



3600 M Street, Merced CA 95348-2898
(209) 384-6000
www.mccd.edu

November 11, 2017

Greetings from Merced College,

On Friday December 1st we will be hosting the Inaugural FFA Novice Agricultural Mechanics Contest here on campus. We are targeting your first year Ag Mechanics students...freshman and sophomores primarily...so they can have a day to play. So many of the contests in the state fill up and many of your younger students don't get to play so we're going to provide that opportunity. However, this is not going to be a day to give your A-Team a workout. It is strictly for the newbies who show an interest in this contest. If you must, have your A-Team help work with your newbies. You are on the honor system on this one...play by the rules please.

Preliminary Details for the day:

- 8:00 AM Registration will be open
- 8:45 AM Break students into their groups
- 9:00 AM Activities begin
- 11:30 AM Activities conclude
- 11:45 AM Lunch will be provided
- 12:30 PM Awards/Recognition
- 1:00 PM Depart

We are also asking that you limit the number of players to 8 per school...that's what will fit in a 9-passenger van I believe. We are doing this so we don't have one school bring a packed 79 passenger bus. They will all register and we'll have the computer pick your team for you. Awards may be nothing more than bragging rights and Gold/Silver/Bronze at this time but we'll work on that. **AND** in order to get this done, we are asking that the Ag teachers serve as judges and if you want to bring your A-Team to help...we're good with that.

See the attached "Curricular Code" for details. Registration will go active as soon as I figure it out.

And there is no fee for this event...but please be honest in the numbers you register. That's what we'll be planning to prep for.

Darol

Enclosure: Curricular Code, Format and Packing Lists

Chris Vitelli
Superintendent/President

Board of Trustees
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Carmen Ramirez, Clerk

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Novice Ag Mechanics Contest

This contest is designed to provide the freshman/sophomore student with an opportunity to compete in an introductory activity. It is not intended to be a workout for advanced teams and the emphasis will be on individual performance and skills. A minimum of tools should be required to keep preparation to a manageable level and make them easy to transport. A list of tools is provided for each area listed below which should be enough to get them through the activity and be successful. Although workmanship is extremely important, proper assembly and the ability to follow instructions will be the major emphasis.

Tool List

Since you are allowed to bring up to 8 students, and we are planning a 6 round rotation, you may have 2 students in the same round. Plan your tools accordingly.

SAFETY GLASSES ARE REQUIRED...BRING YOUR OWN!!

Format

Each contestant will have 20 minutes to complete each area so the difficulty of the project should coincide with the time frame. There will be a 5 minute moving time between skills.

Skill Testing Areas

Part 1: Written Test

25 questions consisting of multiple choice and/or true false based upon the following basic skills areas:

- shop safety
- general shop knowledge
- arc welding
- electricity
- plumbing and pipe fitting

Tools Required: #2 pencil, clipboard

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Part 2: Tool and Material Identification

This area will consist of 25 items that are commonly used in the Ag Mechanics field. No specialty stuff but rather very common items that can be put together at the local hardware store and by pulling tools off of the shop tool board.

Tools Required: #2 pencil, clipboard

Part 3: Problem Solving

Simple project plans to derive materials, lengths, etc. Also measurement of fabricated projects to determine, lengths, widths and heights. Material identification may also be included as part of the process.

THIS WILL NOT BECOME A GUESSING GAME OR BE GEARED FOR A GRADUATE OF M.I.T.!

Tools Required: #2 pencil, clipboard, calculator (phone calculators are allowed)

Part 4: Arc Welding

The arc welding project will consist of a ***maximum*** of 3 welding joints to be done in the flat and horizontal positions only. Contestants may use electrodes of their own choosing to complete the project. We will have electrode available.

Tools Required: long sleeve clothing, welding helmet, welding gloves, chipping hammer, wire brush, pliers, your own choice of electrodes

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Part 5: Electrical Wiring

Using the standard boards in the CATA Curricular Code, contestants will be required to wire one of the following circuits following standard wiring practices and the National Electric Code:

- source to switch to control a duplex receptacle/light outlet
- source to duplex receptacle/light outlet to switch to control the duplex receptacle/light outlet
- source from SEP to a hot duplex receptacle

Wiring in the conduit portions would expedite the process. A minimum of tools is recommended.

Tools Required: long nose pliers, Phillips screwdriver, slotted type screwdriver, diagonal cutters, wire strippers, cable rippers or utility knife, tape measure or ruler, Sharpee® type marker, the CATA approved wiring board and devices.

NOTE: Merced College will supply wire and wire nuts

Part 6: Plumbing

Contestants will assemble a project using PVC fittings only. Projects may be subject to pressure testing by the contestants. Score will be based on measurements and orientation of the project compared to the instructions and diagram.

Tools Required: PVC shears or hacksaw, primer, cement/glue, marker, tape measure or ruler, rags

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Sample Rotation Schedule

Students are to be split up into 6 groups regardless of the number of contestants. Registration will open at 8:00 AM and activities begin at 9:00 AM sharp. On that schedule they would be done at 11:35 with lunch ready at 11:45 and awards immediately following. Critique would be teacher guided.

	White	Black	Blue	Red	Green	Yellow
9:00 – 9:30	Test	ID	Problems	Arc	Electrical	Plumbing
9:30 – 9:50	ID	Problems	Arc	Electrical	Plumbing	Test
9:55 – 10:15	Problems	Arc	Electrical	Plumbing	Test	ID
10:20 – 10:40	Arc	Electrical	Plumbing	Test	ID	Problems
10:45 – 11:05	Electrical	Plumbing	Test	ID	Problems	Arc
11:10 – 11:30	Plumbing	Test	ID	Problems	Arc	Electrical
11:45	Lunch/Critique					
12:30	Awards/Recognition					
1:00	Depart Merced College					

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