

Heart of Virginia Beekeepers

2026 HONEY SHOW RULES

In partnership with the American Honey Show Training Council (AHSTC)

Updated: 12/5/2025

CHAIRPERSONS: Lesa Pierce – (336) 848-8886 email: pierce@northstate.net

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ENTRY FEE: \$10 Can be paid online with Conference registration.

ARRIVAL TIME: Friday, January 23, 2026 from 3:00 pm until 5:00 pm; and

Saturday, January 24, 2026 from 8:00 am until 9:30 am

LOCATION: Hampden-Sydney College Farmville, Virginia 23943

RELEASE TIME: All entries will remain in the show area for public viewing after the judging. All entries will remain on display until 4:30 pm, Saturday, January 24, 2026 after which exhibitors may pick up their entries.

GENERAL RULES

I. ELIGIBILITY

1.(i) The honey show is open to anyone 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 a paid attendee of the Heart of Virginia 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 between 3 pm to 5 pm on Friday, January 23, 2026

and between 8:00 am to 9:30 am on Saturday, January 24, 2026, at the Hampden-Sydney College.

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.

5. 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 honey show sponsored by the host organization, with the exception of mead, is not eligible for this competition.

6. All beeswax items, unless otherwise specifically allowed herein, must be prepared from pure, unadulterated beeswax, harvested from your bees. The beeswax must be 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.*

IV. Double Entries Prohibited

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. Once exhibits have been accepted into the competition by the Show Secretary, they may not be altered in any way.

13. 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.

14. 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

15. All food & beverage exhibits must be prepared under sanitary conditions and follow food safety guidelines. All food & beverage exhibits must be sealed and shelf-stable, or otherwise prepared and packaged in such a way to be able to withstand spoilage. Any entry that appears to be unsafe or unpalatable will not be judged and will be disqualified.

16. Any food or beverage item made with any perishable ingredient(s) or components, or any exhibit that calls for or requires refrigeration for proper storage or holding, are prohibited.

VII. Miscellaneous

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. 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.

22. For all mead, beer, and other honey beverage categories, any Exhibitor may, at their discretion, submit a second bottle for chilled tasting. If the Exhibitor chooses to submit a second bottle for chilled tasting, the Exhibitor must submit two identical specimens, both suitable for judging. After the exhibit is submitted, the **show secretary** will randomly select one of two bottles to be placed in a cooler or refrigerated container. The show secretary will place the other bottle on the judge's bench. Both bottles submitted will be evaluated for the same criteria as a single bottle exhibit. **If the Exhibitor submits a second bottle for chilled tasting, they must note such on the descriptive card submitted with the exhibit.*

23. Copyright of any submitted recipe, artwork, literary work, or other media remains with the exhibitor, but the host organization has 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.

24. Where the submission of a "recipe" is required, that term includes the complete list of ingredients, quantities thereof, and the procedure used to combine and prepare the exhibit.

25. 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.

26. 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 Saturday, January 24, 2026. If an exhibitor wishes to have their exhibit(s) released to a third party or proxy, they must indicate so in writing.

(b) 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.

27. The beeswax used in all entries containing 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.

28. 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.

29. 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.

There will be two Major Awards:

- Best in Show - awarded to the individual with a first-place exhibit that is voted best of all first-place exhibits in this show
- Sweepstakes - awarded to the individual with the highest accumulated prize points across all categories

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 Sweepstakes award.

The Sweepstakes award will be awarded to the exhibitor who earns the highest number of prize points across all categories.

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.

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

<p>EXTRACTED HONEY (Category H) H1 Light Extracted Honey H2 Amber Extracted Honey H3 Dark Extracted Honey H4 Novice Extracted Honey H5 Creamed Honey (un-flavored) H6 Creamed Honey (flavored) H7 Black Jar</p> <p>BEESWAX (Category W) W1 Beeswax Block W2 Beeswax Bars W3 Beeswax Candles (Dipped Tapers) W4 Beeswax Candles (Molded Tapers) W5 Beeswax Candles (Molded Ornamental) W6 Beeswax Candles (Rolled) W7 Novice Beeswax Candle</p> <p>BEVERAGES MADE WITH HONEY (Category B) B1 Traditional Meads (sweet) B2 Traditional Meads (dry) B3 Varietal Meads (sweet) B4 Varietal Meads (dry) B5 Non-Alcoholic Beverages made w/honey</p>	<p>ARTS & CRAFTS RELATED TO BEEKEEPING (Category A) A1 Artwork Related to Beekeeping A2 Crafts Related to Beekeeping A3 Soaps A4 Lotions A5 Lip Balms A6 Photography Related to Beekeeping</p> <p>FOOD ITEMS MADE WITH HONEY (Category F) F1 Honey Pound Cake F2 Honey Cake (open recipe) F3 Honey Cookies F4 Honey Breads</p>
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RULES FOR INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES:

