

2026 TENNESSEE STATE FAIR

HONEY SHOW RULES

ARRIVAL TIME: Saturday, August 1st, 2026.

JUDGING: Tuesday, August 11th, 2026.

RELEASE TIME: All entries will remain in the show area for public viewing after the judging. All entries will remain on display until 1:00PM, Sunday, August 23rd, 2026, after which exhibitors may pick up their entries.

GENERAL RULES

1. The honey show is open to all Tennessee residents, except as otherwise specifically provided for herein. 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.
2. Wilson County residents entering the State honey show must also be entered in the Wilson County Honey Show.
3. **Entries must be received between 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on August 1, 2026. No entries will be accepted after this deadline. Exhibits may be picked up on Sunday, August 23th, 2026, between 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM.** 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 Tennessee State Fair nor the Tennessee Beekeepers Association will not be

responsible for any items left after the pick-up deadline.

4. 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.

5. Each Exhibitor may make only one exhibit per lot. More than one individual from a family or household may submit exhibits across different lots; however, family members and individuals from common households may not submit multiple exhibits in the same lot. Double Entries are strictly prohibited.

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. Unless specifically otherwise provided for under an individual category's rules, ALL honey, beeswax, propolis, pollen, or royal jelly exhibited, or made part of any exhibit, must be produced by the exhibitor from

honeybees owned and kept by the Exhibitor. Any exhibit previously submitted for consideration in any prior Tennessee State Fair or Tennessee Beekeepers Association honey show is not eligible for this competition.

8. All beeswax items, unless otherwise specifically allowed herein, must be prepared from pure, unadulterated beeswax, free from any additives or enhancements. The use of synthetic, artificial, or adulterated beeswax or drawn honeycomb is strictly prohibited. *Exhibits found to be containing any of the above will be disqualified.*

9. 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.

10. Copyright of any submitted recipe, artwork, literary work, or other media remains with the exhibitor, but the Tennessee State Fair and the American Honey Show Training Council have the

unrestricted right to publish images of submitted recipes, artwork, literary work, or other media in its newsletter, on its website, and via its social media outlets, plus unrestricted rights to use the same in any related material for PR purposes.

11. 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; any exhibits submitted in any other style of jar or container will be disqualified.

12. Allowances will be made for minor damage to cappings in entries in the comb honey categories, where such minor damage is clearly the result of previous judging in another show.

13. 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 compliment and add merit to the accompanying exhibit.

14. Exhibits must be unmarked or identifiable in any way, except as provided herein.

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 Tennessee State Fair and the Tennessee Beekeepers Association for a period of not less than three (3) years.

Premiums:

Premiums will be awarded to First, Second, and Third place winners in each category in the following amounts:

1st – \$ 10.00

2nd – \$ 7.00

3rd – \$ 5.00

THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES WILL BE ACCEPTED & JUDGED AT THE HONEY SHOW:**EXTRACTED HONEY – Category A**

A1: Extra-Light

A2: Light

A3: Amber

A4: Dark Amber

A5: Dark

COMB HONEY – Category B

B1: Extra-Light

B2: Light

B3: Amber

B4: Dark Amber

B5: Dark

BULK HONEY – Category C

C1: Full Frame Comb (Light)

C2: Full Frame Comb (Dark)

C3: Round Or Square Sections

WAX – Category D

D1a: Plain Molded Beeswax Block - Small

D1b: Plain Molded Beeswax Block - Large

D2a: Fancy Molded Beeswax - Small

D2b: Fancy Molded Beeswax - Large

D3: Molded Beeswax Candles

D4: Rolled Beeswax Candles

D5: Hand-Dipped Beeswax Candles

D6: Beeswax Sculpture or Carving

**PREPARED HONEY PRODUCTS –
Category E**

E1: Creamed Honey

E2: Soap

**BEEKEEPING PHOTOGRAPHY –
Category F**

F1: Close-up Print

F2: Scenic Print

F3: Portrait Print

RULES FOR INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES:

EXTRACTED & COMB HONEY

A1-A5: Extracted Honey

Extracted honey is judged in five subcategories: (a) extra-light, (b) light, (c) amber, (d) dark amber, and (e) dark. Exhibitors may submit one exhibit in each of these subcategories. One exhibit of extracted honey is defined as two (2) identical one-pound jars, as specified in rule #11 under the General Rules of the Honey Show. Closures may be of metal or plastic. Tamper-proof seals are strictly prohibited; any exhibits submitted with any tamper-proof seal(s) will be disqualified. Judges evaluate entries on the following: confirmation with the criteria set forth herein; cleanliness of the jar and lid; correct fill level; uniformity of the jars that comprise the exhibit; cleanliness and clarity of the honey; moisture content (only if needed); and aroma and flavor (for off aromas or flavors). *See Appendix hereafter for notes on correct jars and fill level.

