



Principles of Agricultural Mechanics

Primary Career Cluster:	Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources
Consultant:	Steven Gass, (615) 532-2847, Steven.Gass@tn.gov
Course Code(s):	5944
Prerequisite(s):	<i>Agriscience</i> (5957)
Credit:	1
Grade Level:	10
Graduation Requirements:	This course satisfies one of three credits required for an elective focus when taken in conjunction with other Agriculture courses.
Programs of Study and Sequence:	This is the second course in the <i>Agricultural Engineering and Applied Technologies</i> program of study.
Aligned Student Organization(s):	FFA: http://www.tnffa.org Joshua Bledsoe , Executive FFA Secretary, (615) 477-1857 Stena Meadows , East Tennessee FFA Consultant, (423) 414-8669 Vacant, Middle Tennessee FFA Consultant Vacant, West Tennessee FFA Consultant
Coordinating Work-Based Learning:	All Agriculture students are encouraged to participate in a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program. In addition, Teachers are encouraged to use embedded WBL activities. For information, visit https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/education/career-and-technical-education/work-based-learning.html
Available Student Industry Certifications:	Snap-On Precision Measurement
Dual Credit or Dual Enrollment Opportunities:	There are no statewide dual credit/dual enrollment opportunities for this course. If interested in establishing an opportunity, reach out to a local postsecondary institution.
Teacher Endorsement(s):	048, 150, 448
Required Teacher Certifications/Training:	No
Teacher Resources:	https://www.tn.gov/education/career-and-technical-education/career-clusters/cte-cluster-agriculture-food-natural-resources.html

Course Description

Principles of Agricultural Mechanics is an intermediate course introducing students to basic skills and knowledge in construction and land management for both rural and urban environments. This course covers topics including project management, basic engine and motor mechanics, land surveying, irrigation and drainage, agricultural structures, and basic metalworking techniques. Upon completion of this course, proficient students will be prepared for more advanced coursework in agricultural mechanics.

Program of Study Application

This is the second course in the *Agricultural Engineering and Applied Technologies* program of study. For more information on the benefits and requirements of implementing this program in full, please visit the Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources website at <https://www.tn.gov/education/career-and-technical-education/career-clusters/cte-cluster-agriculture-food-natural-resources.html>.

Course Standards

Safety

- 1) Identify the benefits of knowing and applying basic safety procedures in both an agricultural laboratory and workplace. Interpret current Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines to conduct a compliance review of the agricultural laboratory, including a written summary justifying the findings with recommendations for improving the safety of working conditions.
- 2) Review common laboratory safety procedures for tool and equipment operation in the agricultural mechanics laboratories, including but not limited to accident prevention and control procedures. Demonstrate the ability to follow safety and operational procedures in a lab setting and complete a safety test with 100 percent accuracy.

Project Management

- 3) Outline the basic principles and procedures of effective project planning. Create and present a project plan for an agricultural mechanics project or a supervised agricultural experience program related to agriculture mechanics.
- 4) Using industry-specific terminology, identify components for preparing a budget and cost estimate. Develop a budget using a scaled drawing or blueprint to construct or repair an agriculture mechanics project.

Engine and Motor Mechanics

- 5) Compare and contrast the chief features, functions, and applications of two-cycle engines, four-cycle engines, and electric motors. Citing technical references, recommend a maintenance schedule specific to the working environment (such as indoor/outdoor conditions, exposure to heat or cold) of the engine and/or motor. Conduct the appropriate maintenance with adherence to specifications outlined in the schedule.
- 6) Identify and differentiate between the different types of fuel and power sources used in conjunction with engines and motors. Recommend the types and sizes of engines/motors best suited for a range of applications. Provide a written justification, citing specific textual evidence, to support the recommendation.

Surveying

- 7) Using topographical maps and appropriate mathematical equations, determine the acreage of a specific plot of land. Document and defend the methods used to arrive at the result, annotating calculations and field notes in a manner easily retrieved by other readers.

- 8) Apply precision surveying processes and geographic information system (GIS) technology to calculate the acreage of a specific plot of property. Using field notes and digital data (such as GIS overlays), develop a written survey report of the designated plot to include, at minimum, measurements, degrees, markers, and other notable geographic parameters.

Irrigation and Drainage

- 9) Analyze the interrelationships among plants, water, air, and soil to maximize the health and productivity of agricultural crops. Calculate the permeability rate, available water holding capacity, pH levels, and nutrient levels for a specific soil type.
- 10) Apply physics concepts governing various pumping systems and delivery options to achieve the optimum irrigation and drainage required for row crop, greenhouse, and nursery operations in various soil-plant-climate combinations. Develop irrigation schedules to satisfy the design daily irrigation requirements (DDIR) for specific crops, citing specific textual evidence.
- 11) Compare and contrast irrigation methods for row crops, attending to such factors as water conservation, efficiency, and cost. Investigate and document findings on the effectiveness and efficiency of a surface irrigation versus a drip irrigation method, developing claim(s) and counterclaim(s) for scenarios in which each method would be most applicable.

Agricultural Structures

- 12) Interpret plans and working drawings to select appropriate building materials for a given agricultural structure. Using correct units and measurements, draft a written bill of materials enumerating the quantities of each selection, including but not limited to concrete, masonry, wood, metal, and composite materials.
- 13) Applying construction principles pertaining to wood, concrete, metal, masonry, plumbing and electricity construct or repair an agricultural structure according to prescribed working plans.

Agricultural Metalworking

- 14) Compare and contrast the physical and chemical properties of arc welding, metal inert gas (MIG) welding, gas welding, soldering, and brazing. Demonstrate the ability to precisely follow operational and safety procedures for each fusion process across various applications.
- 15) Classify the physical and chemical properties associated with various metal-cutting methods. Demonstrate adherence to operational and safety procedures for using oxy-fuel or plasma in applications involving mild steel, copper, sheet metal, and cast iron.
- 16) Select and demonstrate the best method to construct, connect, or repair metallic and non-metallic materials for a variety of agricultural applications, including but not limited to plumbing, sheeting, and equipment.

Standards Alignment Notes

References to other standards include:

- SAE: [Supervised Agricultural Experience](#): All Agriculture students are encouraged to participate in a Supervised Agricultural Experience program to practice and demonstrate the knowledge and skills learned in their agriculture courses.
- AFNR: [National Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources \(AFNR\) Career Cluster Content Standards](#). Students engaged in activities outlined above should be able to demonstrate fluency in Standards in CS, PST, ABS, NRS, ESS, and PS systems at the conclusion of the course.
- P21: Partnership for 21st Century Skills [Framework for 21st Century Learning](#)
 - Note: While not all standards are specifically aligned, teachers will find the framework helpful for setting expectations for student behavior in their classroom and practicing specific career readiness skills.