

HONEY SHOW COMPETITION GUIDE

DIRECTOR IN CHARGE

Dan McClung

SUPERINTENDENT

Robert "Doc" Hansen

dochansen@gmail.com

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Mike Parker

mike5959@yahoo.com

AGRICULTURE OFFICE

Phone: (253) 841-5035

HONEY SHOW COORDINATOR

Lincoln Mettler

(253) 330-4689

mettlerfamily@hotmail.com

COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS OFFICE

Washington State Fair

Hours: Mon.–Fri., 8 am – 4:30 pm

Phone: (253) 841-5074

Email: CompExhibits@thefair.com

WASHINGTON STATE FAIR

AUG. 29 – SEPT. 21, 2025
(CLOSED TUESDAYS & SEPT. 3)

110 9th Avenue SW, Puyallup WA 98371-6811

24-Hour Hotline: 253-841-5045 | THEFAIR.COM



2025 HONEY SHOW CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
AUG. 24	AUG. 25	AUG. 26	AUG. 27	AUG. 28	AUG. 29	AUG. 30
ONLINE ENTRY REGISTRATION DUE by 10pm		BRING IN ENTRIES 10am–8pm	BRING IN ENTRIES 8am–6pm	JUDGING: Honey, ribbons will be awarded after judging	OPENING DAY OF FAIR	
AUG. 31	SEPT. 1	SEPT. 2	SEPT. 3	SEPT. 4	SEPT. 5	SEPT. 6
		FAIR CLOSED	FAIR CLOSED			
SEPT. 7	SEPT. 8	SEPT. 9	SEPT. 10	SEPT. 11	SEPT. 12	SEPT. 13
		FAIR CLOSED				
SEPT. 14	SEPT. 15	SEPT. 16	SEPT. 17	SEPT. 18	SEPT. 19	SEPT. 20
		FAIR CLOSED				
SEPT. 21	SEPT. 22	SEPT. 23	SEPT. 24	SEPT. 25	SEPT. 26	SEPT. 27
LAST DAY OF FAIR	Release of all entries, pick up 8am-11am					

CONTENTS

CALENDAR	2
<i>Links to important Fair Information</i>	4
<i>Online Entry Registration Instructions.....</i>	4
Honey Show Information & Rules	5
Honey Show Divisions and Classes	6
Gadget Exhibit – Division 480	6
Individual Beekeeping Exhibit – Division 481.....	6
Beeswax – Division 482	6
Honey Exhibit – Division 483	6
Extracting Frames – Division 484	7
Pollen Exhibit – Division 485.....	7
Orchard Mason Bees - Division 489	7
Honey Cooking – Division 486.....	8
New Apiary Product – Division 487	8
Mead – Division 488	8

PLEASE NOTE:

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

and

AMATEUR WINE, BEER AND SPECIALTY BEVERAGES

Divisions and Classes are offered in
separate premium lists:

click here: [COMPETITIVE EXHIBIT ENTRIES](#)

Washington STATE FAIR

DO THE PUYALLUP!

AUG. 29 – SEPT. 21, 2025
(CLOSED TUESDAYS & SEPT. 3)

By submitting an entry into the Fair, exhibitors agree to abide by all rules, regulations and entry requirements of The Fair and of the department(s) to which they are submitting their entries. It is important that exhibitors read and be familiar with the rules in this book, as well as the Departmental Exhibitors Rules and Regulations.

Please click here: [Enter a Competition](#) and scroll down to 'ADDITIONAL INFORMATION' to find:

- Departmental Exhibitors Rules and Regulations
- Vehicle Unloading Procedures
- Insurance Information

*You may not find it necessary to print this entire Competition Guide. While we ask that you **read and be familiar with** the information in the Competition Guide prior to entry, please feel free to print just the **pages you need**.*

Online Entry Registration Instructions

Read below, then register entry information online before bringing items to the Fair.