B1-B5: Chunk Comb Honey

Chunk comb honey is judged in five subcategories: (a) extra-light, (b) light, (c) amber, (d) dark amber, and (e) dark. Exhibitors may submit one exhibit in each of these sub subcategories. One entry of chunk honey is two (2) identical one-pound jars. Chunk honey must be displayed in straight sided, uncolored, glass, wide mouth, jars. The glass should not be embossed. Such jars are available from many commercial beekeeping suppliers. Only one chunk of comb should be in each jar for competition. The chunk of comb must be in one piece, of uniform thickness, and with a straight mid rib. Virgin comb with this year's wax is preferred. All foundation should be unwired, thin surplus. The cuts should be clean and uniform. The chunk comb should be cut and sized to appropriately fit the container. The honey should fill the rest of the jar to the correct fill line. The comb should be oriented in the container as found naturally in the hive. Comb with watery cappings should be avoided. The comb should extend the length of the jar. The chunk of comb should account for at least fifty percent (50%) of the internal volume of the jar. Judges evaluate entries on the following: confirmation with the criteria set forth herein; cleanliness of the jar and lid; correct fill level; uniformity of the jars that comprise the entry; cleanliness and clarity of the honey; absence of pollen, brood, uncapped cells, "wet" or "watery" cappings, or travel stains on the cappings; freedom from granulation; absence of floating wax debris in, or on the surface of, the honey; moisture content (only if needed); and aroma and flavor (for off aromas or flavors).

C1 & C2: Full Frame Comb Honey

Full frame comb honey is judged in two subcategories: (a) light, and (b) dark. Exhibitors may submit one exhibit in each of these subcategories. An exhibit of full frame comb honey is

one (1) standard Langstroth style frame of capped honey. The use of plastic foundation is prohibited; exhibits with comb drawn on plastic foundation will be disqualified. Frames must be shown in protective casing and both sides of the comb should be visible. There should be no leaking of honey from comb into the case. The frame must be easily accessible for judging. Judges evaluate entries on the following: confirmation with the criteria set forth herein; completeness of capping; uniformity of appearance and color (including the honey in the comb); cleanliness of the comb and frame; absence of uncapped cells, “wet” or “watery” cappings, or travel stains on the cappings; freedom from granulation, pollen, and brood; cleanliness of the exposed portions of the frame, including freedom from propolis and bur comb; moisture content (only if needed); and aroma and flavor (for off aromas or flavors). Total weight of the exhibit may be used as a tiebreaker.

C3: Section Comb Honey

An exhibit of section comb honey is two (2) identical sections. Entries may consist of true sections (Basswood sections, Ross Rounds, Hogg Half sections, etc.), or cut comb sections.

For true section comb entries, Ross rounds and square section entries must be displayed in the original square or circular section. Sections must be in the containers made for the display of their respective style of section comb honey. The main display panel of the containers may not be obscured or obstructed in any way.

For cut comb section entries, the boxes must be transparent on all sides made for displaying cut comb. Each box of cut comb should weigh a minimum of twelve (12) ounces. The chunk of comb must be in one piece, with a straight mid rib and of uniform thickness. Virgin comb with this year’s wax is preferred. All foundation should be unwired, thin surplus. The cuts should be clean and uniform. There should be no leaking of honey from comb into the box.

One or more of the container(s) may be opened to facilitate the Judge’s evaluation of the exhibit. There should be no leaking of honey from comb into the box. Judges evaluate entries on the following: confirmation with the criteria set forth herein; uniformity of the items that comprise the entry; uniformity of appearance and color (including the honey in the comb); cleanliness of the jar and lid; completeness of capping; cleanliness and clarity of the honey; absence of pollen, brood, uncapped cells, “wet” or “watery” cappings, or travel stains on the cappings; freedom from granulation, pollen, and brood; moisture content (only if needed); and aroma and flavor (for off aromas or flavors).