HONEY

Extracted Honey – H1, H2, H3

Extracted honey is judged in three subcategories: (a) light, (b) medium or amber, and (c) dark. Exhibitors may submit one exhibit in each of these three subcategories. One exhibit of extracted honey is defined as three (3) identical one-pound jars, as specified in rule #17 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 severely penalized. 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.

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on each of the jars comprising the exhibit. The labels should be affixed at the front, bottom, center of each jar, approximately 1/2 inch from the bottom of the jar.

Novice Extracted Honey - H4

This category is open only to exhibitors who have never won a First, Second or Third prize in any extracted honey category at any prior honey show. An exhibit consists of one (1) one-pound jar of extracted honey, as specified in rule #17 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 severely penalized. 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.

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the exhibit. The label should be affixed at the front, bottom, center of the jar, approximately 1/2 inch from the bottom of the jar.

Creamed Honey – H5, H6

Creamed Honey is judged in two subcategories: (a) un-flavored, and (b) flavored. Exhibitors may submit one exhibit in each of these two subcategories. Creamed or Soft Set honey is honey that has been subjected to a manual or mechanical process to assist and control the otherwise natural process of granulation. 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; cleanliness and purity of the honey; uniformity of product within the jar; fineness of crystals; appropriate set or firmness (should be spreadable but not runny); freedom from foam, frosting, or visible moisture; freedom from added flavors, striation, or colors; uniformity of the jars that comprise the exhibit; aroma and flavor (for off aromas or flavors); and moisture content (only if in question).

The exhibitor must submit a white card describing the process and procedure (including all steps and equipment) employed to produce their creamed honey.

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on each of the jars comprising the exhibit. The labels should be affixed at the front, bottom, center of each jar, approximately 1/2 inch from the bottom of the jar. An ID label should also be affixed to the white card accompanying the exhibit.

Black Jar – H7

An entry consists of not less than two ounces, nor more than four ounces, of pure, unadulterated honey. The required jar will be provided by the Show Secretary at the sign-in table, and the Exhibitor will transfer their entry into the jar and return the exhibit to the Show Secretary. Judges evaluate entries for flavor only.

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the exhibit. The label should be affixed at the front, bottom, center of the jar, approximately 1/2 inch from the bottom of the jar.

- Black Jar entries are not eligible for Best in Show.
- In the Black Jar class, only a First-Place prize will be awarded.
- **The Black Jar class is only open to residents of the state of Virginia, and must be from honey produced within the state of Virginia.**
- **ALL BLACK JAR ENTRIES, and the contents thereof, become the property of the Heart of Virginia Honey Show Committee upon submission to the honey show secretary.
Black Jar entries WILL NOT BE RETURNED to the Exhibitor at the end of the honey show.*

BEESWAX & CANDLES

Beeswax Block – W1

An exhibit consists of one (1) block of pure beeswax. The block must weigh between one to two pounds, no more, and should have a 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, and aroma (for off aromas).

*The presence of the word "BEESWAX" imprinted on one surface of the block shall not be counted as a flaw or defect. However, any such mark or imprint shall be judged for casting flaws and sharpness of detail.

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the underside of the wax block, and the second label on the top right-hand corner of the display case lid or plastic bag.

Beeswax Bars – W2

An exhibit is defined as three (3) identical one (1) ounce beeswax bars. 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 wax should be clean, and free of impurities. The bars should be smooth-surfaced, free of blemishes, and identical in every way. The bars 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 bars 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 bars 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; aroma (for off aromas); uniformity; casting flaws; and sharpness of detail.

*The presence of the word "BEESWAX" imprinted on one surface of each bar shall not be counted as a flaw or defect. However, any such mark or imprint shall be judged for casting flaws and sharpness of detail.

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the top center of the plate the wax blocks were presented on, and the second label on the top right-hand corner of the display case lid or plastic bag.

