

MSBA Fall Conference 2025 Honey Show Rules

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ARRIVAL TIME: Saturday, October 18th, 2025

LOCATION: Adams Pointe Conference Center, Blue Springs, MO

RELEASE TIME: All entries will remain in the show area for public viewing after the judging. All entries will remain on display until Saturday, October 18th, 2025, after which exhibitors may pick up their entries.

JUDGES:

SECRETARY:

I. Eligibility and General Rules

1. The honey show is open to anyone who is both a current MSBA member and a registered attendee of the 2025 MSBA Fall Conference.
2. (i) Exhibits must be submitted in person. *(ii) 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

- III. Entries must be received **between TBA on October 18, 2025 at Room of Adams Pointe Conference Center, Blue Springs**, MO. No entries will be accepted after this deadline.

IV. Exhibitor Declarations & Affirmations

- V. 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.
- VI. 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. 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.

VII. **Double Entries Prohibited**

VIII. 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.

IX. 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.

X. 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).

XI. **Security**

XII. 8 Exhibits must not be marked or identifiable in any way, except as specifically provided herein. An example of identifying marks that are not allowed, but not

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

- XIII. 9. The Show Secretary will provide each exhibitor identifying labels to be affixed to each exhibit as provided in the rules for each exhibition category. The Exhibitor shall be responsible for placing the ID labels on each exhibit as directed for each exhibition category, unless otherwise specified herein.
- XIV. 10. Once exhibits have been accepted into the competition by the Show Secretary, they may not be altered in any way.
- XV. 11. After submitting entries to the Show Secretary, exhibitors may not enter the area where the exhibits have been placed. The Secretary, Stewards or Judges are the only persons who may enter the honey judging area.
- XVI. 12. Judges will enter the honey show area after the close of exhibitor acceptance. This is to ensure as close to a blind judging as possible.

XVII. **Food Safety**

- XVIII. 13. All food exhibits must be prepared under sanitary conditions and follow food safety guidelines. All food 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.
- XIX. 14. 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.

XX. **Miscellaneous**

- XXI. 15. 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 not be accepted by the show secretary.
- XXII. 16. 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.
- XXIII. 17. 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.

- XXIV. 18. 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.
- XXV. 19. 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.
- XXVI. 20. 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.
- XXVII. 21. 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.
- XXVIII. 22. 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.
- XXIX. 23. 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.
- XXX. 24. **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. 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.
- XXXI. 25. 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.

XXXII. 26. 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.

XXXIII. 27. 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.

XXXIV. **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.

XXXV. **Ribbons:** Ribbons will be awarded to all First through Third place winners in each category, and to Best in Show winners.

XXXVI.

XXXVII. **Appeals**

XXXVIII. 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.

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

HONEY (Category H)

H1a: Extracted Honey – Light

H1b: Extracted Honey – Amber

H1c: Extracted Honey - Dark

H2: Cut Comb

H3: Section Comb

H4: Black Jar

BEESWAX (Category W)

B1: Beeswax Block (1 lb)

ARTISAN (Category A)

A1: Photography – **Selected Topic – Apiculture AND Pollination**

A2: Artwork related to Beekeeping

A3: Crafts related to Beekeeping

FOOD ITEMS MADE WITH HONEY (Category F)

F1: Honey Breads (loaves or muffins)

F2: Honey Cookies

F3: Honey Cake (open)

RULES FOR INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES:

HONEY

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. 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 ½ inch from the bottom of the jar.

Cut Comb An exhibit of cut comb is three (3) identical boxes. The boxes must be transparent on all sides made for displaying comb. Each box of comb should weigh a minimum of twelve (12) ounces. The chunk of comb must be in one piece and of uniform thickness. Virgin comb with this year's wax is preferred. All wax foundation should be unwired, thin surplus. The cuts should be clean and uniform. There should be no leaking of honey from the 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 container; completeness of cappings; 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). The Exhibitor shall place ID one label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on each of the

containers comprising the exhibit. The labels should be affixed at the front, bottom, center of each container.

Section Comb An exhibit of section comb honey is three (3) identical sections. 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. 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 the 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 container; 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).

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on each of the containers comprising the exhibit. The labels should be affixed at the front, bottom, center of each container.

Black Jar An entry consists of not less than two ounces, nor more than four ounces, of pure, unadulterated honey. Entries are to be submitted in black jar. 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 ½ inch from the bottom of the jar. In the Black Jar category, only a First Place prize will be awarded. Only residents of MO may enter, and the honey must be produced from colonies located in MO.

Wax

Beeswax Block: 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.

ARTISAN

Artwork Related to Beekeeping 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 may obscure the signature or identifying mark.

Crafts Related to Beekeeping 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.

Photographs Related to Beekeeping – Selected Topic – Apiculture AND Pollination An Exhibitor may submit one example of any beekeeping-related photography of their own composition. The photograph(s) must be related to apiculture AND pollination; must be the original composition of the Exhibitor. Photographs must be either of 4"x6" or 5"x 7" in size. The photograph(s) must be mounted, matted, or framed. The photograph(s) 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.

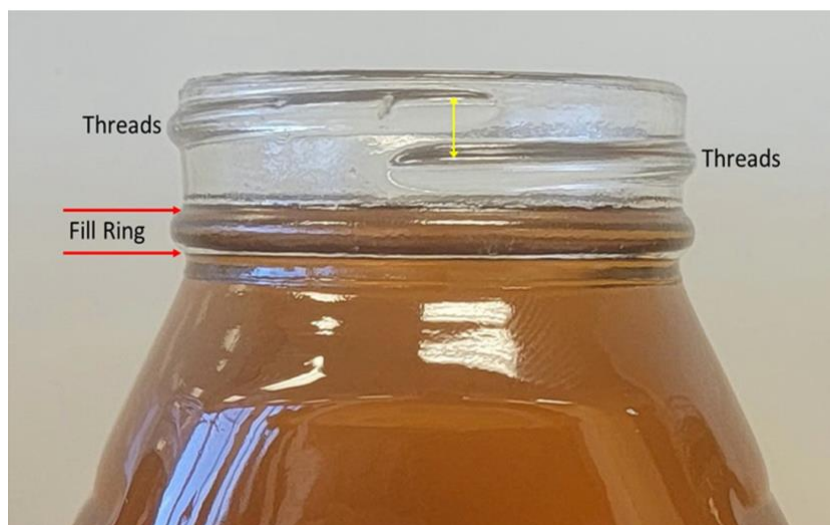
FOOD ITEMS & BAKED GOODS PLEASE READ CAREFULLY: Exhibitors should be aware and keep in mind; this is a honey show. These culinary categories have been specifically chosen because of their ability to showcase honey as an ingredient. The influence and impact of honey on the finished product will be the 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 Breads (rolls, muffins, scones, biscuits, & mini-loaves) The Exhibitor may submit one example of a bread baked by the Exhibitor. An entry consists of no less than three (3), nor more than six (6) identical rolls, scones, 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. 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 & 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 ½ 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 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 ½ 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 Cake (open recipe) 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 ½ 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.



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.

