Virginia FFA & 4-H: Lawn Tractor Operators

State Fair of Virginia

2026 Contest Letter

State Fair Address: Meadow Event Park 13111 Dawn Blvd Doswell, VA 23047 Caroline County	**Contest Registration and Tickets:** Participants must have a $6 Student Competition Ticket to enter the Fairgrounds unless they are already at the Fair for another competition. Agricultural Education instructors are responsible for ordering tickets: https://www.vaffa.org/state-fair-of-virginia	**Event Location:** Blue Ribbon Pavilion	**Date:** September 25, 2026 **Times:** *Contest Meeting:* 10:15 AM *Contest Begins:* 10:30 AM *Awards:* Following the Event
Contest Superintendents: Andy Seibel LaVeta Nutter	**Entry Deadline:** September 15, 2026 by 5:00 PM.	**Questions? Contact us!** *Virginia FFA Association* Andy Seibel - gseibel@vt.edu Sarah Jo Jones - shelms07@vt.edu 540-231-3823	

Purpose:

The Lawn Tractor Operators contest allows participants to safely demonstrate their ability to operate a riding lawn mower. Students are also tested on their knowledge of lawn mower parts and basic maintenance.

Rules and Guidelines:

1. Each county/club/city is invited to enter **ONE** contestant (limited to the first 25 contestants).
2. Contestants must be between 13 and 18 years of age on January 1st in order to be eligible to compete.
3. Each contestant should bring a clipboard and pencil.
4. In case of a tie for individual awards, ranking will be determined by:

a. Written Exam
b. Parts Identification
c. Obstacle Course
d. Time

5. If electrical storms prevent the driving portion of the contest, then written scores will be used to determine the state winner.
6. Contestants are judges 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.
7. While at the contest, all participants are scored on safety, written quiz, parts identification, lawn and garden operation on the course, and time.
8. Any rule or interpretation not covered here is decided by the superintendent and assistants of the contest; their decisions are final.
9. Please contact Andy Seibel, gseibel@vt.edu for additional information.

(More detailed information can be found in the Virginia 4-H Lawn Mower Contest Manual)

Events:
1. Written Exam
2. Parts Identification
3. Obstacle Course

Awards:

Cash Awards:

Place:	Award:	Placing:	Award:
1st	$50	6th	$25
2nd	$45	7th	$20
3rd	$40	8th	$15
4th	$35	9th	$10
5th	$30	10th	$5

Ribbons:
1st-6th Place - Rosette Ribbons
7th-10th Place - Flat Ribbons

State Fair Scholarship Program:
Contestants will be eligible to participate in the State Fair Scholarship Program. Please see the State Fair website, www.statefairva.org for more information regarding the State Fair of Virginia Scholarship Program and eligibility requirements for other available scholarships. The following scholarships will be awarded to the top four individuals:

1st Place - $300
2nd Place - $200
3rd Place - $150
4th Place - $100

Event Sponsor:

JAMES RIVER EQUIPMENT