

TRACTOR/MOWER SAFETY & OPERATOR SKILLS

PLEASE NOTE: Any changes/updates from the previous year will be **BOLDED** and **ITALICIZED**! Pay special attention to any projects with **BOLD, ITALICIZED WORDS** because they have changed from last year.

This project is now broken out into THREE areas – Tractor Safety and Operator Skills, Lawn and Garden Tractor Safety and Operator Skills, and Zero-Turn Tractor Safety and Operator Skills. Each project area will have its own state fair entries, champions, and driving contests at the county level.

| Completion, exhibition participation, and State Fair information for ALL Tractor/Mower Safety Operator Skills Projects | | | |
|--|--------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Division/Level | Grades (suggested) | Completion Activities Needed | Maximum State Fair Entries |
| Level A | Grades 3-4 | EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET | 1 Entry in each Project Area |
| Level B | Grades 5-6 | EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET | 1 Entry in each Project Area |
| Level C | Grades 7-9 | EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET | 1 Entry in each Project Area |
| Level D | Grades 10-12 | EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET | 1 Entry in each Project Area |
| Junior Operator Contest | Grades 3-7 | EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET | Designated amount for driving contest will be sent to area contest to qualify for state. |
| Senior Operator Contest | Grades 8-12 | EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET | Designated amount for driving contest will be sent to area contest to qualify for state. |

Remember: 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. Reference Sheets are available at the Extension Office for use if needed. For personal safety, do not include personally identifiable information such as mailing address or phone numbers on posters/displays/exhibits.

SUGGESTED REFERENCE MATERIALS (available for purchase in Extension Office or shop4-h.org)

- Level A: Starting Up: Getting to Know Your Tractor
- Level B: Tractor Operation: Gearing Up for Safety
- Level C: Moving Out: Learning About Your Tractor
- Level D: Learning More: Learning About Agricultural Tractors & Equipment

Lawn & Garden Tractor Safety and Operator Skills

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

GUIDELINES

1. Refer to the Hendricks County 4-H Policies, Entry & Exhibit Guidelines for poster and general display guidelines.
2. **Artificial Intelligence (AI) may be used, with parent permission, when creating this exhibit and is to be documented as a reference. A majority of the work to create this exhibit is to be the 4-H member's original work.**
3. Be sure to enroll in the project on 4-HOnline and enter exhibit information into FairEntry by designated date. **2025 designated FairEntry Deadline is Tuesday, July 1st at 11:59 p.m.**
4. Complete the Record Sheet (if not exhibiting at the Hendricks County 4-H Fair).
5. 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.

EXHIBIT CLASSES

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.

Operator Skills Option

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.

Tractor Safety and Operator Skills

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

GUIDELINES

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4. Complete the Record Sheet (if not exhibiting at the Hendricks County 4-H Fair).
5. 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.

EXHIBIT CLASSES

Educational Exhibit Option

Level A: Grades 3-4 (suggested)

- Create an educational poster, notebook or display about any manual activity or on any 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 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 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 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.

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. The 2025 tractor/lawn and garden tractor/zero-turn mower operator skills area and state contests will include the parts identification and obstacle course practicums only. The quiz/exam practicum will not be part of the 2025 contests. Hendricks County 4-H Fair will still administer the quiz/exam practicum.

Junior: Grades 3-7 (suggested)

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

Zero-Turn Mower Safety and Operator Skills

The 4-H zero-turn mower and equipment program develops principles of engine operation, hydraulic systems, electrical systems, safe operation skills.

GUIDELINES

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2. **Artificial Intelligence (AI) may be used, with parent permission, when creating this exhibit and is to be documented as a reference. A majority of the work to create this exhibit is to be the 4-H member's original work.**
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4. Complete the Record Sheet (if not exhibiting at the Hendricks County 4-H Fair).
5. 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.

EXHIBIT CLASSES

Educational Exhibit Option

Level A: Grades 3-4 (suggested)

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

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 zero-turn mower. 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 zero-turn mower due to size, weight, or any other reason that could place the child and/or others in harm. The 2025 tractor/lawn and garden tractor/zero-turn mower operator skills area and state contests will include the parts identification and obstacle course practicums only. The quiz/exam practicum will not be part of the 2025 contests. Hendricks County 4-H Fair will still administer the quiz/exam practicum.

Junior: Grades 3-7 (suggested)

- Youth will demonstrate their operation skills by driving a zero-turn mower 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 zero-turn mower through an obstacle course as outlined in 4-H 84, Conducting 4-H Operator Safety Contests.