Dipped Taper Beeswax Candles – W3

An exhibit for dipped tapers is defined as two pairs of two connected candles (a total of four candles). The wax 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. The minimum length of all taper candles is eight inches. 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 herein; cleanliness; color; aroma (for off aromas); proper wicking; performance; and uniformity.

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the bottom of the candleholder the candles were submitted with, and another label on the bottom, or at the base, of each of the candles.

Molded Taper Beeswax Candles – W4

An exhibit is defined as three (3) candles. The wax 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. Molded tapers must have flat finished bases with wicks well centered. The minimum length of all taper candles is eight inches. Wicks must be primed and trimmed to one-half inch in length. 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.

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the bottom of the candleholder the candles were submitted with, and another label on the bottom, or at the base, of each of the candles.

Molded Ornamental Beeswax Candles – W5

An exhibit is defined as three (3) candles. The wax 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 primed and trimmed to one-half inch in length. The form must have a flat finished base with wicks waxed and well centered. 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, unless the candle is in a free-standing form. 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 herein; cleanliness; color; aroma (for off aromas); proper wicking; performance; uniformity; casting flaws; and sharpness of detail.

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the bottom of the candleholder the candles were submitted with (if required), and another label on the bottom, or at the base, of each of the candles.

Rolled Beeswax Candles – W6

An exhibit is defined as three (3) candles made by rolling sheets of beeswax foundation. *For this category only, the use of commercially manufactured sheets of beeswax is allowed. 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 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 primed and 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.

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the bottom of the candleholder the candles were submitted with, and another label on the bottom, or at the base, of each of the candles.

Novice Beeswax Candle – W7

This category is open only to exhibitors who have never won a first, second or third prize in any beeswax candle category at any prior honey show. An exhibit is defined as one (1) beeswax candle. 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. The wax should be clean, and free of impurities. Wicks should be primed and trimmed to one-half inch in length. The candle should have a flat base with wicks waxed and well centered. The candle 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. 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 or rolling flaws; and sharpness of detail.

The Exhibitor shall place an ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the bottom of the candleholder the candle is submitted with, and another label on the bottom, or at the base of the candle.

ARTS & CRAFTS RELATED TO BEEKEEPING

Artwork Related to Beekeeping – A1

Artwork is the expression or application of human creative skill and imagination, often in a visual form such as (but no way limited to) painting or sculpture, producing works to be appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power. An Exhibitor may submit one example of any beekeeping-related artwork of their own composition. The artwork must be related to some aspect of apiculture, and must be the original composition of the Exhibitor. The artwork must be mounted or freestanding in design. Judges evaluate entries on the following: confirmation with the criteria set forth in herein; subject matter, aesthetic appeal, technical proficiency, creativity, and originality. *A white card with a description of the item must accompany each entry.

The Show Secretary will provide each exhibitor identifying labels to be affixed to the exhibit. The Exhibitor shall place one label on the front of the exhibit (centered near the bottom), and the second label on the white card accompanying the exhibit. **If the exhibit is already signed or marked in some identifying way, the exhibitor must obscure the signature or identifying mark.*

Crafts Related to Beekeeping – A2

A craft is a pastime or a profession that requires particular skill and knowledge of a specialized field or subject. Craftsmanship typically denotes experience, knowledge, skill, and expertise in making things by hand. An Exhibitor may submit one example of any beekeeping-related craftwork of their own composition. The craftwork must be related to some aspect of apiculture, and must be the original composition of the Exhibitor. The craftwork must be mounted or freestanding in design. Judges evaluate entries on the following: confirmation with the criteria set forth in herein; subject matter, aesthetic appeal, technical proficiency, creativity, and originality. *A white card with a description of the item must accompany each entry.

The Show Secretary will provide each exhibitor identifying labels to be affixed to the exhibit. The Exhibitor shall place one label on the front of the exhibit (centered near the bottom), and the second label on the white card accompanying the exhibit. **If the exhibit is already signed or marked in some identifying way, the exhibitor may obscure the signature or identifying mark.*

Soaps – A3

An Exhibitor may submit one example of a soap prepared by the Exhibitor. An exhibit in this category consists of one (1) re-sealable jar, bottle, tube, box, or tin, containing not less than one ounce (1 oz.), nor more than eight ounces (8oz) of product. The recipe for the exhibit must include beeswax, honey, or propolis produced by the Exhibitor. All entries will be tested. Judges evaluate entries on the following: appearance, uniformity, texture or tactile appeal (where appropriate), aroma, ease of application, performance, and originality. *A white card with a description of the product, the recipe (including all ingredients, ingredient quantities, & procedure) and the directions for use must accompany each exhibit.

