

NEWS RELEASE

Wisconsin Association of FFA
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Waupaca FFA Member Wins 2017 State FFA Safe Tractor Operator Contest

Griffin Trinrud of the Waupaca FFA is the 2017 State Winner of the Wisconsin Association of FFA State Safe Tractor Operator Contest held Tuesday, July 11 at the Wisconsin Farm Technology Days in Kewaunee County.

FFA members from around the state can compete in their local and regional Safe Tractor Operator Contests and must be named one of the 14 state qualifiers in order to advance to the State FFA Contest. A contestant must be at least 14 years of age and have successfully completed the tractor certification course or be 16 years of age and have completed at least one year of agricultural education and be enrolled in classes the current calendar year of the contest.

Anthony Cronick of the Osceola FFA placed second and Kyle Loehrke of the Weyauwega-Fremont FFA was third. Anthony was also a regional winner in his qualifying event.

The other contestants that qualified to compete in the state contest included:

Hunter Gough, Albany FFA	AJ Leofer, Reedsville FFA
Kollin Stirn (Regional Winner), Arcadia FFA	Matt Walz, River Ridge FFA
Clayton Hale, Juda FFA	Nash Strauss, Shawano FFA
Hunter Wendt, Manawa FFA	Brett Koski, Waupaca FFA
Josh Van Dyke, New Richmond FFA	Devin Rettenmund, Wisconsin Heights FFA
Ben Neumann, Osceola FFA	

Collin Bays, Adams-Friendship FFA was also a Regional Winner but was unable to participate in the State Contest.

The Safe Tractor Operator Contest involves four major parts - Written Exam, Practical Exam, Two-Wheel Driving Event and Four-Wheel Driving Event. In addition, contestants are also scored on safety anytime they are operating the tractor during the contest.

The contestants take a 50 question Written Exam. Questions are asked about anything from tractor safety to maintenance. The Practical Examination consists of the inspection of a tractor for maintenance and safety items. The basis for selecting these items will be a routine daily check-up. Some of the unsafe items that contestants could look for would be the SMV emblem missing, lights not operational, crankcase fluid low, etc.

The Two-Wheel and Four-Wheel Events involve driving courses each with a 5 minute time limit and demonstrating safety and skillful driving.

The purpose of the contest is to promote and encourage safe and skillful farm tractor operation, in addition to providing members an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of tractor maintenance and safety.

The State Safe Tractor Operator Contest is sponsored through the Wisconsin FFA Foundation, Inc. FFA advisor Marty Nowak of the Luxemburg-Casco FFA chapter and Don Meier, retired FFA advisor from Plymouth served as the hosts of the event and coordinated the set up and equipment for the contest.