STATE FFA TRACTOR OPERATOR'S CONTEST MANUAL

The Oregon Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers (OFB YF&R) Committee, which sponsors the FFA tractor operator's contest, will organize, put on, and provide awards for the state contest to be held at the Oregon State Fair.

Eligibility

Participation in the state contest will be by FFA districts. Each district may enter one contestant for every three chapters or major portion thereof in the district. This is to be done in keeping with details outlined in this publication. A maximum of three contestants per district are allowed to compete.

Contest Eligibility

Members must be at least 15 years of age, have completed at least one year of agriculture education, have been enrolled in an agricultural education class during the past school year, and must be selected by their district to represent their chapters in the state contest. They are to be in official FFA dress for the contest. Previous first place overall winners are not eligible.

How Entries are to be Made

The deadline for district representatives to have the Chapter and District Entry TOC Form into the State FFA Office is August 15th by 5:00pm. This form needs to be signed by the chapter advisor as well as the district advisor.

What is included in the Contest

OFB YF&R Committee will do a brief welcome & introduction. There will be two phases of the contest – the written test & tractor operation events.

The written test will start immediately following the introduction. The test score will also include a Tractor Component Identification part, which at the discretion of the judges will either be completed following the test or between driving events.

The operation phase of this activity will start once judges determine all contestants are ready. Judges will walk through and explain each event, including any special considerations or parameters, with the entire contestant group to prior to beginning driving. This phase will consist of Tractor Maneuvering, Tractor Loading, Pallet Loading, and Tractor Implement Attachment as outlined in this program guide.

The overall test score will be included with the contestant's operation scores in determining the winners. Lowest score wins the contest.

Local, County or District Tractor Operator's Contest

Chapters are urged to work cooperatively with local County Farm Bureau leaders conducting local contests at county fairs or at other suitable events or venues. These should follow as closely as practical to the state contest. It is recognized that local factors

may make it necessary to vary local, county, or district contests. It is recommended that district elimination contests be held as early as possible to select members to represent the district in the state contest. A maximum of three per district are allowed to compete.

If a district contest cannot be held, the district representative may be selected in keeping with the wishes of the chapter in the district making sure, however, that only those who are well qualified and experienced in operating farm machinery are named.

DISTRICT FFA ADVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The district FFA advisor is a key individual. It is his/her responsibility to follow through on this activity. In doing so, he/she is responsible for:

1. Doing whatever is necessary to have the district represented in the state contest.
2. Securing a completed TOC form for each member selected to represent the district and ensuring these reach the state office on or before the deadline.

-- NOTE –

The deadline of August 15th is to give districts as much time as possible to hold district contests.

Awards will be presented at the FFA State Fair Awards Program. Recipients are to be official dress. Appropriate awards will be presented to winners of each event. The top three contestants in the overall contest will be awarded western style belt buckles, sponsored by the OFB YF&R Committee.

Ribbons will be provided by the Oregon State Fair for the first ten places.

Scoring

The lowest score wins' individual events and determines the overall contest winners. Time is a crucial component of each driving event. For the state contest, there will not be a time limit enforced for the operation components, unless otherwise indicated by the judges (county/district contests are advised to consider utilizing time limits however). If a time limit is used, timekeepers will give warning when one minute is remaining. At the end of the allotted time, scoring will cease and the contestants will continue to the finish line. The judge will note on the score sheet that the contestant has run overtime. When a contestant exceeds the time limit at a station, 100 points will be added to the highest qualifying score at that station and this is what he/she will receive for that particular event. Each event has specific factors that affect scoring (see event descriptions & score sheets). Scoring on safety factors shall be in effect for the entire time that the contestant is in control of the tractor.

The OFB YF&R Committee will provide a timekeeper and at least one judge to score each driving event. The agricultural education superintendent will make the final decision in the interpretation of the rules. Contestants are to be in full official dress. 100 points will be added to the contestant's scorecard at the Tractor Maneuvering event if not in official dress at any point during the contest.

Written Test

The written test will consist of multiple choice, true or false, and/or matching questions dealing with safe tractor operation, maintenance, service and information relating to equipment operated or attached to the tractor. The Tractor Component Identification portion will be a matching exercise where contestants must correctly identify labeled components of a tractor. The ID component will be included as part of the overall test score, but may be completed either after the written test or in between driving events, at judge's discretion. Suggested reference material includes Safe Operation of Agricultural Equipment and major manufacturer's equipment operator's manuals.

