



Yee-Haa! Formula for a Successful Tractor Rodeo¹

Carol J. Lehtola and Charles M. Brown²

Formula for a Successful Tractor Rodeo

The tractor is involved in a high percentage of agricultural injuries and deaths. A tractor rodeo is a great (and fun) method to communicate the importance of safety. It can be used to teach safety to youth as well as experienced, adult tractor operators.

What is a 'Tractor Rodeo'?

In a tractor rodeo, participants perform common equipment operations, such as driving tractors or hooking and unhooking equipment. The driving will be done on a course laid out by the instructors, and it will test precision, safety awareness, and attention to detail. Likewise, handling equipment will be a test of accurate execution of a task. (There is no time element; needless rushing to accomplish tasks is the source of many injuries.) A score sheet is used by judges to assess the performance of each participant.

The rodeo can last through a morning or afternoon, or it can be an all-day affair and include lunch and an awards ceremony. In addition to the activities, safety information can be built into the

introductions, announcements, and event publications so that it is clear that safety is the bottom line of the day's activities. A special award for the safest driver is a good idea, in addition to best overall and best in various categories.

Participants can compete individually or as teams, perhaps based on their group affiliations.

Example of a Successful Tractor Rodeo

The following examples are taken from the materials developed by Lake and Orange County Extension offices over 20 years of conducting tractor rodeos.

The Schedule

The Lake-Orange County Tractor Rodeo is an all-day event which starts at 8 in the morning and ends around 3:30 in the afternoon. The schedule emphasizes education in the morning; the rodeo takes place after lunch.

Here is a sample program:

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 2. Carol J. Lehtola, associate professor and Extension Agricultural Safety Specialist; and Charles M. Brown, Coordinator for Information/Publication Services, Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

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8:00 - 8:30 am -- Registration and Announcements

8:30 - 9:00 am -- Personal Safety

9:00 - 9:30 am -- Pesticide Safety

9:30 - 10:00 am -- Defensive Driving

10:00 - 10:30 am -- Break

10:30 - 11:00 am -- Safe Tractor Operation

11:00 - 11:30 am -- Be Careful, Hazardous Materials

11:30 - 12:00 pm -- What's for Lunch? (Food safety in the field)

12:00 - 1:00 pm -- Lunch

1:00 - 3:00 pm -- Rodeo

3:00 - 3:30 pm -- Awards Presentation

The Events

The Lake-Orange County rodeo includes three events. Individuals compete in only one event, but organizations have one representative in each event. The events are:

Event #1: Backing -- A trailer must be backed into a 'stall'. Once the tractor is in reverse, it must be kept in reverse.

Event#2: Hooking Up -- Back a supply truck up to a speed sprayer. Each contestant has to back 'blind' to hook up (that is, with no one spotting or assisting).

Event #3: Driving Course -- A course must be traveled at constant speed without knocking down the cones.

The 'stall' is an area of the course marked out with cones for the participant to back the trailer into.

The Scorecard

Judges for the Lake-Orange County rodeo use a scorecard (see Table 1) to evaluate each participant's performance. A perfect score is zero, meaning that points are scored for omissions or errors. Participants

are scored in five areas: Pre-Warm-Up Preparation, Engine Starting, Warm-Up and Clutch Operation, Driving, and Safety. A sample scorecard appears at the end of this publication.

Specific judging areas and their point values are:

Pre-Warm-Up

1. Failure to check water (7 points for each infraction)
2. Failure to check oil (7 points for each infraction)
3. Failure to check fuel (7 points for each infraction)

Engine Starting

1. Failure to check neutral position (10 points for each infraction)
2. Failure to disengage clutch while starting engine (10 points for each infraction)
3. Switch not turned on (3 points for each infraction)

Warm-Up and Clutch Operation

1. Failure to warm up engine for period specified (7 points for each infraction)

Driving

1. Number of pull-ups to improve position (While backing into the 'stall' or driving through the course) (2 points for each infraction)
2. Markers scraped (number) (4 points for each infraction)
3. Markers moved or upset (number) (5 points for each infraction)
4. Killed engine (number of times) (2 points for each infraction)
5. Grated gears (number of times) (1 point for each infraction)

6. Rough clutch engagement (number of times) (1 point for each infraction)
7. Failure to disengage clutch (number of times) (2 points for each infraction)
8. Number of inches wheel off-center (2 points for each infraction)
9. Number of inches trailer is +/- 4 inches from rear boundary (2 points for each infraction)

Safety

1. Skidding or spinning wheels when starting (number of violations) (2 points for each infraction)
2. Turning too short and fouling implement (number of violations) (2 points for each infraction)
3. Operation of tractor at unsafe speed (number of violations) (4 points for each infraction)
4. Moving tractor with brake set (number of violations) (1 point for each infraction)
5. Failure to dismount to insert or remove drawbar pin (2 points for each infraction)
6. Failure to bring tractor to complete stop and/or turn tractor off before dismounting (5 points for each infraction)
7. Failure to lock brakes before dismounting to hook up or unhook implement at finish line (5 points for each infraction)
8. Excessive use of brakes (number of violations) (2 points for each infraction)
9. Failure to wear safety belts (10 points for each infraction)

The low score wins.

