



2026 Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Build Off

1. Teams should supply any equipment that would be needed to complete the wood project build. Including but not limited to levels, clamps, worktables, sawhorses, and any other equipment you feel are necessary. STUDENTS MAY NOT USE PLASMA CUTTING TOOLS. Grinders MUST have guards and handles
2. For all General Safety rules that will be adhered to please refer to SOP #6.01 – Safety Policies & Compliance
Please refer to: **SOP #6.01 – Safety Policies & Compliance**
3. Students must be dressed in proper PPE to be eligible to participate.
 - a. Minimum Requirements
Denim/Wool pants with no holes or frays.
Closed Toed LEATHER Shoes (No running shoes or similar. No Hey Dudes.)
Safety Glasses (Z87) **MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES**
Ear Plugs **NO EAR BUDS OR HEADPHONES WILL BE ALLOWED**
Face Shield (Must be worn when working with a grinder)
Any Infraction Will Result in Points Deductions or Disqualification of the Team
4. Each school must provide a fire extinguisher that has an up-to-date card that shows the last inspection. It must be situated at a reasonable distance from the work area.
5. Each Team will have a designated Safety Captain. This individual will ensure all safety procedures for work being done are observed by all participants. The Safety Captain must attend a special safety meeting before the event begins.
6. Each team will provide hydration for all team members at the rate of 1Qt (2 bottles) per hour. Electrolytes are OK if they are alternated with water. Not to exceed 30% electrolyte; This is for high heat and high temperature days.
7. Energy drinks will not be permitted at any point between the start and end times of the event. This includes lunch.
8. Each school must have a First Aid Kit readily available for their team in the event of an injury or emergency. ANSI Z308.1-2021 or higher is suggested.
9. Each team must have a broom, dustpan, and magnet to clean up the area after completion of the build. The use of magnets is required in non-paved areas.
10. Each school should provide some type of banner, flag, or signage displaying their school or program name.
11. All participants must attend the Safety Meeting prior to the event start time.

12. Engines may only run during the designated contest work time with a mandatory 30-minute shut-down for lunch. Start and end times will be at the discretion of the event host.
13. **Teacher/Instructor Access:**
Teachers and instructors are allowed in the construction area only during these times:
 - a. The first 15 minutes at the start of the contest.
 - b. The first 15 minutes immediately following the lunch break. These periods are specifically for offering advice to teams regarding the planning process.
 - c. **Restricted Access Outside Designated Times:**
At all other times, teachers and instructors must remain outside the construction area.
 - d. If a teacher or instructor is present in the work area outside the permitted windows, points will be deducted from the team's score unless they are tending to an emergency.
 - e. **Supervised Entry Exception:**
Instructors may only enter the work area outside of the designated 15-minute windows if accompanied by host site staff or Welding Series personnel.
 - f. **Photography:** Instructors are permitted to approach the work area closely enough to take photographs as needed but are not allowed to enter the work area itself for this purpose.

These guidelines are in place to ensure fairness, safety, and the integrity of the competition. If you have questions or require clarification on these operational rules, please contact contest officials.

14. **Scoresheet Return Policy for Competitions**
 - a. **Purpose:**
 - To ensure transparency and provide constructive feedback, all scoresheets from competitions will be returned to teams, including team members and their advisors
 - b. **Policy:**
 - At the conclusion of the competition, all judges' scoresheets will be compiled and distributed to each participating team.
 - Team members and their advisor(s) must receive their scoresheets to review performance and identify areas needing improvement.
 - The feedback provided through the scoresheets is intended to support teams' development and help them prepare for future competitions.
 - It is the responsibility of the competition organizers to facilitate the timely return of scoresheets.
 - Any requests for additional clarification or review of scores should be directed to the competition officials or designated contact person.
 - c. **Compliance:**
 - Adherence to this policy ensures fairness and promotes continuous improvement among participating teams.
15. If teachers or visitors are within 20' of the work area they **MUST** be in **PROPER PPE** (this includes school officials and administrators)

Teams will be judged on the following criteria:

1. Safety & Teamwork: 100 Points

- a. Teams should use all appropriate PPE including but not limited to Z87+ safety glasses, face shield, long sleeve welding jacket, welding hood, welding gloves, closed-toed leather shoes, hearing protection.
- b. All team members should participate equally in the construction of the project. Teammates can specialize in different aspects (ex. welder, fitter, etc.)