www.thefair.com

- Read the complete rules, department and division descriptions, and entry information in this Competition Guide **BEFORE** going to online entry registration.
- Then go to the [ONLINE ENTRY REGISTRATION](#) page (**available starting in May**)
- Click **Register** or **Sign In**
 - Register using your First Name and Last Name and create a password (*write your password down or make sure it is something you will remember for future use.*) Fill in requested information, including email address. Click **Continue**.
 - Select **Department** ex.: *Honey Show*
 - Select a **Division** ex.: *Beeswax, Div. 482*
 - Select a **Class** ex.: *class 7035 - Unbleached, natural*
 - Fill in all requested information for the class(es) you are entering, including a brief **Description** of the item.
- When all your information is complete, click **Add Entry to Cart** and follow instructions to check out.
(NOTE: If you think you may want to modify your entries, you may *save* your current session and *check out at a later session*. Be sure to **Check Out before the closing date listed for your classes; entries are not submitted to The Fair office until the check out process is complete.)**
- Fill in "**yes**" at the statement to agree to all the terms and conditions of entry as defined in this Competition Guide.
- Click **Submit**.
- Please print and bring a copy of your online entry summary/receipt **with your entries** when you bring them to The Fair.
- For questions regarding online entry registration, contact: 253-841-5074, CompExhibits@thefair.com

HONEY SHOW

INFORMATION & RULES

NOTE: ENTRY DAYS AND PLACE!

1. Online entry registration should be completed by 10pm on Sunday, Aug. 24, unless otherwise noted. Print a copy of your online entry summary/receipt to bring with your items. Entry times are:
10am – 8pm, Tuesday, Aug. 26, and
8am – 6pm, Wednesday, Aug. 27

Take your entries to the Agriculture Department. Judging will be Thursday, Aug. 28. Judging will be closed to all visitors. Ribbons will be awarded after judging.
2. Entrants are limited to one entry per class, with the exception of the APIARY PRODUCT class (see categories and classes of entries). For all show classes, items shown shall not have been previously entered in any show competition.
3. A produce return form is available when you make your entries for items you want returned after the close of the Fair. Pick up time is Monday, Sept. 22, 8am – 11am.

For Pierce County Beekeepers Association members only:
You can pick up exhibits at their meeting Oct. 5, at the WSU Extension Campus, 7:30 pm.
4. Color classes of honey will be determined by the show coordinator prior to judging.
5. Identifying labels attached to the entries are forbidden.
6. All entries must be the product of entrant's apiary, and must have been produced within the last 12 months prior to the show.
7. All winning honey will remain on display in the Pierce County Beekeepers Association booth for the duration of The Fair.
8. First, second and third place ribbons will be awarded for each class. A "Best in Category" will be awarded for the Best Beekeeping Art and Education, the Best in Beeswax, the Best in Beekeeping Products (Pollen, Frames of Honey, Comb Honey or Creamed Honey) and Honey Cooking.
9. A special rosette will be awarded for an entry that, in the opinion of the show judge, illustrates a new or unique market for apiary products.
10. All classes are to be judged as Open or Novice category. All entrants must register as either Open or Novice. The Novice category may be entered only by individuals who have never won an award in any class. Open and Novice category entries in each class will be judged separately. A Best of Category Ribbon will be

awarded in five different areas of Beekeeping. A JUDGES' BEST OF SHOW AWARD SHALL BE PRESENTED TO THE OPEN AND NOVICE ENTRY WHICH BEST REPRESENTS THE APICULTURE INDUSTRY.

11. Cash prizes will be paid in listed classes only. Ribbons will no longer be mailed. You may pick up your ribbons in the Agriculture Department office Saturday, Aug. 30 - Sunday, Sept. 21. Premium checks will be mailed in November.
12. In the event of a dispute, the decision of the show coordinator will be final.
13. All liquid honey shall not exceed 18.6% moisture. All entries above 18.6% will be disqualified. In the event of a tie, the honey with the lowest moisture content shall be declared the winner.
14. Entrants may not assist in the acceptance of other entries, nor help in any phase of the judging.

continued...

HONEY SHOW

DIVISIONS AND CLASSES

GADGET EXHIBIT – DIVISION 480

SPECIAL RULE: All entries must be accompanied by a typed or printed explanation on a card no larger than 8"x5".

This information will be used in scoring by the judge.

GADGET EXHIBIT SCORE CARD

	POINTS
1. Practicality	50
2. Explanatory text	25
3. Ease of reproduction.....	15
4. Contribution to beekeeping.....	10
TOTAL	100

CLASS	1st	2nd
7005 Apiary Gadgets: Large devices (extractors, wax rendering equipment, etc.); Hives or machines (lifters, weighing devices, etc.); Small misc. items	10.00	6.00

INDIVIDUAL BEEKEEPING EXHIBIT – DIVISION 481

SPECIAL RULES: This display will contain art, photographs, instructions, research, equipment or products that must portray some aspect of beekeeping art and education. The display must accommodate a maximum of 4 ft. sq. wall space or 3 ft. sq. table space.

