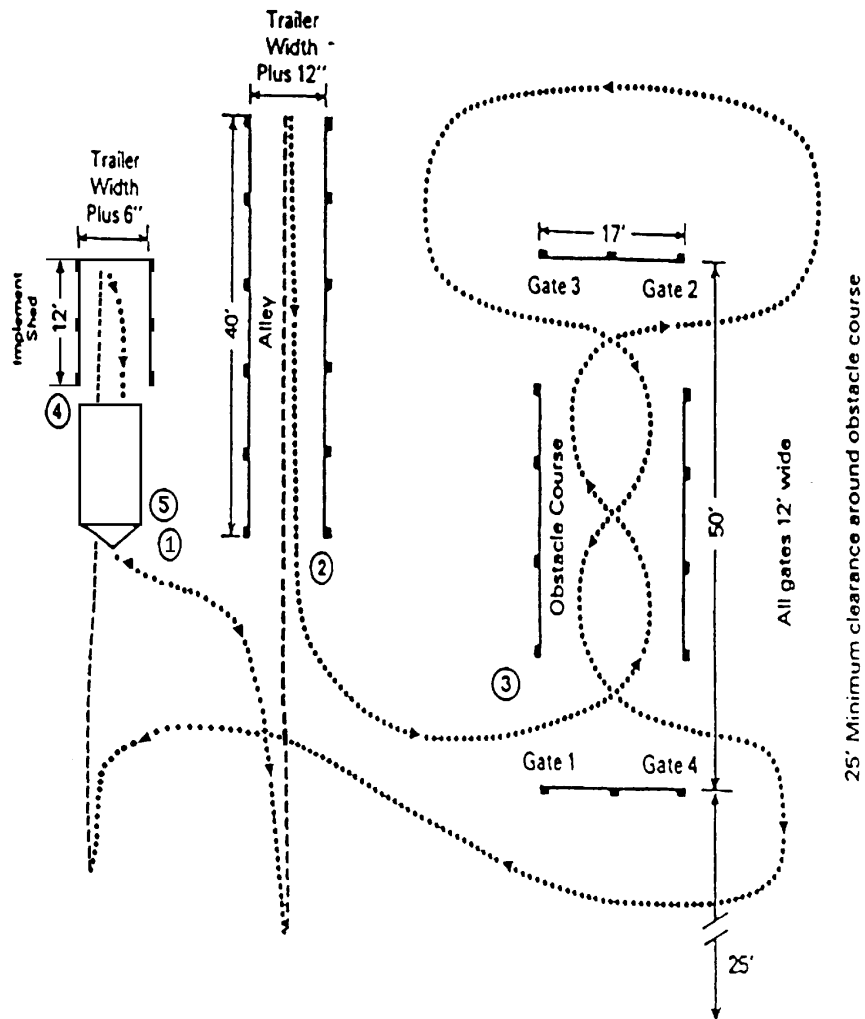
- The tractor is hitched to the trailer parked outside the implement shed.
- The contestant is standing with a judge and indicates when he/she is ready to begin Part III.
- Time begins when the contestant indicates he/she is ready.

- Contestant makes sure the trailer is securely hitched to the tractor and performs the safety check.
- Once the safety check is completed, the contestant is ready to begin the driving phase. The contestant indicates to the judge that he/she is ready to start the driving phase and the judge will signal to start.
- The contestant will pull the trailer, line up, and back it down the alley until the back of the trailer clears the end of the alley. A judge will signal the driver when he/she has cleared the end of the alley.
- The contestant will pull the trailer out of the alley and through gates 1 and 2, around the end, and back through gates 3 and 4.
- The contestant will drive back to the implement shed, line up the trailer, back it into the shed, set up the tractor, and signal the judge that he/she is ready for the measurements to be checked. Upon completion of the measurements, the driver will pull the trailer out and clear the shed, set up the tractor, turn off the engine, and dismount.
- The time stops when the engine fan stops.
- When the contestant dismounts from the tractor, both brakes must be set or the gear shift must be in park position on tractors that are so equipped.
- Riding the clutch, using excessive throttle, excessive ground speed, and controlling ground speed with the clutch may be scored at any time during the contest.
- The Course Layout with notes is shown on page 8.

## **SCORING**

- Number of times each error is made  $\times$  value of error = Total penalty points.
- The possible infractions along with the respective values are shown on the Official Score Sheet on page 9.
- The failure or omission of a driver to follow the prescribed course will be assessed in the Failure to Follow the Prescribed Driving Course.

## Course Layout



### Notes:

1. Trailer: The length of the trailer should be a minimum of 6 feet and a maximum of 10 feet. The width of the trailer should be a minimum of 6 feet and a maximum of 8 feet.
2. Implement Shed: The implement shed should be centered on the alley way length (as shown above), and located a minimum of 10 feet away from the nearest side of the alley. The implement shed should be 12 feet in length and a width equal to the width of the trailer being used plus 6 inches.
3. Alley: The length of the alley should be 40 feet. The width should be equal to the width of the trailer being used plus 12 inches.
4. Obstacle Course: The obstacle course should be 17 feet wide and 50 feet long. All gates should be 12 feet wide. There should be a 25-foot minimum clearance around the obstacle course.



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

Part III: Tractor Safety & Operation Score Sheet INFRACTION	NO. OF INFRACTIONS	POINTS LOST FOR EACH INFRACTION	TOTAL PENALTY POINTS
<b>Failure To Check</b>			
Tires		10	
Fuel Gauge		10	
Brakes		10	
Gear Shift		10	
Throttle		10	
Seat Belt		10	
Oil Pressure		10	
Ammeter Gauge		10	
Temperature Gauge		10	
Neutral Position		15	
PTO for Disengagement Prior to Starting Engine		15	
Failure to Disengage Clutch While Starting Engine		25	
Failure to Fasten Seat Belt		25	
Moving Tractor While Brakes are Set		10	
Rough Clutch Engagement		25	
Grating/Grinding Gears		25	
Riding the Clutch		50	
Stalling the Engine		25	
Excessive Engine Speed		25	
Excessive Tractor Speed		25	
Using Clutch to Control Ground Speed		25	
Skidding or Spinning Tractor Wheels		25	
Hitting Markers/Posts/Lines		50	
Unnecessary Change of Direction		25	
Fouling Tongue of Trailer		100	
Running Over Markers/Posts/Lines		100	
Touching Side of Shed/Alley		25	
Rough Fouling of Shed/Alley		100	
Failure to Completely Stop Before Dismounting		50	
Failure to Set Both Brakes Before Dismounting		50	
Failure to Follow Prescribed Driving Course		100	
<b>Measurement in the Shed (Nearest 1 inch)</b>			
Inches off center in front		25	
Inches off center at rear		25	
Inches greater than 6" of the back (+/-2") from center rear post		25	

REVISED SEPTEMBER 2024

TOTAL PENALTY POINTS

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# FFA SAFE 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 Safe Tractor Driving Contest. Specifically  
(Year)  
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 tractors and machinery at their  
own risk.

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

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

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

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

## Part II -- Parts Identification Score Sheet

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

Directions: Write the name of the part beside the correct number.

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

**Scoring: Mark the incorrect answers. Multiple the number of incorrect answers by 5 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 5 =</b>	

**TABULATION SHEET DISTRICT/STATE  
SAFE TRACTOR DRIVING  
CONTEST**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAPTER

**\*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.**

**Tie Breakers:**

1<sup>st</sup> Shortest Time without excessive speed

2<sup>nd</sup> Least amount of penalty points for Tractor Safety/Operation portion of the event