BEESWAX & CANDLES

D1a: Plain Molded Beeswax Block - Small

An exhibit consists of one (1) block of pure beeswax. The block must weigh no less than eight (8) ounces, no more than one (1) pound, and should have thickness no greater than 1.5 inches. The wax should be clean, and free of impurities. The block should be smooth-surfaced and free of blemishes, decorations or embellishments. Beeswax should be of a

vibrant, natural beeswax color, and should have a pleasant, natural beeswax aroma. The preferred colors of beeswax range from white into all natural shades of the color palate yellow. Wax of other color palettes, especially those including shades of gray or brown, shall be deemed faulted, and shall be penalized by the judge(s) according to the degree of severity of said fault. The preferred aroma of beeswax should include honey and/or floral notes. Other aromas, especially those associated with caramelization, smoke, burnt sugar, chemical contamination/adulteration, or other aromas uncharacteristic of that of commonly found in natural beeswax, shall be considered faulted, and shall be penalized by the judge(s) according to the degree of severity of said fault. The block should be submitted on a plain, white plate or board (which may be made of paper, foam, cardboard, or any similar material), in a zip-top bag. Alternatively, at the Exhibitor's option, the block may be presented in a protective display case. If a show case is used, it must not exceed 12" (length) x 12" (width) x 4" (depth), and the wax block must be readily accessible for judging. The show case will not be judged, aside for cleanliness. Judges evaluate entries on the following: confirmation with the criteria set forth herein; cleanliness; color; finish; absence of pouring or casting defects including cracks, raised edges, unevenness, rippled or wavy surfaces, etc.; and aroma (for off aromas).

D1b: Plain Molded Beeswax Block - Large

The rules and requirements for this category are the same as for Category D1a (above), with the following exception(s): that the block must weigh no less than one (1) pound, and no more than five (5) pounds; there is no limitation on the thickness of the block; and the block should be submitted on a plate, tray, or board with a footprint extending no more than two inches beyond the edges of the block.

D2a: Fancy Molded Beeswax Block - Small

An exhibit consists of one (1) item of pure beeswax. The exhibit must weigh no more than one (1) pound. The wax should be clean, and free of impurities. The beeswax should be of a vibrant, natural beeswax color, and should have a pleasant, natural beeswax aroma. The preferred colors of beeswax range from white into all natural shades of the color palate yellow. Wax of other color palettes, especially those including shades of gray or brown, shall be deemed faulted, and shall be penalized by the judge(s) according to the degree of severity of said fault. The preferred aroma of beeswax should include honey and/or floral notes. Other aromas, especially those associated with caramelization, smoke, burnt sugar, chemical contamination/adulteration, or other aromas uncharacteristic of that of commonly found in natural beeswax, shall be considered faulted, and shall be penalized by the judge(s) according to the degree of severity of said fault. Judges evaluate entries on the following: confirmation with the criteria set forth herein; cleanliness; color; finish; absence of pouring or casting defects including cracks, raised edges, unevenness, rippled or wavy surfaces, etc.; and aroma (for off aromas).

D2b: Fancy Molded Beeswax Block - Large

The rules and requirements for this category are the same as for Category D2a (above), with the following exception(s): that the exhibit must weigh no more than one (1) pound; and the block should be submitted on a plate, tray, or board with a footprint extending no more than two inches beyond the edges of the block.

