JUNIOR AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS BUILD-OFF CHALLENGE

ENTRIES OPEN: AUGUST 1, 2026 @ 9 AM

ENTRY DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

Superintendent: Dillon Bradbury

Assistant Superintendent: Charles Prause

Thursday, October 8

Check-In	**8 AM – 10 AM**	**HDQTRS Parking Lot**
Safety Meeting	**10:30 AM**	**HDQTRS Parking Lot**
Contest Starts	**12 PM**	**HDQTRS Parking Lot**
Contest Ends Day 1	**5 PM**	**HDQTRS Parking Lot**

Friday, October 9

Contest Starts Day 2	**7:30 AM**	**HDQTRS Parking Lot**
Contest Ends	**12:30 PM**	**HDQTRS Parking Lot**
Results & Awards:	**2:30 PM**	**TBD**

This show is subject to the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo General Rules, the Junior Livestock Show Rules and Special Rules listed in this section.

https://www.sarodeo.com/p/competitive-events/ag-mechanics

PURPOSE

To allow students to use skills learned in the shop to construct a project from scratch in the 10 hours allotted. Problem solving and real-world application will be demonstrated by students while using provided materials and plans to construct the project. The Advisor will be a spectator and will not have influence on the team throughout the contest. To recognize student achievement in front of their peers and the public as it relates to Agriculture Mechanics.

SPECIAL RULES

1. **Entry Fee:** The entry fee for each project is $500.00. Entries must be submitted online at https://www.sarodeo.com/p/competitive-events/ag-mechanics. **Thirty (30) teams will be accepted.** Entries are accepted on a first come first serve basis. Any team that has not paid its entry fee by September 15, 2026, is subject to having its entry revoked and the next entry in line to be accepted. **Exhibitor names are required on the entry form.**
2. **Eligible Entries:** Programs eligible to enter the S.A.L.E. Junior Agricultural Mechanics Project Show can enter one (1) team of 4 students. All Students must be from the same program. Contestants must meet all San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo Junior Show Rule Requirements.
3. **Number of Entries: No** club, chapter or other entity may enter more than one (1) team. No team member may be entered on more than one (1) team.
4. **Staging & Arrival:** All teams must arrive at (**S.A.L.E. Headquarters (HDQTRS) Parking Lot**) and check in prior to the 10 a.m. deadline. Tools and equipment will be placed upon arrival and check-in. Teams have the option of dropping off the equipment the evening before the contest. Overnight security will be provided.
5. **Tools & Equipment: Projects** will be built using the SMAW Welding process. Each team should supply the appropriate welding, cutting, and fabrication tools to complete the building of the project. No tools will be provided by SALE officials. Examples of tools a team should supply: Oxy-fuel cutting apparatuses, angle

grinders, hand tools, levels, clamps, sawhorses, jack stands, miter saw, etc. Cordless tools are allowed and preferred when feasible. All tools must have appropriate guarding and be used in the intended manner. No thin abrasive cut-off wheels will be allowed on hand-held grinders. Cut-off wheels will need to be of the metal type similar to Lenox diamond edge wheel. All tools and equipment must be contained inside the designated work and equipment space for each team.

6. **Welding Process:** Projects will be constructed using team provided SMAW welding equipment. Multiple welding machines are allowed provided they are in the confines of the work and equipment space for each team. A team may use the electrode of their choice. The following electrodes will be provided, 3/32"-7018, 1/8" 6010, 1/8"-7018. If you wish to use a different electrode, those will need to be provided by the team.
7. **Project Construction:** Projects will be constructed from typical structural materials for the project. Tubing (square or rectangle), pipe, angle iron, flat plate and other appropriate materials. Prebuilt materials such as casters, wheels etc. may be provided for teams to utilize in construction. Tools to work with and install all of these materials should be provided by the team.
8. **Safety Meeting:** A safety meeting will be held the morning of the contest before any work begins. All team members and advisors must attend the safety meeting. A Job Safety Analysis (JSA) will be filled out and signed by all competing students.
9. **Contest Time:** The contest will have a construction time duration of 10 hours. The contest will start at 12:00 PM the 8th, break for the day at 5:00 PM and resume at 7:30 AM Friday October 9th, concluding the contest at 12:30 PM. Contest time will end when a team returns the SALE issued project plans to a contest official, or the 12:30 end time.
10. **Construction:** During construction, only team members, judges and SALE officials are allowed in the "hot" work area. Once the build-off begins, teams will be allowed 15 minutes between 12:00 PM and 5:00 PM on Thursday and another 15-minutes between 7:30 AM and 12:30 PM on Friday. This time can be used at any point during that time. Construction concludes when the team turns in their plans & project to a SALE official or the 12:30 end time.
11. **Advisors: An** advisor for each team must be present throughout the day. Advisors are welcome to observe their team from the public viewing area, but advisors are not allowed to enter the work zone outside of the 15-minute consultation time. Repeated coaching from the fence will result in time penalties, and/or disqualification.
12. **Material Provided:** All materials will be provided for the project construction. Material will be pre-cut; however some final trimming or fitting may be required. A cut list and detailed plans will be provided for each team. If there is a discrepancy of the parts provided, teams must let SALE officials know within 30 minutes of the start of construction. Only material provided should be used on the project, limited extra material will be available for recuts if a team scraps a piece. **Vehicles:** Projects **will not be allowed to be displayed on trucks, tractors, trailers, or other vehicles that are not entered to be exhibited and will not be allowed in the exhibit area.** If a vehicle needs to be a part of a display Superintendents must grant permission before the submission of entry.
13. **Evaluation: Teams** will be evaluated on typical industry safety procedures for metal working. Appropriate PPE must be used at all times by those in the work zone. Typical PPE would include, but not limited to (gloves, safety glasses, cotton clothing, face shields, closed toe shoes, etc.). Additionally, site cleanliness and teamwork will also be evaluated throughout the day. At the conclusion of the project, teams will be evaluated on specific criteria such as weld quality, ability to follow design plans, placement of materials, squareness, etc.
14. **Clean-up & Load-out:** All teams must provide a way to transport their project home. S.A.L.E. will provide loading equipment.
15. **S.A.L.E. Junior Ag Mechanics Project Show:** Projects built during the build off will be eligible for entry to the S.A.L.E. Junior Ag Mechanics Project Show in February of the following year. Consult the Naming, Describing, Classification Document R26 **Naming Project –** Proper project name and classification will be reflected on the Exhibitor Card. See *Naming, Describing & Classification of Projects (NDC).*