

JAM – The San Antonio Junior Agriculture Mechanics Project Show meeting its Educational Goal.

The Agricultural Mechanics show encourages, recognizes, and rewards the learning and development of skills through the design, construction, and exhibition of agricultural projects. These contests showcase the outstanding leadership, technical abilities, and accomplishments of our Texas youth.

Ten ways JAM meets its educational Goal.

1. **Judges** – Judges are the most important resource for JAM in meeting its Educational Goal

Judges are recruited and selected for not only their Expertise in evaluating a projects, awarding a ribbon and placing the project but most importantly JAM judges are selected for their ability to evaluate and critique the exhibitors knowledge and presentation. Judges are teachers – they must like young people and have the desire to interact with them verbally and in written critiques. Judges are held accountable.

JAM provides its judges a vast array of materials for them to study in their preparation for Judging. Examples include Judging Score Sheets and Critiques sheet, Naming Describing and Classification (NDC) Document and *Junior Agricultural Mechanics Premium List*.

Our *Junior Agricultural Mechanics Premium List* is extensive with all rules and regulations identified and explained. It is much more extensive than Premium List of other shows in Texas. It is an educational document and is identified as an additional reason JAM is meeting its educational Goal.

Our Judges are our best ambassadors for making an Agriculture Mechanics Projects Show Educational and fun in that they carry the procedures and principles used in JAM all over the state and into other states where they are judging or promoting Agricultural Mechanics.

We encourage our out of state Judges to take ideas back to their states in developing and improving their Agricultural Mechanics Project Shows.

Due to our Educational emphasis other states request our judging forms – judge critique sheet – check sheets and other documents and materials to use in shows in their states.

2. **Judging Procedures** – Judges are instructed in procedures to use to make their evaluations the most meaningful and promote learning.

Judges provide written and verbal critiques of both the project and the exhibitor. These are reviewed and presented to the exhibitors along with the ribbon immediately after judges complete judging that entry. Learning is enhanced when the review is conducted immediately after evaluating the project and exhibitor. This is rather simple learning principle but amazingly many shows do not require written and verbal reviews and evaluations to take place immediately after the project is judged. Some shows do not provide written critiques of project or exhibitor. JAM emphasizes the exhibitor over the project. The project is a by

product from the learning that takes place when designing, building and exhibiting projects at the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeos Junior Agricultural Mechanics Project show. The exhibitor may never build another trailer, squeeze chute etc. but they will use the knowledge and skills learned in designing, constructing and showing it in future careers.

Many of our JAM judges are involved in promoting and judging other Agricultural Mechanics Project shows and they employ these procedures in shows all over the state.

JAM Judges use (ESS) Electronic Scoring System to help them achieve (ACRE) Accuracy, Consistency, Review and Efficiency. ESS provides a point system based on the judging criteria that all judges use. These points are entered into an electronic tablet that automatically weighs the points and post projects in sequence by total scores. Ribbons are assigned according to total points awarded each project which includes exhibitors' knowledge and presentation. Judges have the prerogative to change ribbon and or placing from order shown in ESS.

3. **Using Three Person Judging Crews.** Having three person crews with specific tasks assigned to them allows judges the opportunity to spend meaningful time with the exhibitors in reviewing their projects and their knowledge and skills.
4. **Projects are displayed by Class** - This enhances the educational value by allowing judges to have all projects in the class within view for comparison and review. It also saves a lot of time for judges in that they do not have to hunt throughout the barn for projects in their class. The exhibitors and public also appreciate the projects displayed all in classes.
5. **WEB sites** - Educational Materials provided for exhibitors – teachers and others designing, constructing and exhibition an agricultural mechanic project. The San Antonio Rodeos Competitive Events Web sections provides all Agriculture Mechanics materials judges use in evaluating the project and exhibitor including critique sheets, score sheets and reference sheets. JAMSHOW.ORG provides handbooks and reference material used for exhibitors to design and exhibit projects. Most of these materials are applicable to any Agricultural Mechanics Project Show in the state. Also, teachers, students, and parents in other states download and use many of the materials found on our WEB site to use in preparing and designing projects in their state. Documents downloads from JAM WEB site increase significantly weeks prior to all major shows in Texas.
6. **DOT** – To encourage the building of legal trailers JAM provides DOT inspection for all projects pulled on public highways. The purpose of DOT is to educate those entering projects that are pulled on public highways to design and build their projects that will meet Federal and State transportation codes. It is a learning activity and is not designed to be punitive but to hold exhibitors accountable for reading and understanding DOT codes and rules. Reading and understanding rules are a large part of preparing for any career.

7. **Documentation Portfolio** – Exhibitors must develop and provide a Portfolio that includes the following – Bill of Materials, Drawings, Photographs, and Research Section.

The Research Section encourages the use of Professional Engineering Codes and Standards. JAM requires exhibitors to have searched for and reviewed standards published by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) for equipment that attaches to the 3-point hitch or PTO of tractor. Exhibitors must have copies of these standards in the Research Section of the Documentation Portfolio. The process of searching and using engineering standards is very educational for future careers. Copies of the standards are not provided – students must search and download them from Engineering Libraries.

DOT codes and Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are also required in the Research Section of Portfolio.

8. **Career Path Enhancement** - JAM continues to enhance exhibitors career paths by adding new classes, contests, and programs. The new Tractor and Skid Steer Reconditioning classes allowing skid steers and yard & garden tractors were developed using a Tractor Advisory Council made up of industry and teachers. Dealerships cooperated in providing skid steers, tractors, tools and technicians for our revised 1502 Tractor and Skid Steer Class.

New contests are under consideration for future shows – example welding contest to test skills for careers in the construction and welding industry.

9. **Review including Results** - results of judging are provided in power point presentations showing winners with pictures of project. All results are also shown in spreadsheet form. Exhibitors review these extensively when beginning to prepare for future project shows. Awarding ribbons and evaluating projects and exhibitors is an important part of teaching. Learning cannot take place without evaluation.

Responsibility and accountability are a big part of students exhibiting Agricultural Mechanics Projects.

Links to extensive Profession produced pictures of entire show activities are provided at no costs. These are viewed all over the United States

10. **Scholarships** – The San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo provides Scholarships to all Division and Show winners emphasizing their commitment to recognizing and rewarding learning demonstrated by those students who excel in the junior livestock shows and educational contest including JAM. In addition to scholarships the Junior Agricultural Mechanics (JAM) Project Show further rewards exhibitors by awarding prizes and merchandise. There are no other shows in Texas that provides for and recognizes the development of youth through educations as does JAM with the support of the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo.