



West Virginia State Honey Festival 2026 Honey Show

Wood County Recreation Office, Parkersburg City Park

CHAIRPERSON: , ,

ENTRY FEE: No entry fee

ARRIVAL TIME: To be announced

RELEASE TIME: To be announced

GENERAL RULES

I. ELIGIBILITY

1. (i) The honey show is open to ...specify... who wishes to enter one or more exhibits, except as otherwise specifically provided for herein.
- (ii) The honey show is open to anyone who is both a current ...club name... member and a paid attendee of the ...club name... Conference.
- (iii) Exhibits may be submitted on behalf of qualified individuals either in person, or by third parties, or by proxy.
- *(iv) The honey show is NOT open to individuals serving as judges, stewards, or show secretaries, nor to individuals who are immediate family members of those individuals serving as judges, stewards, or show secretaries. "Immediate Family Member" is defined as individuals who are spouses, siblings, parents, children, grandparents, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, first cousins, parents of common children, step-parents, step-children, or any individuals residing in the same residence.

II. Turn-in / Submission Period(s) & Deadline

2. Entries must be received and between ___ AM to ___ AM/PM on _____, 20___, and between ___ AM to ___ AM/PM on _____, 20___, at Room _____ of ... building/facility in ...city, state... No entries will be accepted after this deadline.

III. Exhibitor Declarations & Affirmations

3. Each Exhibitor must sign an affidavit stating that each exhibit he or she submits was produced by the Exhibitor in conformity with the rules set forth herein.
4. Each Exhibitor must affirm the inclusion of any image, likeness, or work of any individual other than the Exhibitor, portrayed in or made part of any exhibit, was done so with the prior, informed consent of said individual, and that each exhibit is submitted with the full consent of all parties.

IV. Double Entries Prohibited

5. Each Exhibitor may make only one exhibit per category. More than one individual from a family or household may submit exhibits across different categories; however, family members and individuals from common households may not submit multiple exhibits in the same category.
6. With the exception of Extracted Honey, in instances where the exhibit may qualify for consideration in multiple categories, the Exhibitor shall have the right to choose which category to enter their exhibit; the Exhibitor's selection will not be overturned by the Judge(s); and, said exhibit will be judged based on the criteria set forth in the category selected by the Exhibitor. The Judge shall have discretion to make the final determination as to proper color designation in regard to all exhibits of Extracted Honey.
7. Double Entries are strictly prohibited. A "Double Entry" is when an exhibitor has more than one exhibit placed in a single exhibition category. As used in this rule, the term "Double" is not limited to two, but also encompasses any number greater than one. The Show Secretary shall not knowingly accept any subsequent exhibit which would create a Double Entry. Whenever a Double Entry is created by the decision of a judge in recategorizing an exhibit pursuant to the rules herein, the following procedure shall apply: Prior to the judging of any other exhibits in the affected category, the exhibits constituting the double entry shall be identified and examined by the head Judge; the head Judge shall make a determination as to which of the exhibits constituting the Double Entry is the best under the criteria listed for the affected category; the best exhibit of those comprising the Double Entry will be returned to the show bench, and the other(s) will be disqualified. Whenever a Double Entry results in the disqualification of one or more exhibits, and after the results are publicly announced or posted, it shall be the responsibility of the head judge to personally inform the affected exhibitor of the determination of the Double Entry and subsequent disqualification of the exhibit(s).

V. Security

8. Exhibits must not be marked or identifiable in any way, except as specifically provided herein.

An example of identifying marks that are not allowed, but not limited to, are labels, signatures, signs, advertising, or anything that would identify the exhibitor to the judge. Certain categories will allow identifying marks if they are completely covered so that they are not visible. Please see category rules for where this exception is allowed. Exhibits found to be in violation of this rule will be severely penalized.

9. The Show Secretary will provide each exhibitor identifying labels to be affixed to each exhibit as provided in the rules for each exhibition category. The Exhibitor shall be responsible for placing the ID labels on each exhibit as directed for each exhibition category, unless otherwise specified herein.
10. Once exhibits have been accepted into the competition by the Show Secretary, they may not be altered in any way.

11. After submitting entries to the Show Secretary, exhibitors may not enter the area where the exhibits have been placed. The Secretary, Stewards or Judges are the only persons who may enter the honey judging area.
12. Judges will enter the honey show area after the close of exhibitor acceptance. This is to ensure as close to a blind judging as possible.

