MONTANA JAM SHOW
JUNIOR AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS

Wednesday, April 1, 2026 - Great Falls Fairgrounds

Montana FFA State Convention

https://mtjamshow.com/

Superintendent:
Dr. Dustin Perry – Bozeman, MT

Associate Superintendents:
Mr. Jared Long – Lewistown
Mr. Austin Standley – Big Timber

MSU Student Assistant Superintendents
Kacie Eshleman, Landon Albisu, & Evelyn Nelson

I. Purpose of the Agricultural Mechanics Project Show

1. To provide an opportunity for FFA members to display constructed projects.
2. To promote the development of skills in agricultural mechanics through competition.
3. To recognize individual and group accomplishments in agricultural mechanics.
4. To provide an opportunity for public appreciation of this important phase of FFA Youth.

II. Special Rules for Agricultural Mechanics Project Show

1. *Eligible Entries*: Entries are limited to MT FFA members. FFA members must have constructed projects exhibited under the direct supervision of the agricultural education instructor. Students who graduated in the same year as the event are still eligible for this contest.
2. *Maximum Entries*: Each exhibitor may enter two individual projects. Each group of students may enter no more than three group-constructed projects and may have no more than one entry in any project class.
3. *Staging, Arrival, and Duration*: All projects will be staged at the Great Falls Fairgrounds. Staging can begin on Tuesday, March 31st, at 3:00 PM, but will be completed for the evening by 6:00 PM. Staging will open again on Wednesday, April 1st, at 8:00 A.M. Projects must be staged and ready to show by 10:00 AM. Judging will occur from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, with showmanship judging from 11:30 AM to 12:00 PM. Awards will commence at 12:30 PM.
4. *Classification of Projects*: Projects are classified by primary use or function. The show superintendent reserves the right to modify the classification of projects due to entry into the wrong class, misrepresented projects, or otherwise in conflict with class descriptions. All projects must be related to agricultural use.
5. *Ineligible Projects*:
    i. Projects without a direct and apparent agricultural connection.
    ii. The superintendent will disqualify any project that cannot be placed into one of the stated divisions.

iii. Projects with inappropriate and/or vulgar items, signage, or other materials will be asked to remove the item from the project, or the whole project will be disqualified and removed from the show.

6. *Construction Date*: A project can be exhibited only once at the MT JAM Show and must be completed within one calendar year of the exhibition date.
7. *Registration*: Projects can be registered at mtjamshow.com, and registration must be completed by March 4th. A project registration fee of $25 will be required.
8. *Exhibit Space*: The show reserves the right to display the projects as space and the number of projects allowed. Projects may be double-decked if they are safely displayed and accessible for judging. Projects might be displayed at an alternate site.
9. *Project Presentation*: All projects must be painted or adequately treated, clean, and presentable, even though they may have been used. Operation of ramps, extensions, and other special features may be demonstrated only as directed by show officials and as space permits.
10. *Documentation*: Plans, photos, etc., must be displayed so that no additional floor space is required. Stands, podiums, computers, etc., will be permitted only when they can be positioned on, near, or under the project.

Criteria	Points
a. Title Page	5
b. Inspiration/Intent of Use	5
c. Career Relevance	5
d. Bill of Materials	10
e. Design	10
f. Pictures	10
g. Overall Professionalism	5

Minimum Documentation Criteria Expectations

a. **Title Page (5 points)**
The title page should include the exhibitor's name(s), chapter, project title, project work/duration date, and project division.

b. **Inspiration/Intent of Agricultural Use (5 points)**
A maximum of one single-spaced page should outline the project's inspiration or intended agricultural use.

c. **Career Relevance (5 points)**
A maximum of one single-spaced page should be dedicated to outlining the career relevance of the skills and knowledge used throughout the project's design, fabrication, and anticipated presentation.

d. **Bill of Materials and Resources (10 points)**
As applicable, a detailed bill of materials should include the primary categories of item, number of pieces, type of material, size, description, total feet, unit cost, and total cost. Students are encouraged to create subsections for major components of their projects as applicable. Identifying any resources used to help in project completion should also be outlined (special equipment, outside advisors, etc.).

e. **Design (10 points)**
Project designs/renderings should be neat and professional and include either a 3D view and/or 2D front, side, and top views. Computer-aided drawings are encouraged but not required. Project designs must match the final project.

f. **Pictures (10 points)**
A maximum of 30 pictures can be used throughout the project documentation. These pictures should highlight the chronological construction sequence and include students actively working on the projects when possible. Captions are encouraged but not required.

g. **Overall Professionalism (5 points)**
As an event to showcase the outstanding work FFA students complete, this documentation should reflect the same amount of effort and attention to detail.

