



4-H Tractor/Lawn & Garden/Zero-Turn Operator Skills Competition

Social Distancing Requirements and Considerations

County organized operator skills workshops, practices and competitions are not permitted through June 30, 2020. Beginning July workshops, practices and competitions may occur if social distancing and sanitization practices are implemented according to federal, state and local guidelines and attendance requirements meet Indiana's Back-on-Track plan.

- Counties in Stage 2: in-person Extension meetings with less than 25 attendees may be held if social distancing guidelines and other health and safety requirements are satisfied.
- Counties in Stage 3: in-person Extension meetings and events with less than 100 attendees may be held if social distancing guidelines and other health and safety requirements are satisfied.
- Counties in Stage 4: in-person Extension meetings and events with less than 250 attendees may be held if social distancing guidelines and other health and safety requirements are satisfied.
- Counties in Stage 5: in-person Extension meetings, events with less than 250 attendees, and large events with more than 250 people may be held if social distancing guidelines and other health and safety requirements are satisfied. In the Back-on-Track plan, no counties can reach Stage 5 before July 4.

If a county determines to have a virtual fair 4-H members in the operator skills projects have the following options:

1. Create a poster, notebook or display related to safety and exhibit in the tractor safety education project.
2. Create a video demonstrating a maintenance or safety skill. Junior division videos are to be 5-7 minutes in length and seniors 5-10 minutes.
3. Create a maintenance or operator safety lesson using Power Point or similar software.

Area operator skills competitions may occur if total attendance does not exceed the maximum allowed based on the host county's stage outlined above. Total attendance includes contestants, volunteers, employees, parents, grandparents, and other spectators.

The following are guidelines when conducting a workshop, practice or competition at the county, area or state level.

Set-Up

- Require face covering be worn by every employee, volunteer and 4-H members.
- Have only the number of people required to get the job done.
- Constantly remind people about social distancing practices.
- Use disinfecting wipes or spray to clean all surfaces.
- Use a disinfecting wipe to clean all hand tools prior to sharing with another individual.
- Have a first aid kit on-hand.

Competition:

- Make hand sanitizer available at each obstacle course, exam area, and parts identification area.
- Require face covering be worn by every employee, volunteer and contestant.
- Have only the number of employees, volunteers and judges required to get the job done.

- Display signage reminding people to follow social distancing practices.
- If spectator seating is made available mark where people can sit according to social distancing practices.
- Use disinfecting wipes or spray to clean exam tables, chairs and surfaces after each use.
- Use disinfecting wipes or spray to clean parts identification tables, chairs and surfaces after each use.
- Use disinfecting wipes or spray to clean equipment after each use. This includes handles, fenders, steering wheel/steer sticks, key, throttle lever, choke lever, seat belt, seat, and any other surface touched. This also includes disinfecting stakes after being re-set.
- Provide each person their own pen, pencil, clipboards, stop watch, etc. to allow prevent sharing.
- Maintain social distancing to allow 6 feet between all contestants, judges, volunteers and employees.
- Consider using a pre-determined schedule to minimize the number of people waiting at the event.
- Constantly remind everyone to practice social distancing.
- Make hand sanitizer available in the tabulation room and people working in that room are to practice social distancing. Each person is to have their own pen or pencil to prevent sharing.
- Use disinfecting wipes to clean the awards table and all awards after placing on that table. When awards are announced contestants are to pick up their award from the awards table. Congratulatory handshakes do not comply with social distancing practices.
- Use a disinfecting wipe to clean the microphone before sharing.
- Have a first aid kit on-hand.

Tear-down and Clean-Up:

- Require face covering be worn by every employee, volunteer and 4-H members.
- Have only the number of people required to get the job done.
- Constantly remind people about social distancing practices.
- Use disinfecting wipes or spray to clean all surfaces.
- Use a disinfecting wipe to clean all hand tools prior to sharing with another individual.
- Have a first aid kit on-hand.

What if my county is doing virtual exhibition?

The operator skills (obstacle course) component can only be completed in-person. Since all area competitions will occur late July or early August a county competition could be scheduled as an individual event sometime prior to the area. A contestant schedule could be used in an effort to limit the number of people on-site at any given time. A county could choose to make the exam and parts identification components online with completion prior to the competition (trusting our 4-H member's and parent's integrity) or eliminate them in 2020. If a county chooses to not have an in-person operator skills obstacle course competition it will be up to the educator and county tractor leadership to determine representation at the area event.

What if my area is considering not having an in-person competition event?

Since a state contest is being planned an area event will need to occur unless the educators and tractor leadership decide not to have state contest representation. A contestant schedule could be used in an effort to limit the number of people on-site at any given time. Driving courses could be set-up and contestants scheduled to perform over a two or three day period if an area lacks volunteer assistance. An area could choose to make the exam and parts identification components online with completion prior to the competition (trusting our 4-H member's and parent's integrity) or eliminate them in 2020. If an area is unable to conduct an in-person operator skills obstacle course competition it will be up to the educator and area tractor leadership to determine representation at the state event.

How will the state contest operate?

State contest information will be provided to area coordinators for distribution to individuals qualifying to compete at the state level. Using Sign-Up Genius, members will self-schedule a competition time in twenty-minute increments. There will be six courses utilized, one each for junior and senior division tractor, lawn & garden tractor, and zero-turn mower. Participants will be asked to arrive fifteen minutes prior to their scheduled competition time. Each participant will begin by taking their exam (20 minutes maximum), then move to parts identification (20 minutes maximum), followed by driving the operator skills obstacle course. Participants may leave when finished or stay for results announcement.

Contact Tony Carrell, 4-H Youth Development Extension Specialist, for additional guidance regarding 4-H tractor/lawn & garden/zero-turn operator skills competition. tcarrell@purdue.edu or 765-494-8435