Safety

All participants, judges, timekeepers, agriculture education advisors, contest superintendents, and OFB YF&R members have a responsibility to make sure safety is strictly enforced. Whenever a potentially unsafe situation is noticed, the specific event must be stopped immediately and the situation corrected. For example, if a tractor is equipped with a roll bar, the operator must be seat-belted. Spectator control is generally the responsibility of host fair. However, it is only through everyone's combined efforts and awareness that spectator safety can be realized. Aggressive safety practices will prevent accidents and, therefore, will be stressed during all preliminary briefings of contestants.

Station Number 1: TRACTOR MANEUVERING

Objective

The objective of the tractor maneuvering contest is to test the contestant's skill in driving a tractor with a trailer attached through an obstacle course, and backing the trailer into a designated area. Scoring factors include the starting, stopping, mounting and dismounting, driving over, around and through obstacles in a safe manner and at a reasonable speed, and accuracy of backing into a designated area.

Rules

1. Time begins when the front wheels of the tractor cross the starting line.

2. Time ends when contestants steps to the ground after having backed the tractor/trailer into the designated area and properly shutting down the tractor.

3. If a time limit is utilized, at the judge's discretion, it will be announced prior to the operation phase, and the guidelines on page 2 (Scoring) would apply.

Station Number 2: TRACTOR LOADING

Objective

The objective of the tractor loading contest is to demonstrate the skill and safe operation of loading a tractor on a simulated tilt bed trailer. The contest must balance the tractor on a platform supported by an 8 x 8 timber.

Rules

1. Time begins when the front wheels of the tractor cross the starting line.

2. The contestant drives onto the platform (either forward or backward following judges directions) and balances the tractor.

3. Contestant will be penalized as outlined on page two (2) (overtime scoring) if the tractor is off balance more than 200 pounds (measured with a hand scale from the over balanced end).

4. Time ends when the contestant has balanced tractor, turned off ignition, and set brake. Driver remains seated and makes no additional attempts to balance tractor after engine has been turned off.

5. If a time limit is utilized, at the judge's discretion, it will be announced prior to the operation phase, and the guidelines on page 2 (Scoring) would apply.

6. After weighing, return tractor to starting location and park. Operator is scored on safety demonstration until dismounted from the tractor.

Station Number 3: PALLET LOADING

Objective

The objective of the pallet loading contest is to test the contestant's coordination, skill, accuracy, and safe operating abilities while moving a loaded pallet from one location to another.

Rules

1. Judges will fill the water bucket(s) on the pallet to overflow and square the pallets before each contestant starts.

2. Time begins when the front wheels of the tractor cross the starting line.

3. The contestant proceeds through course as marked with no assistance in loading and moving pallets.

4. Time ends when contestants steps to the ground after having properly shut down tractor behind the finish line.

5. If a time limit is utilized, at the judge's discretion, it will be announced prior to the operation phase, and the guidelines on page 2 (Scoring) would apply.

6. Accuracy will be measured by inches off square and the amount of water spilled from bucket. Contestants will be penalized for moving center headpiece or tote box.

Station Number 4: IMPLEMENT ATTACHMENT OPERATION

Objective

The objective of the tractor/attachment operation is to allow the contestants to demonstrate their skills in safely maneuvering a tractor to attach, move, and unhook an implement.

Rules

1. Time begins when the front wheels of the tractor cross the starting line.

2. The contestant must properly and safely back up and hook up to an implement.

3. Contestants drive in a circle and come back, or drive to a second area (judges will specify format during walk-through), to UN-attach the implement in the marked area.

4. They must then drive the tractor across the finish line and safely dismount.

5. Time ends when contestants steps to the ground after having properly shut down tractor behind the finish line.

6. If a time limit is utilized, at the judge's discretion, it will be announced prior to the operation phase, and the guidelines on page 2 (Scoring) would apply.

7. Accuracy will be measured by the number steps done safely and correctly.

TRACTOR MANEUVERING SCORECARD

FFA Contestant Name & Chapter: _____

	Points	Total Points
1. Time (stopwatch) _____Minutes_____Seconds Total Seconds_____	_____X 1/2 =	_____
2. Times shifted in order to change travel direction (not including first shift)	_____X 10 =	_____
3. Markers scraped (# of times)	_____X 25 =	_____
4. Markers moved, upset, or missed (# of times)	_____X 50 =	_____
5. Killed engine (#of times)	_____X 10 =	_____
6. Grated gears (#of times)	_____X 10 =	_____
7. Fouled implement (#of times)	_____X 25 =	_____
8. Rough clutch engagement (# of times)	_____X 10 =	_____
9. Riding clutch	_____X 30 =	_____
10. Inches off center (front + back)	_____X 10 =	_____
11. Inches from back stake (in excess of 1")	_____X 10 =	_____
12. Backing into rear stake (simulated wall)	_____X 50 =	_____
13. Dress code deduction (up to 100 points)	_____X 100 =	_____