11. *Project Safety*: Appropriate and safe display stands must be provided for gates, panels, and other projects that need support. Sharp edges and points, such as those found on self-feeder roofs, bale movers, etc., must be padded or covered to prevent injury.
12. *Trailer Safety*: All trailers and other equipment to be operated and/or transported on public roads must be equipped with the proper safety equipment. All tongue equipment pulled on a public highway must have approved safety chains. All trailers rated at 4,500 pounds GWR or greater must have approved brakes and a breakaway. All trailers must be equipped with lift jacks for hitching and unhitching. Any over-width (102 inches) trailer is recommended to have appropriate permitting. Trailer widths will be measured from metal to metal, including fenders, wheels, and dust caps, at the widest point.
13. *Chemical and Liquid Safety*: Flammable and/or combustible liquids shall not be used, stored, or sprayed inside any building. This shall include, but not be limited to, enamel paints, thinners, reducers, gasoline, or any other petroleum-based liquids.
14. *Projects Needing Offloading Assistance*: The superintendent must be informed ahead of time of projects requiring unloading assistance or prolonged assembly time.
15. *Projects with Small Engines*: Any fuel tank may hold no more than two gallons. The fuel tank cap must be in place and sealed with tape, and the battery must be disconnected. This applies to all engines in the exhibit area.
16. *Vehicles*: Tractors, trucks, ATVs, or other vehicles (including non-entered trailers) are not allowed in the exhibit area as part of the display unless approved by the Superintendent.
17. *Loss or Damage*: MT JAM Show, officials, or committee members will NOT be responsible for any project loss or damage.
18. *Judging System*: The Danish System will be used in judging the projects. Projects will be judged on:

Criteria	Points
a. Workmanship	30
b. Functionality	30
c. General Appearance	15
d. Degree of Difficulty	15
e. Design and Materials	10

Minimum Judging Criteria Expectations

a. **Workmanship (30 points)**
Projects should be constructed neatly and cleanly. Care should be taken so the material fits well, welds are of appropriate size and quantity, sharp edges and weld spatter are removed from the material, but grinding/sanding is not excessive, electrical connections are secure and neat, exposed wire is kept to a minimum, and material is joined in an aesthetically pleasing manner.

b. **Functionality (30 points)**
Projects should be constructed so they can function at the time of the show and be free from mechanical, hydraulic, or electrical malfunctions. Consideration will be given where space limits the ability to operate, such as a ramp hitting another project if it were to open.

c. **General Appearance (15 points)**
Each project should be finished appropriately. Some projects, such as welding shop tables, may have portions without an appropriate finish. The finish applied should match the use of the project and be accepted. Students should be involved in the finishing process as much as possible and, at a minimum, know the application process.

d. **Degree of Difficulty (15 points)**
Some projects are more difficult than others. Each set of judges will evaluate the difficulty of the projects based on the amount of fabrication, design engineering, and innovation within the given project.

e. **Design and Materials (10 points)**
Each showman should consider the material used, which should match the project's purpose and function. Students should be knowledgeable about any specific, special, or unique material used during project construction.

19. <u>*Awards*</u>: Ribbons will be given as follows: Blue, Red, and White. Projects receiving a red or white ribbon will not be considered divisional winners. Prizes are awarded to chapters and not individual students for each project. The prize structure for each of the four divisions is as follows:
    i. *Divisional Grand Champion (4 divisions)*:
        a. One grand championship belt buckle with the ability to order more.
        b. One grand championship vest/jacket with the ability to order more.
        c. One grand championship prize package.
        d. One grand champion banner.
    ii. *Divisional Reserve Champion (4 divisions)*:
        a. One reserve championship belt buckle with the ability to order more.
        b. One reserve championship prize package.
        c. One reserve champion banner.
    iii. *Third Place Recognition (4 divisions)*:
        a. One third-place prize package.
        b. One third-place banner.
    iv. *Sub-Division Recognition (Agricultural Machinery and Outdoor Recreation only)*:
        a. One Sub-Division champion banner.
20. <u>*Showmanship Awards (Overall Grand and Reserve)*</u>: Judges will select students (by entry number) to receive recognition for showmanship awards based on the following criteria:
    i. Display and presentation of projects to show officials, judges, and the public.
    ii. Housekeeping around projects.
    iii. Exhibitor's dress and professionalism.
    iv. Conduct, attitude, and participation of students.
21. <u>*Judging Courtesy*</u>: Students are not to interfere with judging. It is recommended that they be with their projects as they are judged to answer questions and demonstrate operations as requested by the judges. Adult leaders are not to participate in judging activities.