2. Job Safety Analysis: 70 Points

- a. Before starting any project, list your team members and the PPE needed. Clearly outline the steps of the job, note any hazards, and explain how those hazards will be controlled or eliminated. Make sure to get instructor approval and collect any required signatures.

3. Process 40 Points

- a. This will be used if multiple processes are allowed.
- b. Once a process is initiated, no changes are permitted without prior approval.
- c. Any unauthorized changes will result in the forfeiture of all points.

4. Project Completion 25 Points

- a. If project is completed a full 25 points will be added.
- b. Partial Completions will be awarded 1-15 points

5. Craftsmanship: 40 Points

- a. Quality of craftsmanship will be judged based on factors including but not limited to completion of project, final fit and finish, and quality of welds.

6. Showmanship: 15 Points

- a. Upon completion of the project each team will present their project to the judges. Teams will be evaluated based on their ability to explain choices made during the construction process, knowledge of the welding process, and ability to answer judges' questions

7. All teams will be required to clean their workspace prior to presenting their project to judges.

8. Judges' decisions will be final and shall be respected.

9. Enjoy this great experience and be a positive ambassador for your school and program

2026 Build Off Entry Form

Entry Fee \$250.00 Per Team
Four (4) Per Team Max (3rd Grade-12th Grade, Must be at least 8 years old)

Check _____
Cash _____

Team Name: _____

List of Participants:

1.) _____

2.) _____

3.) _____

4.) _____

Project Construction Supervised By:

_____ Ag-Science Teacher FFA Chapter: _____
_____ 4-H Leader 4-H Club _____

Ag-Science Teacher/4-H Leader, Office Address, and Phone Number:

Name: _____

Telephone: _____ School: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code _____ E-Mail: _____

MATAGORDA COUNTY FAIR & LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION

Release and Indemnity Agreement

I/we, _____
a participant(s)/contestant(s) in the AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS BUILD OFF (event) of Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Association do hereby knowingly and voluntarily release the above referenced Event, the Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Association, Board of Directors, members, judges, volunteers and employees of the Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Association, Matagorda County and any other person, firm or individual charged and chargeable with responsibility or liability, their heirs, administrators, executors, successors and assigns from and against any and all claims, lawsuits, demands, damages, loss of services, actions and causes of action based upon, arising out of, such event(s) or in any way related to any honors, awards, or rights sought by me as a participant in the Matagorda County Fair Association the conduct of business threat thereat, the ownership and possession of any honors, awards, or rights, thereby, any negligent act, act of misfeasance of nonfeasance by the Matagorda County Fair Association with any honors, awards, and rights, bestowed at said events. Further, I do hereby agree to exonerate, hold harmless, and indemnify such event(s) past, present or future in connection with such honors, awards and rights. Such indemnification to include all fees (including reasonable attorney's fee), costs and other expenses reasonably incurred by or on behalf of the above referenced event(s) and investigation of or defense against any such claims, lawsuits, demands, actions, or causes of actions.

I have had a full and adequate opportunity to be thoroughly advised of the terms and conditions of this release and indemnity agreement by counsel of my own choosing. I have also been given the opportunity to ask all questions that I have concerning this document and its execution by me. I do fully understand the terms of this agreement and do intentionally and voluntarily agree to same.

Contestant's Signature/Parent's Signature (If Participant/Contestant is under 18 Years of Age)

Contestant's Signature/Parent's Signature (If Participant/Contestant is under 18 Years of Age)

NO PERSON(S) MAY PARTICIPATE/COMPETE IN ANY MATAGORDA COUNTY FAIR & LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION EVENT(S) UNTIL THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN SIGNED BEFORE A WITNESS.