



HARRIS COUNTY FAIR AND RODEO

**AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS
EXHIBITOR HANDBOOK
AND RULES**

2023

PRESENTED BY: HCF&R CREATIVE ARTS COMMITTEE

Table of Contents

Agricultural Mechanics Committee.....	3
Agricultural Mechanics ADVISORY COMMITTEE	3
Schedule of Events	4
GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS.....	3
RULE 1: ELIGIBILITY.....	3
RULE 2: EXHIBITOR AGE DIVISIONS	3
RULE 3: ENTRY REGISTRATION AND FEES.....	3
RULE 4: LIMIT OF ENTRIES.....	3
RULE 5: CREATING PROJECTS/ENTRIES.....	4
RULE 6: CHECK-IN PROCESS.....	4
RULE 7: PROJECT BOOK/DOCUMENTS.....	4
RULE 8: TRAILERS AND TOWED EQUIPED PROJECT	4
RULE 9: PROJECT PRESENTATION.....	5
RULE 10: PROJECT SAFETY	5
RULE 12: AWARDS.....	6
RULE 13: JUDGING SYSTEM.....	6
RULE 14: PROTEST PROVISION and JUDGE DECISIONS.....	7
RULE 15: AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS HOURS.....	7
RULE 16: LOSS and DAMAGE.....	7
RULE 17: RELEASE OF EXHIBITS.....	7
RULE 18: COVID WARNING, RULES, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK.....	7

Harris County Fair and Rodeo

Agricultural Mechanics Committee

2023

Chairman: Dustin Carnahan

Agricultural Mechanics ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2023

Ag Mechanics Chairman: Dustin Carnahan

FAIR Managers: Michele Reed and Cody Sherrouse

HCF&R Association Chairman of the Board: Fred Stockton



Harris County Fair & Rodeo

2023

Schedule of Events

****SUBJECT TO CHANGES****

OCT 26 – 29, 2023

Gerald D Young

Agricultural Center

Katy, TX

Thursday October 26, 2023

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm	Ag Mechanics Check- In (Optional)	East Side Barn
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Friday October 27, 2023

8:00 am to 10:00 am	Ag Mechanics Check- In	East Side Barn
10:00 am	Ag Mechanics Judging Begins	East Side Barn
1:00 pm	Ag Mechanics Judging Results	East Side Barn
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Ag Mechanics on Display	East Side Barn
3:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Mandatory Release of all Ag Mechanics	East Side Barn

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

RULE 1: ELIGIBILITY

- a. The Harris County Fair and Rodeo does not discriminate against any applicant, exhibitor, volunteer, customer, or patron on the basis of race, sex, color, age, disability, religion, citizenship, veteran status, nationality or ethnic origin.
- b. Exhibitors Ages 8 years (3rd grade) and older must live in Harris County or be enrolled in a Harris County School (Elementary- High School), as well as a Harris County FFA OR 4-H club, or FCCLA and in good standing at check-in and show.
- c. Exhibitors Ages 8 years and younger not in the third grade must live in Harris County or be enrolled in a Harris County School (Elementary - High School).
- d. Exhibitors 8 years and older and in the 3rd grade (Elementary - High School) must be academically eligible to participate in the Harris County Fair and Rodeo and may not have an exhibit shown for them by another exhibitor if ineligible.
- e. Agriculture Science Teachers/4-H Extension Agent are responsible for providing Harris County Fair Show Secretary a list of ineligible exhibitors by 6 PM on the Wednesday prior to the start of Show.
- f. Team and individual projects are allowed, for team projects, all members are from the same FFA Chapter or 4-H Club.
- g. Any non-adherence to the rules will result in disqualification of entries.

RULE 2: EXHIBITOR AGE DIVISIONS

- a. There are no age divisions for entries or per Class or Showmanship.

RULE 3: ENTRY REGISTRATION AND FEES

- a. Mandatory Entry Registration and \$40 entry fee shall be completed online entry by date indicated on the Important Dates document.
- b. Registration will also include the consent of the Release and Liability Form.
- c. Exhibitor/s will declare their class and type of project at the time of entry.
- d. Project class changes will be permitted with a change fee of \$20 if the project falls within another category.
- e. Late registration is not permitted.

RULE 4: LIMIT OF ENTRIES

- a. There is not a limit of entries per class per exhibitor/team.

RULE 5: CREATING PROJECTS/ENTRIES

- a. All projects entered must have been made within a year of the date of the fair.
(Example: all entries in the 2023 show must be built October of the 2022-2023).

