

2026 ACF Cutting Contest Rules

1. Individuals must be entered in the Austin County Fair Ag Mechanics Show in order to participate.
2. The contest will take place during the ACF Ag Mech Show.
3. Participants must check in by 1:00pm on October 5, 2026.
4. No entry fee.
5. Participants must provide their own PPE, which must include:
 - a. Long sleeve natural fiber shirt
 - b. Long pants/jeans
 - c. Closed toe leather shoes/boots (improper footwear will not be allowed)
 - d. Z87 approved eyewear
 - e. Shade 5 face shield or safety glasses
6. Shade 5 face shields and gloves will be available for use.
7. Format will be as follows:
 - a. Round 1: Top 16 times will advance
 - b. Rounds 2 - 5: Head to head elimination
8. Participants will be allowed to check torch valves prior to starting, but must lay the torch and striker on the table before beginning the round.
9. If judges determine that a tip is dirty, both tips will be cleaned by contest officials prior to the next round. Equipment malfunctions that cause an unfair advantage to one contestant may result in a "re-ride" if judges deem it appropriate.
10. Immediate disqualification from contest:
 - a. Torch not lit within 15 seconds
 - b. Knocking, tapping, hitting, etc. to assist cut part to fall
 - c. Any unsafe cutting practices
11. Contestants may choose the torch/table they use to cut on. If both students choose the same station, a coin flip will determine student placement.
12. Final rulings will be made by the Lead Contest Judge
13. Awards will be given.