14. Safety (up to 100 pts. each at judge's discretion)

A. Not setting parking brake	A._____
B. Spinning rear wheels	B._____
C. Skidding front wheels	C._____
D. Unsafe operations	D._____
E. Unsafe dismount	E._____
F. Failure to release parking brake	F._____
G. Failure to properly shut down tractor	G._____
H. Failure to watch behind equipment	H._____
I. Excessive speed	I._____
J. Other:_____	J._____

SAFETY TOTAL: _____

TOTAL SCORE: _____

JUDGES INTITALS: _____

TRACTOR LOADING SCORECARD

FFA Contestant Name & Chapter: _____

	Points	Total Points
1. Time (stopwatch) _____Minutes_____Seconds Total Seconds_____	_____X 1/2 =	_____
2. Times shifted in order to change travel direction (not including first shift)	_____X 20 =	_____
3. Killed engine (#of times)	_____X 40 =	_____
4. Grated gears (#of times)	_____X 10 =	_____
5. Rough riding or slipping clutch excessively (# of times)	_____X 10 =	_____
6. Number of lbs. off center (If greater than 200lbs, score voided, assess penalty as described below)	_____X 2 =	_____
7. Inches off center (front + back)	_____X 10 =	_____

8. Safety (up to 100 pts. each at judge's discretion)

A. Not setting parking brake	A. _____
B. Spinning rear wheels	B. _____
C. Skidding front wheels	C. _____
D. Unsafe operations	D._____
E. Unsafe dismount	E. _____
F. Failure to release parking brake	F._____
G. Failure to properly shut down tractor	G._____
H. Failure to watch behind equipment	H._____
I. Excessive speed	I._____
J. Other: _____	J._____

SAFETY TOTAL: _____

9. OVERWEIGHT PENALTY: Add 100 pts to highest qualifying score for this station.

Overtime or Overweight Indication: _____

PALLET LOADING SCORECARD

FFA Contestant Name & Chapter: _____

	Points	Total Points
1. Time (stopwatch) _____Minutes_____Seconds Total Seconds_____	_____X 1/2 =	_____
2. Times shifted above four (4) times	_____X 10 =	_____
3. Engine Stalled (#of times)	_____X 10 =	_____
4. Rough clutch (# of times)	_____X 10 =	_____
5. Grated gears (#of times)	_____X 10 =	_____
6. Riding clutch	_____X 30 =	_____

7. Safety (up to 100 pts. each at judge's discretion)

A. Not setting parking brake	A. _____
B. Spinning rear wheels	B. _____
C. Skidding front wheels	C. _____
D. Unsafe operations	D._____
E. Unsafe dismount	E. _____
F. Failure to release parking brake	F._____
G. Failure to properly shut down tractor	G._____
H. Failure to watch behind equipment	H._____
I. Excessive speed	I._____
J. Other: _____	J._____

SAFETY TOTAL: _____

8. Measurements

a. Distance of furthest corner of pallet from simulated headboard measured in inches	_____X 20 =	_____
b. Inches of water spilled from bucket	_____X 20 =	_____
c. Distance simulated headboard moved in inches	_____X 50 =	_____

MEASUREMENT TOTAL: _____

IMPLEMENT ATTACHMENT SCORECARD

FFA Contestant Name & Chapter: _____

	Points	Total Points
1. Time (stopwatch) _____Minutes_____Seconds Total Seconds_____	_____X 1/2 =	_____
2. Times shifted in order to change travel direction (not including first shift)	_____X 5 =	_____
3. Markers moved (#)	_____X 5 =	_____
4. Markers knocked down (#)	_____X 5 =	_____
5. Rough clutch (# of times)	_____X 10 =	_____
6. Grated gears (#of times)	_____X 5 =	_____
7. Riding clutch	_____X 30 =	_____
8. Moved implement by hand (5-100 pts.)	_____X 100=	_____
9. Incorrect hookup (missing pin, top link, etc.)	_____X100=	_____

10. Safety (up to 100 pts. each at judge's discretion)

A. Not setting parking brake	A._____
B. Spinning rear wheels	B._____
C. Skidding front wheels	C._____
D. Unsafe operations	D._____
E. Unsafe dismount	E._____
F. Failure to release parking brake	F._____
G. Failure to properly shut down tractor	G._____
H. Failure to watch behind equipment	H._____
I. Excessive speed	I._____
J. Other: _____	J. _____

SAFETY TOTAL: _____

TOTAL SCORE: _____

JUDGES INTITALS: _____