



# Lawn and Garden Tractor Safety and Operator Skills

## Description:

The 4-H lawn and garden tractor and equipment program develops principles of engine operation, hydraulic systems, electrical systems, safe operation skills.

Lawn & Garden Equipment will be divided into levels by grade. The level will be determined by grade during the current school year. (September - August)

## State Fair Entries:

4 educational exhibits per county; one per level

3 junior and 3 senior driving contestants will qualify at the county level to compete at the area level contest. 3 junior and 3 senior driving contestants will qualify at the area level to compete at the state contest.

## Exhibit Guidelines:

All posters, notebooks, and display boards must include a reference list indicating where information was obtained, giving credit to the original author, to complete the 4-H member's exhibit. This reference list should/might include web site links, people and professionals interviewed, books, magazines, etc. It is recommended this reference list be attached to the back of a poster or display board, be the last page of a notebook, or included as part of the display visible to the public. A judge is not to discredit an exhibit for the way references are listed.

Posters are to be 22"x28" and displayed horizontally and placed in a clear plastic sleeve or covered with clear plastic to protect contents. Display boards should be designed to sit on a table using no more than 36" of tabletop space. Space should be left in the lower right hand corner to place an exhibit tag provided by Purdue Extension staff.

Youth may exhibit in the operator skills option, educational exhibit option or both. Youth choosing to exhibit in the lawn and garden tractor, tractor, or zero-turn mower operator skills driving option must select one, but may be enrolled in all three projects.

Judges evaluating exhibits should recognize individual differences and creativity, therefore using information in this document as a guide rather than a requirement.

## Exhibit Class Guidelines:

### Educational Exhibit Option

#### *Level A (grades 3-4 suggested)*

Create an educational poster, notebook or display about any manual activity or on any lawn and garden tractor safety, maintenance, operating system or operation topic of choice that is age/grade appropriate.

## ***Level B (grades 5-6 suggested)***

Create an educational poster, notebook or display about any manual activity or on any lawn and garden tractor safety, maintenance, operating system or operation topic of choice that is age/grade appropriate.

## ***Level C (grades 7-9 suggested)***

Create an educational poster, notebook or display about any manual activity or on any lawn and garden tractor safety, maintenance, operating system or operation topic of choice that is age/grade appropriate.

## ***Level D (grades 10-12 suggested)***

Create an educational poster, notebook or display about any manual activity or on any lawn and garden tractor safety, maintenance, operating system or operation topic of choice that is age/grade appropriate. Youth can also design and complete an independent study activity.

### **LAWN & GARDEN NON-DRIVING - Check-in and judging**

**Check-in:** Tuesday, June 11, 5-7 p.m. OR Wednesday, June 12, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Judging:** Open judging

After check-in of **all** projects, put all current year's record sheets in Green Record Book and turn in at designated boxes in the Community Building.

You have until May 15 to add or drop this project from your current year's enrollment.

## **Operator Skills Option**

The operator skills component is an educational and training activity conducted by adult 4-H volunteers. A parent or guardian is encouraged to be present when their child is operating a lawn and garden tractor. The adult 4-H volunteer has the authority to deny a child the opportunity to participate in the operator skills option when it is deemed a child is unable to safely operate a lawn and garden tractor due to size, weight, or any other reason that could place the child and/or others in harm.

### **Exhibit Guidelines:**

- Participate in Lawn & Garden Tractor Handling Contest. (Compact Tractor)
- The contest will be divided into two divisions, Junior and Senior.
- Junior division contestants must be in the 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7th grade, during the current school year. (September-August)
- Senior division contestants must be in the 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12th grade, during the current school year. (September-August)

### **Lawn & Garden Tractor Driving Contest:**

The 4-H Lawn & Garden contest are an opportunity for 4-H members to develop and refine their lawn & garden tractor safety and operation skills. The event is an opportunity for 4-H'ers to showcase their talent before their peers, friends, parents and the general public. County winners compete in the area contests from which the top three finishers may proceed to the state contest. The state contest is held during the Indiana State Fair.

### **Lawn & Garden Driving Contest Rules:**

1. The county Lawn & Garden driving operators contest will consist of a written examination, parts identification and driving a prescribed course.
2. The Junior and Senior Quiz will be taken from the suggested questions in the supplement provided by the Extension Office.
3. The written exam will consist of 25 multiple-choice questions.
4. Each question will be worth twenty (20) points.
5. Each contestant will be given a maximum of 15 minutes to complete the quiz.
  
6. Contestants will be scored on:
  - a. Quiz questions
  - b. Lawn & Garden equipment operation on obstacle course.
  - c. Safety while at the contest
  - d. Time
  - e. Parts identification
7. Contestants will be judged on safety at all times while at the contest site; before, during and after their contest operation. At the discretion of the judges, unsafe operation may disqualify a contestant.
8. The driving contest will be a single elimination contest.
9. The contestant with the lowest total score or number of penalty points will be the champion. The contestants in each division with the lowest, second lowest, and the third lowest scores will go on to the area contest.
10. In case any of the winners cannot participate in the Area contest, the contestant with the next lowest score will represent the county in the Area contest.
11. In case of a tie score for the county winners, contestants will re-drive for a new score. The tie breaker will be based on the course score only.

### ***Junior (grades 3-7 suggested)***

Youth will demonstrate their operation skills by driving a lawn and garden tractor through an obstacle course as outlined in 4-H 84, Conducting 4-H Operator Safety Contests.

## ***Senior (grades 8-12 suggested)***

Youth will demonstrate their operation skills by driving a lawn and garden tractor through an obstacle course as outlined in 4-H 84, Conducting 4-H Operator Safety Contests.