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the container at the front, bottom, center. Additionally, the Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the white card accompanying the exhibit.

Lotions – A4

An Exhibitor may submit one example of a lotion prepared by the Exhibitor. An exhibit in this category consists of one (1) re-sealable jar, bottle, tube, box, or tin, containing not less than one ounce (1 oz.), nor more than eight ounces (8 oz) of product. The recipe for the exhibit must include beeswax, honey, or propolis produced by the Exhibitor. All entries will be tested. Judges evaluate entries on the following: appearance, uniformity, texture or tactile appeal (where appropriate), aroma, ease of application, performance, and originality. *A white card with a description of the product, the recipe (including all ingredients, ingredient quantities, & procedure), and the directions for use must accompany each exhibit.

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the container at the front, bottom, center. Additionally, the Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the white card accompanying the exhibit.

Lip Balms – A5

An Exhibitor may submit one example of a lip balm prepared by the Exhibitor. An exhibit in this category consists of one (1) re-sealable tube or tin, containing not less than one tenth of an ounce (.1oz.), nor more than four ounces (4oz) of product. The recipe for the exhibit must include beeswax, honey, or propolis produced by the Exhibitor. All entries will be tested. Judges evaluate entries on the following: appearance, uniformity, texture or tactile appeal (where appropriate), flavor (where appropriate), aroma, ease of application, performance, and originality. *A white card with a description of the product, the recipe (including all ingredients, ingredient quantities, & procedure), and the directions for use must accompany each exhibit.

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the container at the front, bottom, center. Additionally, the Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the white card accompanying the exhibit.

Photographs Related to Beekeeping - A6

An Exhibitor may submit one 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 must be either 4"x6" or 5"x 7" or 8"x10" in size. The photograph must be mounted, matted, or framed. The photograph must stand up for display; either equipped with an easel back, or the entrant must provide an easel on which to display the exhibit. Judges evaluate entries on the following: subject matter, aesthetic appeal, technical proficiency, creativity, and originality. *A white card with a description of the photograph must accompany each exhibit.

The Show Secretary will provide each exhibitor identifying labels to be affixed to the exhibit. The Exhibitor shall place one label on the frame on the back of the exhibit (centered near the top), and the second label on the white card accompanying the exhibit.

BEVERAGES MADE WITH HONEY

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY: Exhibitors should be aware and keep in mind; this is a honey show. These beverage & culinary categories have been specifically chosen because of their ability to showcase honey as an ingredient. The influence and impact of honey on the finished product will be the first, and ultimate, factor the judges will consider when making final awards. The stronger and more pronounced the flavor and aroma of honey is in the finished product, the greater the preference that exhibit will receive from the judges. Conversely, an exhibit of otherwise exceptional quality that does not taste or smell profoundly of honey, will not be placed highly despite the presence of other exceptional qualities.

Meads – B1, B2, B3, B4

Meads are judged in four subcategories: (a) Traditional Sweet, (b) Traditional Dry, (c) Varietal Sweet, and (d) Varietal Dry. Traditional meads contain only honey, water, yeast, and no other flavoring additives. Varietal meads include melomels, pyments, cysers, metheglins, hippocras, braggots, sac meads, and dessert meads. Entrants may submit one exhibit in each of these respective subcategories. An exhibit consists of one, clear, uncolored, glass standard 750ml wine bottle. Punt bottles are acceptable as long as they are standard pattern wine bottles. Tee, tasting, or mushroom-style corks are acceptable closures. Bottles should be filled to a point precisely two (2) centimeters from the bottom of the cork. All mead must be produced from honey produced by the Exhibitor. All entries will be tasted. Judges evaluate entries on the following: confirmation with the criteria set forth herein; cleanliness of the container and closure; cleanliness and clarity of the contents; correct fill level; color; clarity; lack of sediment; aroma; flavor, including maturity, body, balance, complexity, and finish; and influence of honey on the final product. *A white card with a description of the type or style of mead and the full recipe (including all ingredients and ingredient quantities) must accompany each exhibit. The Exhibitor should also note on the white card if they have submitted a second bottle for chilled tasting.