VI. Food Safety

VII. Miscellaneous

13. All exhibits submitted in categories containing the designation "Extracted Honey" are to be presented in one-pound, glass (no plastic), "Queen-line" or "Classic" style jars.
14. In regard to the requirement of uniformity, items within or comprising any single exhibit should be alike and matching in every way: jars, containers, closures, contents, composition, orientation, placement, presentation, etc., should be identical across all individual items comprising any single exhibit.
15. For all exhibits which require, or give the Exhibitor the option of using, any display case, dish, base, frame, stand, or any other exhibition aide, the same should be presented in the same clean, neat, and uniform manner so as to complement and add merit to the accompanying exhibit.
16. All weight requirements refer to the net contents of the exhibit. For instance, a 16 ounce jar of honey should contain 16 ounces of honey. This does not include the weight of the container, the lid, the label, or any other packaging.
17. For all exhibits which call for the submission of a white descriptive card or index card with the exhibit, any size card or sheet of paper from 3"x5" to 8.5"x11" will be accepted. Additionally, the Exhibitor may submit multiple cards for any exhibit as the Exhibitor sees fit. Should the Exhibitor wish to submit multiple cards, they should be secured together by staple or paper clips.
18. The Presiding Judge may, based on the number of exhibits submitted, combine one or more categories into a single category, or divide a single category into one or more subcategories.
19. Return/Disposition of Exhibits-
 - (a) Exhibitors who wish to retrieve their exhibits at the conclusion of the honey show must make arrangements to pick their exhibits up at the specified release time on ... release date ... If an exhibitor wishes to have their exhibit(s) released to a third party or proxy, they must indicate so in writing.
 - (b) Exhibitors who wish to have their exhibits returned via USPS mail must clearly indicate so on their entry form, AND provide such packaging and packing material(s) as appropriate and adequate to ship their exhibit(s) to the Show Secretary upon submission of said exhibits. Return packaging must include BOTH a self-addressed shipping label AND sufficient pre-paid postage to accommodate the packaged exhibits. Neither the host

organization nor any member(s) of the Honey Show Committee shall be responsible for any damage to any exhibit(s) incurred pursuant to return shipping.

(c) Exhibits and other items not retrieved by the deadline posted for pick-up, shall be deemed abandoned, and shall be donated to the Honey Show Committee for future use or disposal. The sponsoring organization, nor the Honey Show Committee, is not responsible for any items left after the pick-up deadline.

20. The honey show committee reserves the right to reject any exhibit submitted if it is objectionable in any way. For these purposes, the definition of "objectionable" includes, but is not limited to: representations of nudity, graphic violence, profanity, obscenity, or any depictions of a sexually explicit nature. Decisions of the Presiding Judge on this issue will be final.

21. The use of AI to create or enhance an entry in any category is prohibited. An example of entries not

allowed, but not limited to are ...AI generated poetry, AI generated photographs, AI electronic media, AI artwork and 3D printing. It is our intent to showcase beekeepers' talents, creativity, and originality in the culture of beekeeping.

Prizes and Awards

It is the intention that ribbons will be given in all categories even if there is only one entry in the category. Entry into a category does not guarantee an award. In order to receive an award that entry must be worthy of placement. A Judge may, in his or her sole discretion, make or withhold the award of any given prize(s) or placement(s) in any category over which said Judge officiates. The decisions of the Judges are final.

Exhibitors found willfully cheating, or purposefully altering or disfiguring an entry for the purpose of influencing the validity of judging will be disqualified from the contest, as well as from any future honey shows sponsored by the association/conference for a period of not less than three (3) years.

Ribbons, Prize Cards & Sweepstakes:

Ribbons will be awarded to all First through Sixth place winners in each category, and to all Major Division winners as follows:

- Major Awards:
- Supreme Champion
- Reserve Champion
- Best in Show
- Best in Extracted Honey
- Best in Comb Honey
- Best in Beeswax
- Best Beverage Made with Honey
- Best Culinary Item Made with Honey

- Best Artisan Item Related to Beekeeping

Prize Points & Sweepstakes

Prize points will be awarded to all First through Sixth place winners in all categories as follows: First Place = 6 points; Second Place = 5 points; Third Place = 4 points; Very Highly Commendable = 3 points; Highly Commendable = 2 points; and Commendable = 1 point. These points will be used to calculate the winner of the Supreme Champion and Reserve Champion awards. Supreme Champion will be awarded to the exhibitor who earns the highest number of prize points across all categories. Reserve Champion will be awarded to the exhibitor who earns the second highest number of prize points across all categories.

Prize cards for participants in the AHSTC Honey Judging Program will be provided electronically (via email) upon written request.

Cash Prizes will be awarded as follows:

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- In each category, First Place \$___, *Second Place* \$___, *Third Place* \$__
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- Supreme Champion
- Reserve Champion
- Best in Show
- Best in Extracted Honey
- Best in Comb Honey
- Best in Beeswax
- Best Beverage Made with Honey
- Best Culinary Item Made with Honey
- Best Artisan Item Related to Beekeeping

Appeals

After the announcement of awards, any exhibitor may meet with the category judge to discuss their entry and ask questions. An Exhibitor may appeal the Bench Judge's ruling concerning their own exhibit in instances where the Exhibitor believes the Bench Judge misinterpreted or misapplied a rule in regard to the judging of their exhibit. The Presiding Judge, after hearing both sides and examining the rules and the exhibit at issue may, as he or she deems appropriate, uphold, reverse, or amend the decision, award(s), and/or official record in such a manner as to affect the most just result available. The decision of the Presiding Judge is final.

Accepted categories heading

THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES WILL BE ACCEPTED & JUDGED AT THE HONEY SHOW: