

# Tractor Operator Contest

## General Rules

ND FFA Association



NORTH DAKOTA

# **TRACTOR OPERATOR CONTEST**

There is a Basic Division and an Advanced Division. The contest format will be the same for both divisions except for the tractor, the width of the implement, and the driving time allowed. The contest will be held at the North Dakota State Fair (NDSF) Industrial Parking Lot-North Side (East of Co Rd) on the first day of the NDSF. Contestants are to report to the contest site: Industrial Parking Lot-North Side (East of Co Rd) by 8:00 am for registration and a contest briefing. There will be a practice session the day before the contest from 4:00 to 6:30 pm Industrial Parking Lot-North Side (East of Co Rd). No practice the morning of the contest will be allowed.

## **Contestant Eligibility**

1. To be eligible to participate the student must have completed an agricultural education course and appear on the chapter FFA roster at the time of the state contest.
2. Contestants entered in the Basic Division must have been a seventh grader, eighth grader, freshmen or sophomore in the previous school year. State winners of the Basic Division are no longer eligible to compete in the Basic Division and must participate in the Advanced Division.
3. Contestants entered in the Advanced Division must have been a junior or senior in the previous school year or the state winner of the Basic Division in a previous year. Previous state winners of the Advanced Divisions are no longer eligible to compete in the tractor operator contest.
4. District Elimination – Each district may enter four contestants in the Basic Division and four contestants in the Advanced Division at the NDSF contest. Each district shall arrange its own tractor operator event and the determination of the district's representatives shall be left to the discretion of the district; however, a district contest is recommended.
5. Awards will be presented the day of the contest. Individuals will be ranked gold, silver and bronze. Gold individuals will receive medals. The high individual in each division will receive the "baby bison" trophy and a \$100.00 award.

## **Written Test**

The written examination will consist of 30 multiple choice questions on tractor operation, safety, and daily maintenance which the contestant should be able to answer as a tractor operator. A 100 item scantron sheet will be used to record answers.

All scoring for this contest will be on a penalty point system. In other words, the lowest score wins. On the written examination 10 points will be added for each question missed.

The current issue of the National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program Student Manual ISBN# 9780913163498 will be used as the resource for questions. Copies for purchase are available online at <https://rowman.com/> through the Rowman & Littlefield Publishers website. Enter the ISBN# number in the search engine bar and you will be taken to the page for the manual.

## **Practicum**

A practicum will consist of 20 questions worth 15 points each. A 100 item scantron sheet will be used to record answers. Questions will be related to troubleshooting and use of the operator's manual. Contestants will be allowed 10 minutes for the practicum. Manuals and measuring instruments required to complete this section of the contest will be provided.

Note to Contestants: The safety scoring and scoring on accuracy of driving, as well as the points for the written test and practicum, are so severe that speed is not an important factor in winning this contest.

### **Tractor Driving**

Each contestant will drive through the North Dakota Tractor Operator and Two-Wheel Course Layout as illustrated on ndffa.org. Scoring will be based on time, safety, and accuracy according to the scorecard. An attempt will be made to obtain three makes of popular, modern farm tractors. Each contest will be designated one of these tractors; the third tractor will be used for the practicum.

Prior to the contest each contestant will be allowed a five-minute practice period on the contest tractor. This practice may be with the tractor only and not on the contest track. Practice must be taken according to the official schedule. (4:00 – 6:30 pm Thursday). No practice on the day of the contest.

### **Scoring**

Each contestant must drive the course according to the North Dakota Tractor Operator and Two-Wheel Course Layout. A four-minute time will be used for the Basic Division and a three-minute time will be used for the Advanced Division. A penalty of two points per second will be added to the contestant's score for each second over the specified time limit. All contestants will be stopped at the end of five minutes and if the course is not completed, that contestant will be disqualified.

### **Scoring Summary**

Safe Operation	0 to 1000	depending on safety violations
Tractor Driving	0 to 1000	depending on time & accuracy
Written test	300	maximum
Practicum	300	maximum

**The Lowest Score Will Be The Winner**

### **References**

1. ndffa.org for the North Dakota Tractor Operator and Two-Wheel Course Layout.
2. ndffa.org for the Safe Operation Score Card and Two-Wheel Driving Scoring Card.
3. National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program Student Manual ISBN# 9780913163498