INDIVIDUAL BEEKEEPING EXHIBIT SCORE CARD For Educational Display

	POINTS
1. Attractiveness.....	20
2. Education features	50
3. Overall quality of exhibit	30
TOTAL	100

INDIVIDUAL BEEKEEPING EXHIBIT SCORE CARD For Beekeeping Art Display

	POINTS
1. Attractiveness.....	20
2. Quality of art.....	50
3. Overall quality of exhibit	30
TOTAL	100

CLASS	1st	2nd
7010 Educational Display.....	10.00	6.00
7015 Beekeeping Art.....	10.00	6.00

BEESWAX – DIVISION 482

SPECIAL RULES: Candles made from foundation are not permitted. All entries must be made by the exhibitor.

BEESWAX SCORE CARD

	POINTS
1. Color and aroma	25
2. Cleanliness (free from impurities).....	25
3. Uniformity of appearance.	20
4. Freedom from cracking and shrinking	15
5. Creativity.....	15
TOTAL	100

CLASS	1st	2nd
7035 Unbleached, natural: single block, pure beeswax, not less than one pound	6.00	5.00
7040 Candles, dipped, one pair pure beeswax	6.00	5.00
7050 Candles, fancy and novelty, must contain beeswax	6.00	5.00
7060 Beeswax novelty item 4 oz. beeswax min.	6.00	5.00

HONEY EXHIBIT – DIVISION 483

LIQUID HONEY SCORE CARD

	POINTS
1. Moisture content (above 18.6% disqualified)....	15
2. Freedom from crystals	10
3. Cleanliness	15
4. Freedom from foam and air bubbles.	10
5. Fill (uniformity among containers) Appropriate level	10
6. Containers (cleanliness, neatness, uniformity)...	10
7. Flavor (down-grade for overheating, fermentation and other objectionable flavors)	10
8. Brightness	10
9. Uniformity of honey	10
TOTAL	100

CLASS	1st	2nd
7065 Water white	6.00	5.00
7070 Extra white.....	6.00	5.00
7075 White	6.00	5.00
7080 Extra light amber	6.00	5.00
7085 Light amber	6.00	5.00
7090 Amber	6.00	5.00
7092 Dark amber	6.00	5.00

For the above classes, submit three one-pound Queenline honey jars (glass only). Color classes will be determined by the show coordinator prior to judging. A Best in Category will be awarded for the best honey exhibit.

continued...

COMB HONEY AND BULK HONEY FRAME SCORE CARD

	POINTS
1. Uniformity of appearance	20
2. Absence of uncapped cells	15
3. Uniformity of color	15
4. Absence of "watery cappings"	10
5. Cleanliness of section of frame	15
6. Freedom from granulation and pollen	10
7. Uniformity of weight	15
TOTAL	100

CLASS	1st	2nd
7100 Cut comb	6.00	5.00
7105 Comb honey, round or box	6.00	5.00

For each of the above classes, submit three standard sections. Rounds should be in standard clear plastic containers. Squares should be wrapped in clear plastic wrap or window cartons.

CREAMED (FINELY GRANULATED) HONEY SCORE CARD

	POINTS
1. Appearance and uniformity of containers.	10
2. Freedom from foreign material	15
3. Freedom from frosting and froth	15
4. Flavor and aroma	10
5. Firmness of set	15
6. Uniformity of honey	10
7. Texture of granulation (smooth and fine)	20
8. Uniform level of fill approx. 1/4" from top of jar ...	5
TOTAL	100

CLASS	1st	2nd
7110 Creamed	6.00	5.00

For the above class, submit three standard one pound, wide mouthed honey jars. Lighter grades of honey are recommended, but not required.

CHUNK HONEY SCORE CARD

	POINTS
1. Neatness of cut (uniform size with four sided parallel cuts and ragged edges)	20
2. Absence of any watery cappings, uncapped cells and pollen cells	20
3. Cleanliness - no travel stain, specks, flakes of wax, foam or crystallization	20
4. Uniformity of appearance - uniformity of capping structure, comb	30
5. Density and flavor of liquid honey	10
TOTAL	100

CLASS	1st	2nd
7115 Chunk	6.00	5.00

For the above class, submit three one-quart canning type jars (non-embossed jars only), using standard canning lids (unsealed). Lighter grades of honey are recommended, but not required.

