

HONEY SHOW COMPETITION GUIDE

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WASHINGTON STATE FAIR

SEPT. 4 - 27, 2026

(CLOSED TUESDAYS & SEPT. 9)

110 9th Avenue SW, Puyallup WA 98371-6811

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



2026 HONEY SHOW CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
AUG. 30	AUG. 31	SEPT. 1	SEPT. 2	SEPT. 3	SEPT. 4	SEPT. 5
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	
SEPT. 6	SEPT. 7	SEPT. 8	SEPT. 9	SEPT. 10	SEPT. 11	SEPT. 12
		FAIR CLOSED	FAIR CLOSED			
SEPT. 13	SEPT. 14	SEPT. 15	SEPT. 16	SEPT. 17	SEPT. 18	SEPT. 19
		FAIR CLOSED				
SEPT. 20	SEPT. 21	SEPT. 22	SEPT. 23	SEPT. 24	SEPT. 25	SEPT. 26
		FAIR CLOSED				
SEPT. 27	SEPT. 28	SEPT. 29	SEPT. 30	OCT. 1	OCT. 2	OCT. 3
LAST DAY OF FAIR	Release of all entries, pick up 8am-11am					

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PLEASE NOTE:
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
and
**AMATEUR WINE, BEER AND
SPECIALTY BEVERAGES**
Divisions and Classes are offered in
separate competition guides:
click here: [COMPETITIVE EXHIBIT ENTRIES](#)

Washington STATE FAIR

DO THE PUYALLUP!

SEPT. 4 - 27, 2026
(CLOSED TUESDAYS & SEPT. 9)

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: 253-841-5134, CompExhibits@thefair.com

HONEY SHOW

INFORMATION & RULES

NOTE: ENTRY DAYS AND PLACE!

1. Online entry registration should be completed by 10pm on Sunday, Aug. 30, unless otherwise noted. Print a copy of your online entry summary/receipt to bring with your items. Entry times are:
10am – 8pm, Tuesday, Sept. 1, and
8am – 6pm, Wednesday, Sept. 2.

Take your entries to the Agriculture Department. Judging will be Thursday, Sept. 3. 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. 28, 8am – 11am.

For Pierce County Beekeepers Association members only:
You can pick up exhibits at their meeting Oct. 5, at the WSU Extension Campus, 6 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. One first, one second and one third place ribbon 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, Sept. 5 - Sunday, Sept. 27. **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.

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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.

<u>GADGET EXHIBIT SCORE CARD</u>		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.

<u>INDIVIDUAL BEEKEEPING EXHIBIT SCORE CARD</u>		POINTS
For Educational Display		
1. Attractiveness.....		20
2. Education features		50
3. Overall quality of exhibit		30
	TOTAL	100

<u>INDIVIDUAL BEEKEEPING EXHIBIT SCORE CARD</u>		POINTS
For Beekeeping Art Display		
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.

<u>BEESWAX SCORE CARD</u>		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

<u>LIQUID HONEY SCORE CARD</u>		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.

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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	Ochard Mason Bee Unit (no bees). Must be designed and homemade by exhibitor	10.00	6.00
7186	Ochard 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.

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.

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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.

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