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the front, bottom, center of the bottle, approximately 1/2 inch from the bottom of the bottle. Additionally, the Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the white card accompanying the exhibit. *In the event an Exhibitor elects to submit a second bottle to be chilled for tasting, the Show Secretary will affix an additional identifying label around the neck of the bottle to be chilled.

Honey Beverages (non-alcoholic) – B5

An Exhibitor may submit one example of a non-alcoholic honey beverage prepared by the Exhibitor. An exhibit consists of one (1) jar, bottle or pitcher, containing at least 12 oz and no more than 32 oz, of a beverage made with honey produced by the Exhibitor. The container may be a clear glass bottle, jar, or pitcher with a leak proof lid. All entries will be tasted. Judges evaluate entries on the following: cleanliness, fill, clarity, lack of sediment, aroma, and flavor. *A white card with a description of the type or style of beverage and the full recipe (including all ingredients, ingredient quantities, & procedure) must accompany each exhibit. The Exhibitor should also note on the white card if they have submitted a second bottle, jar or pitcher for chilled tasting. The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the front, bottom, center of the container, approximately 1/2 inch from the bottom of the container. Additionally, the Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the white card accompanying the exhibit. *In the event an Exhibitor elects to submit a second container to be chilled for tasting, the Show Secretary will affix an additional identifying label on the container to be chilled.

FOOD ITEMS & BAKED GOODS

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY: Exhibitors should be aware and keep in mind; this is a honey show. These beverage & culinary categories have been specifically chosen because of their ability to showcase honey as an ingredient. The influence and impact of honey on the finished product will be the first, and ultimate, factor the judges will consider when making final awards. The stronger and more pronounced the flavor and aroma of honey is in the finished product, the greater the preference that exhibit will receive from the judges. Conversely, an exhibit of otherwise exceptional quality that does not taste or smell profoundly of honey, will not be placed highly despite the presence of other exceptional qualities.

Honey Cake (pound cake) – F1

A pound cake is a rich, sweet, dense cake that's traditionally made with one pound each of flour, butter, eggs, and sugar. The Exhibitor may submit one example of a pound cake baked by the Exhibitor. An entry consists of one (1) cake. The recipe for the entry must include honey produced by the Exhibitor. Exhibits may NOT be dusted, frosted, iced, or glazed. Exhibits must be baked in either a tube or Bundt style cake pan.

All ingredients in the honey pound cake must come from the list contained below. The use of any ingredient(s) not contained in the list below is strictly prohibited. Exhibits may contain any of the following ingredients, in any amount(s) or combination(s), at the Exhibitor's discretion:

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| - Flour | - Milk |
| - Butter, margarine, lard, or vegetable shortening | - Buttermilk |
| - Eggs | - Cream |
| - Baking powder | - Evaporated Milk |
| - Baking Soda | - Sour Cream |
| - Salt | - Almond Extract |
| - Sugar | - Vanilla Extract |
| - Honey | |

Entries are to be presented on a cardboard base, in a standard, unembellished, cardboard baker's or cake box; cake boxes with clear windows are also acceptable. All entries will be tasted. Judges evaluate entries on the following: appearance, uniformity (of mixing and baking), moistness, texture, aroma, flavor, and influence of honey on the finished product. *A white card with a description of the item and the recipe, including all ingredients, ingredient quantities, & procedure, must accompany each entry.

Honey Cake (open recipe) – F2

The Exhibitor may submit one example of a cake baked by the Exhibitor. An entry consists of one (1) standard size cake no less than six inches (6 in.) in diameter or across. Exhibits may be, but are not required to be, iced or glazed. The recipe for the entry must include honey produced by the Exhibitor. Entries are to be presented on a cardboard base, in a standard, unembellished, cardboard baker's or cake box; cake boxes with clear windows are also acceptable. All entries will be tasted. Judges evaluate entries on the following: appearance, uniformity, moistness, texture, aroma, flavor, influence of honey on the finished product, and originality. *A white card with a description of the item and the recipe (including all ingredients, ingredient quantities, & procedure), must accompany each entry. **The Exhibitor, if they wish to, may place their item in a sealed zip-top bag, or wrap the item in paper or plastic film to preserve freshness; the bagged or wrapped item should be submitted in the cardboard baker's or cake box.

