



Tractor Safety & Skills CDE

Purpose

The purpose of the Tractor Driving Career Development Event is to encourage the safe and appropriate use of farm tractors in an agricultural setting. The event challenges students to safely maneuver a tractor with a small trailer through a set course with accuracy.

State Event Superintendent

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Eligibility

The state event will be open to only one participant from each federation - the federation winner. The federation winner must be an active member; however, no previous state winner is eligible. FFA members may not participate in a Career Development Event that leads to a state level event after July 1, following their high school/early college graduation.

Each participant's chapter advisor must return a completed registration form (which carries parental consent and waiver of liability). Each year's form is provided in a mailing from the Southern Farm Show.

The use or possession of cellular phones or any other mobile electronic communication device is prohibited during any state-level career development event. Any violation of this rule will result in total disqualification.

Any member found cheating in any state-level career development event will result in total disqualification for that event.

The North Carolina FFA Association, in keeping with the FFA mission and purposes, does not permit the use of tobacco products, e-cigarettes, vapes, or Juuls at any FFA facility or at any FFA activity.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, North Carolina FFA will honor requests for reasonable accommodations made by individuals with disabilities. Please direct accommodation requests through the CDE/LDE Accommodation Request [Form](#). If the accommodation can be made for all and/or doesn't provide an unfair advantage, then every effort will be made to provide the accommodation. Requests can be accommodated more effectively if notice is provided at least 10 days before the event.



Middle School Participation

Middle school students and teams may participate in Career Development Events or Leadership Development Events. The top middle grades team will be recognized at the state FFA convention. Middle school participants should designate during registration.

Dress Code

Participants are required to follow the North Carolina FFA Career Development Event Dress Code. Participants are allowed to wear long pants, an appropriate shirt with a collar or an appropriate high school or FFA t-shirt.

The North Carolina FFA Association strives to promote a positive image at all Official FFA Events. The dress code policy was established to address the issue of appropriate attire at all Official FFA Events. Members should adhere to this policy for all events. A ten percent reduction will be applied to all individual scores from a chapter if a participant from that chapter violates the dress code during that career event.

Procedures for Administering the Event

Participants will be judged on their knowledge and demonstration of safety practices and skills in the operation of a tractor with a two-wheeled trailer. The lowest score is the winner.

Scoring

Participants will be scored on their performance using the North Carolina FFA Tractor Driving Score Card. Performances will be timed, and the time is calculated into the individual score. Participants start with a score of zero and points are given for each infraction earned. The participant's event time is calculated into the score as a deduction. The participant with the lowest score is considered the winner.

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding this Event

Riding the Clutch?

The state event uses Hydro-static driving tractors that do not have a clutch. For chapter or federation events, many judges will deduct points if the driver's foot rests on the clutch. It is recommended that unless the driver is clutching, the driver's foot should rest on the footrest.

Can the tractor be left running while hooking to the trailer?

Yes, be sure to apply the parking brake and remove the tractor from gear.

What if the trailer touches a marker while the driver is hooking to it?

It is the duty of the judges to make sure that the trailer is square inside of the shed area. If the trailer touches or knocks down a marker while it is being pulled out, the driver has not backed square to the trailer or has turned quickly, and thus points will be added.



Can a driver take extra long turns when turning?

Yes, but this will cost him/her more time and thus affect his/her score.

What are the dimensions of the trailer used at the state event?

The wheelbase of the trailer is 5'." The trailer tongue length is 43" from the tip of the tongue to the front of the trailer box. A 7' board will be attached to the rear of the trailer.

What is the end point for the state event?

When the driver has backed the trailer into the shed, the driver should cut off the tractor when he or she is satisfied. Time will be called as the fan blade stops turning on the tractor by the officials.

What if I do not follow the prescribed course in the chapter guide?

You will be disqualified.

Procedure for Determining the State Event Winner When Scores are Tied

In the event a tie score exists, apply the following methods in sequential order until the tie is broken:

1. Compare the inches off center rear.
2. If scores continue to be tied, compare the total time to complete the course

State Awards

The awards will be presented annually at the state FFA convention and will include 1st, 2nd and 3rd place plaque and a travel monetary award. The high scoring individual will be recognized at the state FFA convention. Trophies will be given on site at the conclusion of the event. The highest-placing middle school team will be recognized only if they are not already among the overall top three teams. If a middle school team places in the top three overall, they will not receive additional middle school-specific recognition.



North Carolina FFA Tractor Driving Score Card

Participant's Name _____ Number _____

School _____

Scoring	No. Errors	Times	Points Off
1. Failure to check neutral position before starting engine.	_____	x 25	_____
2. Failure to disengage clutch while starting engine.	_____	x 50	_____
3. Failure to set both brakes or set transmission in park before dismounting tractor.	_____	x 50	_____
4. Failure to check P.T.O. for disengagement prior to starting engine (score only once at beginning of driving).	_____	x 50	_____
5. Moving tractor with brakes set	_____	x 10	_____
6. Turning too short and fouling equipment	_____	x 100	_____
7. Unnecessary side skidding, or spinning of wheels, or operating tractor at unsafe speed, each instance.	_____	x 100	_____
8. Other unsafe practices (score for each offense)			
Extra riders.	_____	x 100	_____
Seat belt on tractor not used.	_____	x 50	_____
Other (discretion of judges).	_____	x	_____
		Total Points Off (SAFETY)	_____
1. Each change in direction other than necessary for course.	_____	x 10	_____
2. Markers or lines:			
Touched marker	_____	x 40	_____
Lines touched or crossed by tire	_____	x 50	_____
Knocked down marker	_____	x100	_____
3. Rough clutch engagement, riding clutch, clashing of gears, or engine stalled, each instance.	_____	x 10	_____
4 Measurement in shed (measure to nearest inch)			
Inches off-center, front.	_____	x 10	_____
Inches off-center, rear.	_____	x 10	_____
Inches greater than one from center-rear-post	_____	x 10	_____
5. Time: Minutes _____ Seconds _____	Total Seconds	_____	x0.2 _____
6. Time in excess of 8 minutes, 100 points			_____
7. Dress Code Violation (10% penalty)			_____
TOTAL POINTS			_____



North Carolina FFA Association Tractor Driving Course Outline