Course Layout

Figure 1 shows a possible course layout for the tractor rodeo.

For More Information

For more information about tractor safety, visit the Florida AgSafe Web site:

<<http://www.flagsafe.ufl.edu>>; or the National Agricultural Safety Database (NASD): <www.cdc.gov/nasd>.

This publication is part of the Safer Tractor Operator series. A complete list of publications in this series is given below. All are available at your county Extension office and at the EDIS Web site, <<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>>, and at the Florida AgSafe Web site.

- Getting Started on the Right Foot: Dangers of Bypass Starting <<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE172>>
- When Two's a Crowd: Dangers of Extra Riders on Tractors <<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE173>>
- Filling Gas Cans Safely <<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE174>>
- Lighting and Marking Farm Equipment for Road Travel -- Summary of ASAE Standard S279.10 <<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE175>>
- Road Safety for Tractors and Farm Machinery <<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE176>>
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) <<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE177>>
- Avoid The Invisible Hazard: Know About Soil Shear Lines <<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE178>>
- Shortcuts are Shortsighted! or Invest Seconds, Save Lives (AE306) <<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE179>>
- Ready or Not? Get Ready with a Tractor Operator Checklist <<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE180>>
- Yee-Haa! Formula for a Successful Tractor Rodeo <<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE181>>