III. Project Divisions

The following examples are intended to serve as idea generators. We encourage students to be creative in their project designs and not feel limited to the categories outlined below. Projects should be described thoroughly and uniquely, and brand names should not be used.

1. Agricultural Machinery Division

The following are project examples of the Agricultural Machinery Division. The division will be subdivided into two categories: *Shop & Machinery Equipment* and *Restorations/Refurbishments*. The **top two projects from each sub-division** will rise and be ranked, and the top three will be presented as Agricultural Machinery Division winners accordingly. Student projects are not limited to the examples below.

Sub-Division: *Shop and Machinery Equipment*

- *Truck Accessories, Bumpers, Headache Racks, Toolboxes, and Replacement Beds* – Truck replacement bed, pickup headache rack with brake lights, pickup brush guard, front and/or rear pickup bumper, welding bed for truck, etc.
- *Shop Tables* (non-CNC-type tables): metal shop tables with vices, drawers, welding and cutting tables, etc.
- *Mounted Agricultural Equipment and Implements* – 3-pt. arena drag, 3-pt. land plane, front-end loader, 3-pt. box blade, 3-pt. disc harrow, tractor-mounted backhoe, etc.

Sub-Division: *Restorations/Refurbished*

- *Tractor Restorations* – any project that restores a tractor to a near-original state.
- *Refurbished Projects*—any project that refurbishes or restores materials to design and create a new, repurposed project.

2. Livestock and Animal Equipment Division

The following are project examples of the Livestock Equipment Division. Student projects are not limited to the examples below.

- *Entry Gates and Panels* –entrance gate, pasture gate, livestock panel, double entrance gate with archway, cattle guard, etc. All gates may be displayed outside.
- *Livestock Restraining and Handling Equipment* – Hydraulic squeeze chute, hoof trimming table, squeeze chute with crowding pen or panels, squeeze chute, calf tilt table, farrowing crates, stalls, roping chutes, portable alleyway, etc.
- *Livestock Show Equipment* – Cattle trim chute, sheep trimming stand, goat trimming stand, swine clipping stand, pickup bed livestock hauler, livestock scale, show box, grooming stand, lamb treadmill, clipper blade sharpener, livestock blower, etc.
- *Livestock Feeders* – Wind-vane mineral feeder, open feed trough, mineral, and salt feeder, hanging hay feeder for horse stall, hay/grain feeder, self-feeder, creep feeder, trailer-mounted self-feeder, combination self/creep feeder, etc.

3. Trailer Division

The following are project examples of the Trailer Division. Student projects are not limited to the examples below.

- *Utility and Lowboy Trailers* – utility trailer, tilt-bed trailer, equipment hauler, etc.
- *Welding and Service Trailers* – welding trailer, fuel trailer, fabrication trailer, etc.
- *Modified Utility, Modified Implement, Stock, Cargo, Hydraulic Dump, and Special Purpose Trailers* – multi-bale hay hauler, hay mover, hydraulic dump

trailer, stock trailer, aluminum low-profile stock trailer, etc.

- *Gooseneck and Fifth Wheel* – gooseneck float, dovetail, gooseneck flat deck trailer, fifth wheel flatbed trailer, etc.

4. Outdoor and Natural Resources Division

The following are project examples of the Outdoor Recreation Division. The division will be subdivided into three categories: *Cooking/Fire Equipment*, *Patio Yard and Garden*, and *Other/Household Items*. The **top project (1) from each sub-division** will rise and be ranked, and the top three will be presented as Outdoor Recreation Division winners accordingly. Student projects are not limited to the examples below.

Sub-Division: *Cooking/Fire Equipment*

- *Cooking* – stationary smokers, fryers, trailer-mounted cookers, etc.
- *Fire-Based* – fire pits, fire rings, etc.

Sub-Division: *Patio, Yard, and Garden*

- *Yard Convenience* – firewood racks, outdoor storage, etc.
- *Yard Leisure* – picnic tables, porch swings, lawn chairs, etc.
- Wildlife conservation – gun rack, hunting blind, gun cabinet, tree stands, etc.

Sub-Division: *Other/Household Items*

- *Household Items* – end tables, interior décor, coffee tables, etc.
- *Other* – uncategorized outdoor recreation projects. Please check with the event superintendent.

BUILD A PROJECT, AND WE WILL FIND A DIVISION FOR IT!

