



**ND FFA Association**

**TRACTOR OPERATOR  
CONTEST  
Handbook**

## Purpose

To promote and encourage safe and skillful farm tractor operation.

## Event Rules & Format

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 membership roster.
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.

## Team Activities

Not applicable.

## Individual Activities

### 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. Manuals and measuring instruments required to complete this section of the contest will be provided. Contestants will be allowed 10 minutes.

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](http://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 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

Event	Individual Points	Notes
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
<i>The lowest score will be the winner</i>		

## Awards

Awards will be presented at the awards ceremony to individuals and/or teams based upon their rankings. 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 \$250.00 award.

See the Awards section of the Career and Leadership Development Events and Activities Policies and Procedure for additional award guidelines.

## References & Resources

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# 978091316349

# Two-Wheel Driving Event Score Card

Updated: December 2022



## FFA SCORE CARD FOR TWO-WHEEL DRIVING EVENT

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

**Procedure:**

Two judges will be available for timing, recording, measuring, and observing this part of the contest. Their decisions are final and any interference with the judges will disqualify the operator.

The tractor and implement will be parked in position at the starting line with the engine shut off. The contestant will get on the tractor, **SET THE BRAKES, SHIFT TO NEUTRAL, START THE ENGINE,** and notify the starting judge when ready to start. The time will start at this point.

The contestant will then shift into gear, release the brakes, and start driving the course. The contestant must follow the course outline. Deviation from the course outline will disqualify the operator.

When finished driving, the operator will **SET THE BRAKES, SHIFT TO NEUTRAL OR PARK POSITION, RE-ENGAGE THE CLUTCH AND SHUT THE ENGINE OFF.** The time will be stopped when the engine is shut off.

	<u>No. of Times</u>		<u>Points Added</u>
1. Hitting stakes, golf ball dislodged	_____	X 50	_____
2. Stakes knocked out of line so that ball will not stay on top (add) 50 points	_____	X 50	_____
3. Tractor engine stalled	_____	X 10	_____
4. Grinding gears	_____	X 10	_____
5. Riding the clutch (max 100 points)	_____	X 10	_____
	<b><u>Measurement</u></b>		
6. Measuring. The trailer should be centered in the shed when finished driving.			
A. Inches off center of front	_____	X 10	_____
B. Inches off center of rear	_____	X 10	_____
C. Inches <u>in excess of</u> two from the rear stake (two inches is perfect)	_____	X 10	_____
7. <u>Time:</u> _____ (time to complete course) <small>Basic/Advanced: Max time of four minutes</small>			
• Penalty for not completing the course in the allotted time	_____ (seconds over)	X 2	_____

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.

TOTAL POINTS \_\_\_\_\_

# Safe Operation Score Card



## SAFE OPERATION SCORE CARD

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

**Procedure:**

One judge will score the contestant on safety while driving the course. This judge will stop and disqualify the contestant any time the tractor operation endangers the operator and/or spectators. This judge, at his discretion, may require any contestant to change direction of he gets into a cramped position which may cause damage to contest equipment.

<u>Starting Safety</u>	<u>No. of Times</u>	<u>Points Added</u>
1. Failure to check neutral position	_____ X 25	_____
2. Failure to disengage clutch while starting the engine	_____ X 25	_____

**Driving Safety:**

1. Failure to engage clutch gently	_____ X 25	_____
2. Failure to ride on seat or stand on the platform	_____ X 100	_____
3. Skidding or spinning wheels	_____ X 100	_____
4. Turning too short or fouling implement	_____ X 50	_____
5. Moving tractor with brakes set	_____ X 10	_____
6. Any turn which causes rear wheels to leave the ground	<b>Disqualifies the contestant</b>	

**Mounting and Dismounting Safety:**

1. Failure to set brakes or shift to park position before dismounting	_____ X 50	_____
2. Failure to bring tractor to complete stop before dismounting	_____ X 50	_____
3. Failure to use seatbelt	_____ X 50	_____
4. Safely dismounting the tractor backwards, using three points of contact.	_____ X 50	_____

**Other Safety Violations:**

1. List and explain \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL POINTS** \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE TO CONTESTANTS:** The safety scoring and scoring on accuracy of driving are so severe that speed is not an important factor in winning this contest.