RULE 6: CHECK-IN PROCESS

- a. Registration is not permitted the day of check-in.
- b. All entries will be received and placed within the Ag Mechanic Show Area depending on size and type of entry.
- c. **ENTRIES NOT CHECKED IN UPON ARRIVAL:** If an exhibitor fails to check in by the published deadline, the entry is ineligible to compete.
- d. **EXHIBITOR LATE ARRIVAL:** If an exhibitor fails to arrive within designated arrival time/before arrival deadline, the entry is ineligible to compete.

RULE 7: PROJECT BOOK/DOCUMENTS

- a. The exhibitors provide a bill of materials, photos showing the exhibitor(s) and the progress of the project, and plan drawings of the project at the time of show. A color ribbon will be deducted if one of these are missing.
 - i. A scale drawing, bill of materials, photographs showing the student in all phases of construction using proper safety measures are to be provided with the projects.
 - ii. TX DOT and/or ASAE regulations and specifications are to be provided as they apply to individual Projects.
 - iii. Display of plans, photos, etc. must be displayed in a three-ring binder.

RULE 8: TRAILERS AND TOWED EQUIPED PROJECT

- a. Trailer Registration: Current registration plates or temporary tags are required on all trailers that are towed to the project show. Hauled trailers will be exempt from this rule.
- b. All Trailers and other equipment that is to be operated and or transported on public roads are to be equipped with the safety equipment specified in Title 7, Vehicles and Traffic Transportation Code of Texas Statutes, Specific chapters regarding Width (621.201), Lights and reflectors (545.106,547.324 and 547.331) Brakes (547.401) Length (624.201) and inspection (621.204) are to be adhered to.
- c. Any trailer that exceeds 102 inches in width must have a signed permit.
- d. All towed equipment, regardless of standards, is to be equipped with safety chains.
- e. All three-point hitch and P.T.O. operated equipment are to meet current ASAE Standards.

Note: The TX Dot web page will provide information on how to access or acquire TX Dot equipment regulations and Vehicle regulations.

RULE 9: PROJECT PRESENTATION

- a. All Projects must be painted or properly treated and must be clean and in a presentable condition, even though they may have been used.
- b. Floor covering is not encouraged.
- c. Stands, podiums, computers, etc. will be permitted only when they can be positioned on or under the projects as space permits.
- d. No additional floor space will be guaranteed for podiums, chairs, tables, show boxes, etc.
- e. All exhibitors are present at their projects at the time of the judging. If there were to be an extenuating circumstance that would prevent the exhibitor from being present, then he/she or they must produce a letter of explanation signed by the parent/guardian and AST/4-H leader to the show chairman for approval before the show begins.

RULE 10: PROJECT SAFETY

- a. Appropriate and safe display stands must be provided for gates, panels and other projects that need support.
- b. Sharp edges and points such as found on a self-feeder roofs, bale movers, etc. are to be padded or covered as necessary to prevent injury.
- c. No type of painting or staining will be allowed while the project is at the show.
- d. Electrical: All 120 VAC and higher electrical plugs and receptacles are to be equipment grounding type. All metal components are to be grounded. Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI) shall be provided for all 120 VAC Receptacles. All 50 VAC and higher connections are to be protected in appropriate indoor and outdoor rated enclosures. Electricity will not be guaranteed. Due to air quality factors, generators will not be allowed to operate.
- e. Chemical and Liquid Safety: Flammable and/or combustible liquids shall not be used, stored, or sprayed inside of any Harris County Fair building at any time. This shall include, but not be limited to: enamel paints, thinners, reducers, gasoline, or any other petroleum based liquids. All liquids must be in properly labeled original containers. No compressed gas cylinders are permitted. Decoy cylinders are NOT permitted.

RULE 11: PROJECT CLASSES

a. Projects are entered into one of the following classes:

- Class 1 Bumper pull livestock trailers (all sizes)
- Class 2 Gooseneck livestock trailers (all sizes)
- Class 3 Bumper pull utility trailers (all sizes)
- Class 4 Gooseneck utility trailers (all sizes)
- Class 5 Wildlife equipment
- Class 6 Farm/shop equipment
- Class 7 Recreational metal
- Class 8 Recreational wood
- Class 9 Truck Accessories
- Class 10 Agricultural Machinery and Equipment
- Class 11 Electrical Equipment

b. Show week, projects are checked according to the show schedule., shown according to the show schedule. All Projects must be removed according to the show schedule.