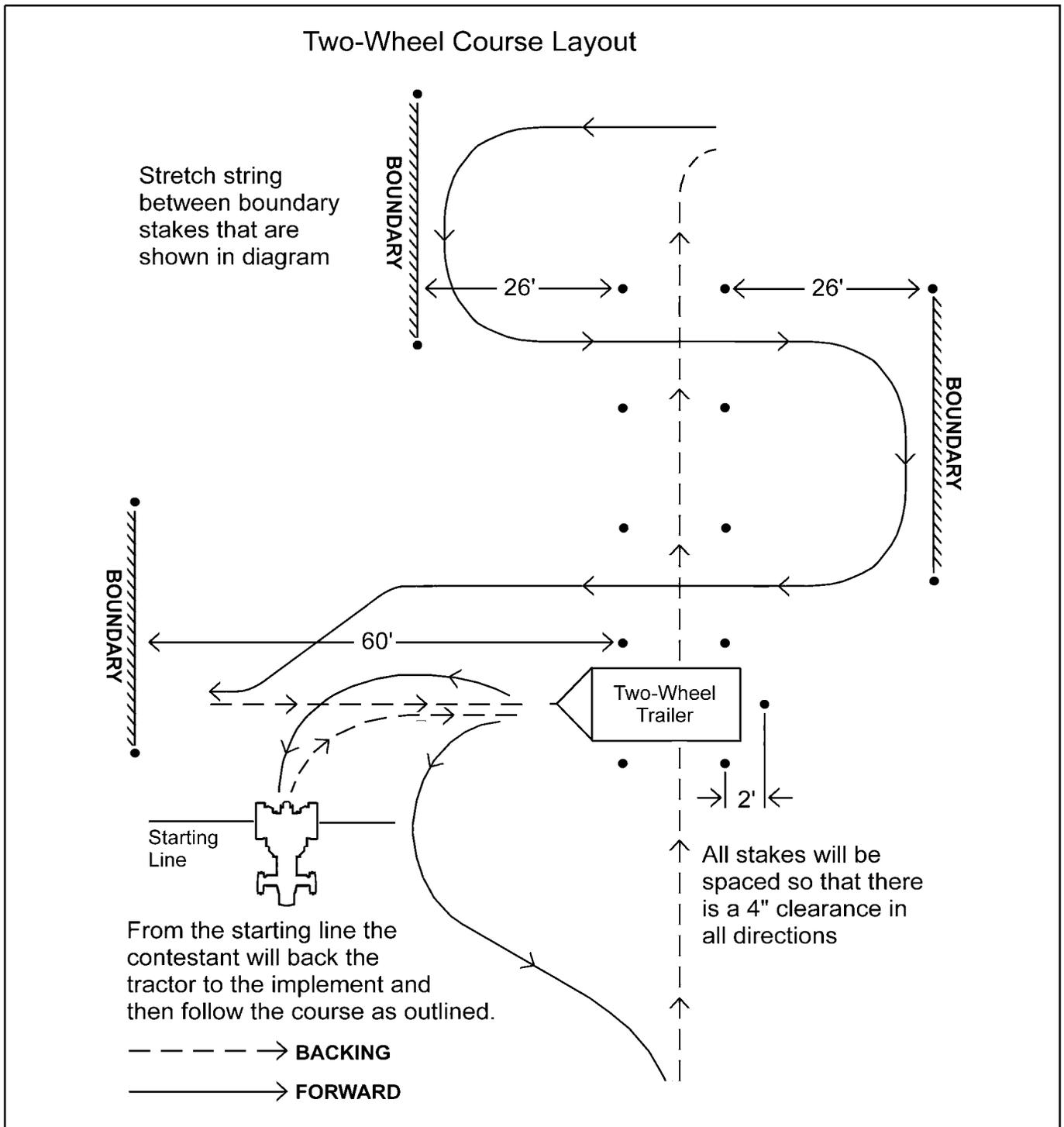


Figure 1. Course Layout for Tractor Rodeo

- Hand-me-down Hazards: Dangers of Used Equipment <<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE182>>
- Safer Tractor Operations for Agricultural Employers <<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE195>>
- Safety Tips for Tractor Loading and Towing <<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE183>>
- Safer Tractor Operations for Privately Owned and Operated Farms and Ranches <<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE196>>

- Safer Tractor Operations for Acreages and Homeowners <<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE197>>
- Safer Tractor Operations for Landscape Maintenance and Horticultural Industries <<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE198>>
- Safer Tractor Operations for Emergency and Rescue Personnel <<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE199>>
- Safer Tractor Operations for Farm Workers and Employees <<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE200>>

Table 1.

Tractor Operation Scoring	Number of Infractions			Total Points Off
PRE-WARM-UP				
1. Failure to Check Water	_____	x	7 =	_____
2. Failure to Check Oil	_____	x	7 =	_____
3. Failure to Check Fuel	_____	x	7 =	_____
STARTING ENGINE				
1. Failure to Check Neutral Position	_____	x	10 =	_____
2. Failure to Disengage Clutch while Starting Engine	_____	x	10 =	_____
3. Switch Not Turned On	_____	x	3 =	_____
WARM-UP AND CLUTCH OPERATION				
1. Failure to Warm-up Engine for Period Specified	_____	x	7 =	_____
DRIVING				
1. Number of Pull-ups to Improve Position	_____	x	2 =	_____
2. Markers Scraped (number)	_____	x	4 =	_____
3. Marker Moved or Upset (number)	_____	x	5 =	_____
4. Killed Engine (number of times)	_____	x	2 =	_____
5. Grated Gears (number of times)	_____	x	1 =	_____
6. Rough Clutch Engagement (number of times)	_____	x	1 =	_____
7. Failure to Disengage Clutch (number of times)	_____	x	2 =	_____
8. Number of Inches Wheel Off Center	_____	x	2 =	_____
9. Number of Inches Trailer is + or - 4 inches from Rear Boundary	_____	x	2 =	_____
SAFETY				
1. Skidding or Spinning Wheels When Starting (number of violations)	_____	x	2 =	_____
2. Turning Too Short and Fouling Implement (number of violations)	_____	x	2 =	_____
3. Operation of Tractor at Unsafe Speed (number of violations)	_____	x	4 =	_____
4. Moving Tractor with Brake Set (number of violations)	_____	x	1 =	_____
5. Failure to Dismount to Insert or Remove Drawbar Pin	_____	x	2 =	_____
6. Failure to Bring Tractor to Complete Stop	_____	x	5 =	_____
7. Failure to Lock Brakes Before Dismounting to Hook-up or Unhook Implement at Finish Line	_____	x	5 =	_____
8. Excessive Use of Brakes (number of violations)	_____	x	2 =	_____
9. Failure to Wear Safety Belts	_____	x	10 =	_____
GRAND TOTAL (TRACTOR OPERATIONS)				
FIGURING FINAL SCORE				
1. Written Exam (number missed x 4)				_____
2. Tractor Operation (number missed)				_____
3. Oral Exam and/or Demonstration (number missed)				_____
GRAND TOTAL				_____

THE LOW SCORE WINS!