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the top, exterior panel of the box the exhibit is submitted in approximately 1/2 inch from the front edge of the box. Additionally, the Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the white card accompanying the exhibit.

Honey Cookies – F3

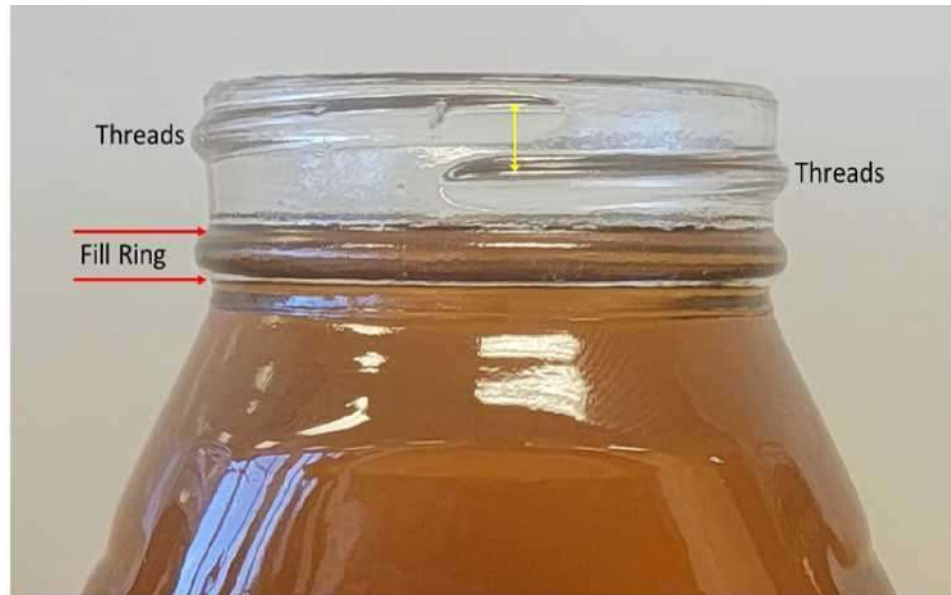
The Exhibitor may submit one example of a cookie prepared by the Exhibitor. An exhibit consists of no less than six (6), nor more than twelve (12), pieces or servings. The recipe for the exhibit must include honey produced by the Exhibitor. All entries will be tasted. Entries are to be presented on a cardboard base, in a standard, unembellished, cardboard baker's or cake box; cake boxes with clear windows are also acceptable. Exhibitors, if they wish to, may place their item in a sealed zip-top bag, or wrap the item in paper or plastic film to preserve freshness; the bagged or wrapped item should be submitted in the cardboard baker's or cake box. All entries will be tasted. Judges evaluate entries on the following: appearance, uniformity, moistness, texture, aroma, flavor, influence of honey on the finished product, and originality. *A white card with a description of the item and the recipe (including all ingredients, ingredient quantities, & procedure) must accompany each exhibit.

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the top, exterior panel of the box the exhibit is submitted in approximately 1/2 inch from the front edge of the box. Additionally, the Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the white card accompanying the exhibit.

Breads Made with Honey – F4

The Exhibitor may submit one example of a bread baked by the Exhibitor. An exhibit consists of one (1) standard size loaf, or two (2) rolls, biscuits, muffins, or mini-loaves. The recipe for the exhibit must include honey produced by the Exhibitor. All entries will be tasted. Entries are to be presented on a cardboard base, in a standard, unembellished, cardboard baker's or cake box; cake boxes with clear windows are also acceptable. All entries will be tasted. Judges evaluate entries on the following: appearance, uniformity, moistness, texture, aroma, flavor, influence of honey on the finished product, and originality. *A white card with a description of the item and the recipe (including all ingredients, ingredient quantities, & procedure) must accompany each exhibit. **The Exhibitor, if they wish to, may place their item in a sealed zip-top bag, or wrap the item in paper or plastic film to preserve freshness; the bagged or wrapped item should be submitted in the cardboard baker's or cake box. In the event an exhibit in this category is too large to fit in a commonly available cake box, the exhibitor may submit his/her exhibit in some other appropriate, re-sealable container.

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the top, exterior panel of the box the exhibit is submitted in approximately 1/2 inch from the front edge of the box. Additionally, the Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the white card accompanying the 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.