Contact Information for Questions or Concerns:

Dustin K. Perry
Montana State University - Bozeman
Dept. of Agricultural and Technology Education
Bozeman, MT 59717
Office: (406) 994-5773; Email: dustin.perry@montana.edu

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Project Feedback Form

Chapter: _____

Project #: _____

Description: _____

Workmanship	**General Comments**
_____ Exceptional _____ Skilled _____ Acceptable _____ Improving	

Functionality	**General Comments**
_____ Exceptional _____ Reliable _____ Adequate _____ Insufficient	

General Appearance	**General Comments**
_____ Outstanding _____ Impressive _____ Acceptable _____ Developing	

Degree of Difficulty	**General Comments**
_____ Highly Challenging _____ Demanding _____ Manageable _____ Straightforward	

Design & Materials	**General Comments**
_____ Exceptional _____ Effective _____ Sufficient _____ Inadequate	

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Project # __ __ __ __ **Chapter:** _____

Description:	Ribbon Blue Red White	Class Placing:	Showmanship: Yes or No

Project Fabrication Criteria	**Pts. Possible**	**Total Points**	**Comments**
Workmanship	30		
Functionality	30		
General Appearance	15		
Degree of Difficulty	15		
Design & Materials	10		
	SUBTOTAL:	**/100**	
Documentation Criteria	**Pts. Possible**	**Total Points**	**Comments**
Title Page	5		
Inspiration/Intent	5		
Career Relevance	5		
Bill of Materials	10		
Design	10		
Pictures	10		
Professionalism	5		
	SUBTOTAL:	**/50**	
	TOTAL:	**/150**	

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Project Information		**Project Fabrication Criteria**						**Documentation Criteria**								**Total**	**Ribbon**
Project Number/Project Information/ Description	Chapter	Workmanship (**30** Pts.)	Functionality (**30** Pts.)	Gen. Appearance (**15** Pts.)	Difficulty (**15** Pts.)	Design & Materials (**10** Pts.)	Sub-Total (**100** Pts.)	Title Page (**5** Pts.)	Inspiration/Intent (**5** Pts.)	Career Relevance (**5** Pts.)	Bill of Materials (**10** Pts.)	Design (**10** Pts.)	Pictures (**10** Pts.)	Professionalism (**5** Pts.)	Sub-Total (**50** Pts.)	Overall Project (**150** Points)	Blue, Red, or White

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Project Number Description	Presentation	Housekeeping	Professionalism	Conduct/Attitude	Total
	25 PTS Possible	25 PTS Possible	25 PTS Possible	25 PTS Possible	100 PTS Possible
Trailers					
Outdoor and Natural Resources					
Livestock and Animal Equipment					
Agricultural Machinery					

Showmanship Champion: _____

Showmanship Reserve: _____

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Ribbon Description Guide

This document explains the rationale behind the ribbon color grouping during the agricultural mechanic's project show. We want to provide this document to help increase the consistency of project quality grouping. Additionally, we recognize that many of our judges have extensive experience in industry and academic settings. We hope these guidelines further enhance the educational experience for all parties impacted: judges, agricultural science teachers, county extension agents, and exhibitors of agricultural mechanics projects.

Blue Ribbon Rationale - The Project is complete, functional, and safe. The workmanship is outstanding and clearly completed by the student or group of students. Completion efforts should be evident in the exhibitor/exhibitors' interview and documentation photos. Exhibitors of blue-ribbon projects are well aware of the design factors involved in their project and understand the processes used in its fabrication. Finishes are complete, appropriate for project use, and attractive. The degree of difficulty is challenging. The project score on the evaluation rubric was **90-100**.

Red Ribbon Rationale - The following factors can move a project from "Blue" to "Red" 1) Workmanship shows **several** flaws indicating the need for additional training/practice of fabrication skills; 2) Workmanship shows the need for implementing the use of updated fabrication techniques or equipment, 3) Documentation requirements are not met, 4) Exhibitor's understanding of the processes needed to design and construct the project is lacking, 5) Finishes show a need for improvement. Any combination of these factors reducing the project's rubric score to **75-89** points would result in a red ribbon.

White Ribbon Rationale - Projects will receive a "White" classification if they are 1) Incomplete or unfinished, 2) unsafe, 3) not capable of performing the function for which it was intended, 4) not in compliance with the rules of the Show, 5) have workmanship or finishes that indicates the need of **significant** improvement in fabrication skills, use of updated tools, or techniques, 6) are shown by exhibitors that cannot demonstrate a basic understanding of the design or fabrication processes needed to construct the project. Any combination of these factors that reduces the project's rubric score **below 75** points would result in a white ribbon.