D3: Molded Beeswax Candles

An exhibit is defined as two (2) candles. The beeswax should be clean, and free of impurities. Beeswax should be of a vibrant, natural beeswax color, and should have a pleasant, natural beeswax aroma. The preferred colors of beeswax range from white into all natural shades of the color palate yellow. Wax of other color palettes, especially those including shades of gray or brown, shall be deemed faulted, and shall be penalized by the judge(s) according to the degree of severity of said fault. The preferred aroma of beeswax should include honey and/or floral notes. Other aromas, especially those associated with caramelization, smoke, burnt sugar, chemical contamination/adulteration, or other aromas uncharacteristic of that of commonly found in natural beeswax, shall be considered faulted, and shall be penalized by the judge(s) according to the degree of severity of said fault. Wicks must be trimmed to one-half inch in length. The form must have a flat finished base with wicks waxed and well centered. Candles will be judged on the herein criteria as well casting flaws and sharpness of detail. One of the candles in each exhibit will be lit by the judge and allowed to burn. The exhibit must be presented with one (1) free-standing, fire-proof base or candleholder. Items comprising the exhibit should be uniform in every aspect, including height, thickness, weight, appearance, and performance (where appropriate). Judges evaluate entries on the following: confirmation with the criteria set forth in herein; cleanliness; color; aroma (for off aromas); proper wicking; performance; uniformity; casting flaws; and sharpness of detail.

D4: Rolled Beeswax Candles

An exhibit is defined as two (2) candles made by rolling sheets of beeswax foundation. *For this category only, the use of commercially manufactured sheets of beeswax is allowed. The beeswax wax should be of a vibrant, natural beeswax color, and should have a pleasant, natural beeswax fragrance. The wax should be clean, and free of impurities. Additionally, the use of colored or dyed beeswax is acceptable. For exhibits utilizing colored or dyed beeswax, the wax should be of uniform color throughout, free of marbling, striations, or any unevenness in coloration. Wicks must be trimmed to one-half inch in length. The candle must have a flat base with wicks waxed and well centered. Candles will be judged on the criteria herein as well rolling flaws and sharpness of detail. One of the candles in each exhibit will be lit by the judge and allowed to burn. The exhibit must be presented with one (1) free-standing, fire-proof base or candleholder. Items comprising the exhibit should be uniform in every aspect, including height, thickness, weight, appearance, and performance (where appropriate). Judges evaluate entries on the following: confirmation with the criteria set forth in herein; cleanliness; color;

aroma (for off aromas); proper wicking; performance; uniformity; rolling flaws; and sharpness of detail.

D5: Hand-Dipped Beeswax Candles

An exhibit for hand-dipped candles is defined as one pair of connected candles (a total of two candles). The beeswax should be clean, and free of impurities. Beeswax should be of a vibrant, natural beeswax color, and should have a pleasant, natural beeswax aroma. The preferred colors of beeswax range from white into all natural shades of the color palate yellow. Wax of other color palettes, especially those including shades of gray or brown, shall be deemed faulted, and shall be penalized by the judge(s) according to the degree of severity of said fault. The preferred aroma of beeswax should include honey and/or floral notes. Other aromas, especially those associated with caramelization, smoke, burnt sugar, chemical contamination/adulteration, or other aromas uncharacteristic of that of commonly found in natural beeswax, shall be considered faulted, and shall be penalized by the judge(s) according to the degree of severity of said fault. Dipped tapers should have the last drip left on; the wicks must be left joined. One of the candles in each exhibit will be lit by the judge and allowed to burn. The exhibit must be presented with one (1) free-standing, fire-proof base or candleholder. Items comprising the exhibit should be uniform in every aspect, including height, thickness, weight, appearance, and performance (where appropriate). Judges evaluate entries on the following: confirmation with the criteria set forth in herein; cleanliness; color; aroma (for off aromas); proper wicking; performance; and uniformity.

D6: Beeswax Sculpture or Carving

An Exhibitor may submit one example of any sculpted or carved beeswax item of their own creation. The use of wiring and/or coloring is permitted. Beeswax should be of a vibrant, natural beeswax color, and should have a pleasant, natural beeswax aroma. The preferred colors of beeswax range from white into all natural shades of the color palate yellow. Wax of other color palettes, especially those including shades of gray or brown, shall be deemed faulted, and shall be penalized by the judge(s) according to the degree of severity of said fault. The preferred aroma of beeswax should include honey and/or floral notes. Other aromas, especially those associated with caramelization, smoke, burnt sugar, chemical contamination/adulteration, or other aromas uncharacteristic of that of commonly found in natural beeswax, shall be considered faulted, and shall be penalized by the judge(s) according to the degree of severity of said fault. Molded elements are not permitted. The sculpture or carving must be the original composition of the Exhibitor. The sculpture or carving must be mounted or freestanding in design. Judges evaluate entries on the following: confirmation with the criteria set forth herein; cleanliness; color; aroma (for off aromas); subject matter; aesthetic appeal; technical proficiency; creativity; and originality. *A white card with a description of the item must accompany each exhibit.

