



WISCONSIN  
FFA ASSOCIATION

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Wisconsin Association of FFA**  
**Wisconsin FFA Center**  
P.O. Box 110  
Spencer, WI 54479  
Contact: Cheryl Zimmerman  
FFA Executive Director  
(715) 659-4807

### **Reedsville FFA Member Wins 2019 State FFA Safe Tractor Operator Contest**

AJ Loefer of the Reedsville FFA is the 2019 State Winner of the Wisconsin Association of FFA State Safe Tractor Operator Contest held Tuesday, July 23 at Wisconsin Farm Technology Days in Jefferson 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.

Hunter Wendt of the Manawa FFA placed second and Spencer Treinen of the DeForest FFA was third.

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

Tristan Weihrouch, Arcadia FFA  
Ian Manthe, DeForest FFA  
Brandon Jakobi, Granton FFA  
Isaac Jakobi, Granton FFA  
Mason Grierok, Independence FFA  
Matthew Ludtke, Laconia FFA

Alex Wepner, Manawa FFA  
Jordan DeRosier, Osceola FFA  
Luke Sprecher, Sauk Prairie FFA  
Mason Pfeifer, Slinger FFA  
Adam Wolf, Slinger FFA

Spencer Treinen, DeForest FFA; Brandon Jakobi, Granton FFA; Hunter Wendt, Manawa FFA and Jordan DeRosier, Osceola FFA were also Regional Winners

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 FFA Safe Tractor Operator Contest is sponsored through the Wisconsin FFA Foundation, Inc. Luke Wiedenfeld, advisor of the Lake Mills FFA chapter and Ed Bielinski, retired FFA advisor from Johnson Creek served as the hosts of the event and coordinated the set up and equipment for the contest.