RULE 12: AWARDS

a. Ribbons will be awarded according to the Danish system for each class.

Blue = Good Quality Red=average White= minimum qualifications

b. A single trophy will be awarded to the Grand and Reserve champion project overall.

c. Class winners will also receive an Award.

d. Overall Showmanship will also be awarded a trophy.

RULE 13: JUDGING SYSTEM

Projects will be Judged on the Following:

Workmanship	20pts
Design and Materials Used	20pts
Practicality	20pts
Degree of Difficulty	10pts
General Appearance and Finish	10pts
Documentation	10pts
Presentation	<u>10pts</u>
Total:	100pts

RULE 14: PROTEST PROVISION and JUDGE DECISIONS

- a. No Protests will be permitted for the Agricultural Mechanics Show.
- b. All decisions by the Judges are final.
- c. Any and all differences, disputes will be settled by a Creative Arts Advisory Committee consisting of:
 - i. Fair Board Operating Officer
 - ii. Agricultural Mechanics Committee Chairman
 - iii. President of the HCF&R Association

RULE 15: AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS HOURS

- a. The Agricultural Mechanics Show will be open and closed during posted times during the schedule. No one will be allowed in the building/area after closing.
- b. All other projects can be released Friday per show schedule.

RULE 16: LOSS and DAMAGE

- a. The Harris County Fair & Rodeo Association and its associates are not responsible for any loss or damage to any projects. However, extreme precaution and care will be taken to protect projects entered.

RULE 17: RELEASE OF EXHIBITS

- a. No exhibits are to leave the Show until checked out by the Committee during hours of operation on Thursday.
- b. All items not claimed and removed by Sunday, will become the property of the Harris County Fair and Rodeo Association and will be disposed of by the management.

RULE 18: COVID WARNING, RULES, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK

- a. The novel coronavirus commonly known as COVID-19 and SARS-CoV-2 (the "Virus") has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. An inherent risk of exposure to the Virus exists in any public place where people are present, including Harris County Fair's livestock events. The COVID-19 Virus is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to potentially life threatening illness and even death. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), senior citizens and persons with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable. The state of medical knowledge is evolving, but the Virus is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact, as between persons who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet), through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks, and some recent studies have suggested that the Virus may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms. There is also some indication that it may be spread by contact with recently contaminated surfaces and objects. There is no known vaccine for the Virus, and studies are currently underway but not completed to determine a treatment or cure.

- b. All Exhibitors, their family members and other related persons participating in the livestock events or on-grounds at the Harris County Fair’s facilities shall comply with all health and safety orders, rules and guidelines related to the Virus promulgated by the State of Texas, County of Harris, and Harris County Fair and Rodeo. Without limiting the foregoing, Exhibitors, their family members and other related persons participating in the livestock events agree that they will wear a face mask, wash hands frequently, use hand sanitizer or antibacterial wipes, maintain social distancing, and submit to non-invasive body temperature measurement. Any person presenting a body temperature above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit will not be permitted to participate in the livestock events or be on property at the Harris County Fair and Rodeo.
- c. Exhibitors and their family members acknowledge that personal protective equipment (“PPE”) designed to reduce the chances of exposure to or infection with the Virus may not be readily available at Harris County Fair and Rodeo’s facilities for their participation in the livestock events. Exhibitors and their family members acknowledge that HCFAR may not, and is under no legal duty to, provide any PPE to Exhibitors or their family members. Exhibitors and their families should provide their own PPE for participation in Harris County Fair and Rodeo’s livestock events.
- d. Exhibitors and their family members understand and acknowledge that participation in the Harris County Fair and Rodeo livestock events or use of Harris County Fair and Rodeo’s facilities may expose them to contact with one or more persons who have been infected with, and/or exposed to, the Virus. Exhibitors and their family members further understand that participation in the Harris County Fair and Rodeo events or use of the facilities may expose them to contact with surfaces or objects that contain the Virus and may serve as a means for transmission of the Virus to others who participate in the events or use the facilities. Based on the forgoing, Exhibitors and their family members understand and acknowledge that participation in the Harris County Fair and Rodeo events and use of the facilities may expose them, along with others with whom they may come in contact after they leave Harris County Fair and Rodeo’s facilities, to a risk of infection with the Virus, which may cause significant and serious illness, bodily injury, disfigurement, temporary or permanent disability, and/or death.