PREPARED HONEY PRODUCTS

E1: Creamed Honey

Creamed Honey is judged in two subcategories: (a) natural, and (b) flavored. Exhibitors may submit one exhibit in each of these two categories. An entry of creamed honey is three (3) identical wide-mouth jars, no less than eight ounces (8oz.), nor more than sixteen ounces (16oz.) in net weight. Creamed honey must be displayed in identical, clear, straight-sided, glass jars with one-piece lids. Judges evaluate entries on the following: confirmation with the criteria set forth herein; cleanliness of the jar and lid; correct fill level; uniformity of the jars that comprise the exhibit; cleanliness and clarity of the honey; moisture content (only if needed); and aroma and flavor (for off aromas or flavors); fineness of crystals; uniformity and firmness of product; cleanliness and freedom from foam or from added flavors, striation or colors.

E2: Soap

An Exhibitor may submit one example of a soap of their own creation, not otherwise encompassed in another category in this show. The recipe for the exhibit must include honey, beeswax, and/or propolis produced by the Exhibitor. Entries are to be presented in a resealable, unembellished container appropriate to the item. Entries should not be less than one ounce (1oz.), nor more than eight ounces (8oz.) in weight. All entries will be sampled. Judges evaluate entries on the following: appearance, uniformity, texture, aroma, tactile feel, functionality, and originality. *A white card with a description of the item and the recipe (including all ingredients, ingredient quantities, & procedure) must accompany each exhibit.

BEEKEEPING PHOTOGRAPHY

F1-F3: Photographs Related to Beekeeping

Photographs Related to Beekeeping are judged in three subcategories: (F1) Close-up Print; (F2) Scenic Print; and (F3) Portrait Print. Exhibitors may submit one exhibit in each of these subcategories. Specific requirements pertaining to each respective subcategory are:

F1 (Close-up Print)- subject must be related to beekeeping;

F2 (Scenic Print)- Apiary subject, such as flowers, hives, etc.

F3 (Portrait Print)- A person in a beekeeping procedure in an appropriate setting.

An Exhibitor may submit one (1) example of any beekeeping-related photography of their own composition. The photograph must be related to some aspect of apiculture, and must be the original composition of the Exhibitor. Photographs may be either in color or black & white. All photographs must be printed on either 5"x7" or 8"x10" paper, and each must be mounted on black or white backings. NO frames or glass components allowed. Exhibits submitted in frames or with glass components will be disqualified. Judges evaluate entries on the following: subject matter, aesthetic appeal, technical proficiency, creativity, and originality.

*A white card with a description of the item must accompany each exhibit.

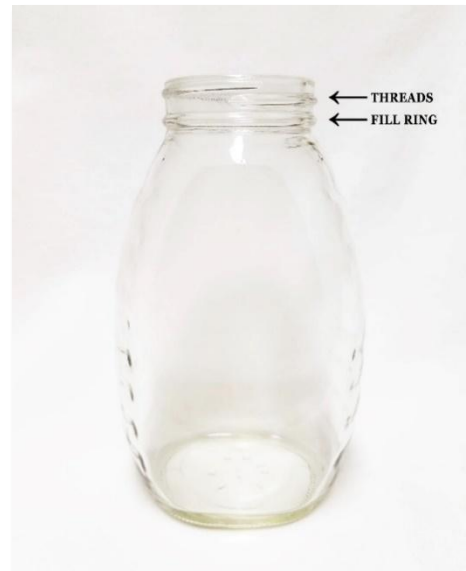
Appendix

Notes on Correct Fill Level:

- The correct fill level on jarred honey entries is at the top of the fill ring of the jar, without going over.
- The fill ring is the raised ridge, or ring of glass, immediately above the shoulder of the jar and below the threads. It can be distinguished from the threads in two ways:
 - a) the fill ring forms a complete circle, without ends; and
 - b) the fill ring will be completely parallel with the bottom and top of the jar.
- Liquid honey in a circular shape forms a concave surface sometimes referred to as a meniscus. For the purpose of filling jars, the edge of the meniscus should clearly be at the top of the fill ring, without going over.



Queenline Style Jar



Classic Style Jar