EXTRACTING FRAMES - DIVISION 484

CLASS	1st	2nd
7120 Shallow extracting frame	6.00	5.00
7125 Deep extracting frame	6.00	5.00

The above class must be wrapped in clear plastic film.

POLLEN EXHIBIT - DIVISION 485**RAW POLLEN SCORE CARD**

	POINTS
1. Granule uniformity	25
2. Cleanliness	25
3. Taste (freedom from spoilage)	25
4. Odor	25
TOTAL	100

CLASS	1st	2nd
7130 Pollen blends (three 4 oz. jars or Queenline jars)	6.00	5.00

POLLEN COOKING SCORE CARD

	POINTS
1. Flavor	35
2. Texture, grain, moisture, uniformity of color .	30
3. Appearance	20
4. Lightness	15
TOTAL	100

CLASS	1st	2nd
7135 Cooked items, pollen, (all honey cooking rules apply)	6.00	5.00

ORCHARD MASON BEES - DIVISION 489

CLASS	1st	2nd
7185 Orchard Mason Bee Unit (no bees). Must be designed and homemade by exhibitor	10.00	6.00
7186 Orchard Mason Bee Unit (with sealed live bees). Sealed bees must come from your own home or property	10.00	6.00

For the above classes, the Orchard Mason Bee Units must be your own design and not commercially supplied or purchased. You will be able to get your units back after The Fair; see rule #3 on page 5.

continued...

HONEY COOKING – DIVISION 486

SPECIAL RULES: The recipe must be written or typed on a 3" x 5" card in triplicate, and must accompany each entry. At least 50% of the sweetening used must be honey. No mixes or prepared sweetened cereal may be used. Entries will be exhibited as received. Plates will not be furnished at the competition. Pie crust will be judged on appearance - not burned, broken, etc. A Best in Category Award will be awarded to the overall best in Honey Cooking.

BAKED GOODS SCORE CARD

	POINTS
1. Flavor	35
2. Texture, grain, moisture, uniformity of color.....	30
3. General appearance and display.....	20
4. Lightness.....	15
TOTAL	100

CLASS	1st	2nd
7140 Nine cookies or bar cookies	6.00	5.00
7150 Yeast bread, one loaf, or nine Rolls.....	6.00	5.00
7155 Quick breads, one loaf or nine muffins ...	6.00	5.00
7160 Cakes/Pies (rules apply to filling) one pie. .	6.00	5.00

CANDY / MUSTARD SCORE CARD

	POINTS
1. Flavor	35
2. Texture.....	25
3. Attractive appearance	20
4. Handling quality in serving.....	20
TOTAL	100

CLASS	1st	2nd
7165 Candies 1/2 pound or twelve pieces	6.00	5.00
7170 Honey mustard, two four-ounce containers	6.00	5.00
7175 Other (you must name the item).....	6.00	5.00

NEW APIARY PRODUCT – DIVISION 487

SPECIAL RULES: The entry should represent a new or unique concept in the use or marketing of hive products. Hive products shall be defined as any bee-produced or manipulated item (i.e. honey, wax, propolis, pollen, etc.). Entrants may submit more than one entry, so long as each entry represents a different basic concept. An information card must accompany each cosmetic or new apiary product.

NEW APIARY PRODUCT SCORE CARD

	POINTS
1. Creativity.....	25
2. Usefulness or function	25
3. Market appeal (color, taste, etc.)	25
4. New and unique	25
TOTAL	100

CLASS	1st	2nd
7178 New products	6.00	5.00

MEAD – DIVISION 488

SPECIAL RULES: The entry can be made using honey or a fruit and honey mixture with no added sugar. Submit two bottles, one for judging and one for display.

MEAD SCORE CARD

	POINTS
1. Flavor/Aroma	50
2. Clarity/Appearance	25
3. Body/Aging.....	25
TOTAL	100

CLASS	1st	2nd
7182 Mead (sweet or dry)	6.00	5.00
7184 Melomel (Fruit/Herb Mead)		
Note: There is a limit of two entries per household.....	6.00	5.00

For class 7184, you must indicate which fruit or herb used. There is a limit of three entries per household.

continued...