

Beckley Honey Festival
2025 HONEY SHOW
Sanctioned by the WV Beekeepers Association
In partnership with the American Honey Show Training Council
(AHSTC)

CHAIRPERSON: Mark Lilly

ENTRY FEE: None

ENTRY TIME: Friday, August 15th 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon

LOCATION: Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine – Exhibition Main Building

JUDGING TEAM: Members of AHSTC

JUDGING TIME: Friday, August 15th starting at Noon

EXHIBITS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR VIEWING: Saturday, August 16th from 10:00 A.M. till 3:00 P.M.

ENTRY PICKUP TIME: Saturday, August 16th from 3:00 P.M. till 4:00 P.M.

Revision Date:

5/23/2025

GENERAL RULES OF THE HONEY SHOW

***THE MOST IMPORTANT RULE IS TO READ THE
RULES THOROUGHLY!***

1. The honey show is open to the public and any attendee of the 2025 Beckley Honey Festival who wishes to enter one or more exhibits, except as otherwise specifically provided for herein. The honey show is also open to individuals serving as judges, stewards, and show secretaries, as well as to individuals who are immediate family members of those individuals serving as judges, stewards, or show secretaries for the purpose of receiving comments on their entries. HOWEVER, these entrants will NOT be eligible for awards. “Immediate Family Member” is defined as individuals who are spouses, siblings, parents, children, grandparents, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, first cousins, parents of common children, step-parents, step-children, or any individuals residing in the same residence.
2. Entries must be received between 9:00 A.M. and 12:00 Noon on Friday, August 15th, 2025. **No entries will be accepted after this deadline.**
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 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.
5. 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.

6. Double Entries are strictly prohibited. A “Double Entry” occurs 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).

7. ALL honey or beeswax exhibited, or made part of any exhibit, must be produced by the Exhibitor from honeybees owned and kept by the Exhibitor. Food categories open to the public are exempt from this rule.

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

9. In regard to the requirement of uniformity, items within or comprising any single exhibit should be alike and matching in every way: jars, containers, closures, contents, composition, orientation, placement, presentation, etc., should be identical across all individual items comprising any single exhibit.

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

11. After submitting entries to a Show Secretary, exhibitors may not enter the area where the exhibits have been placed until the area is opened for public viewing. The Secretaries, Stewards and Judges are the only persons who may enter the honey judging area.

12. Judges will enter the honey show area after the close of exhibitor acceptance. This is to ensure as close to blind judging as possible.

13. Copyright of any submitted recipe, artwork, literary work, or other media remains with the exhibitor, but the Beckley Honey Festival 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.

14. For all exhibits which require, or give the Exhibitor the option of using, any display case, dish, base, frame, stand, or any other exhibition aide, the same should be presented in the same clean, neat, and uniform manner so as to compliment and add merit to the accompanying exhibit.

15. Exhibits must be unmarked and not identifiable in any way, except as provided herein.

16. The Show Secretary will provide each exhibitor with identifying labels to be affixed to each exhibit by the Exhibitor as directed by the show secretary for each category.

17. 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 Beckley Honey Festival and the Honey Show Committee are not responsible for any items left after the pick-up deadline of **4:00 P.M. Saturday, August 16th.**

Prizes and Awards

It is the intention that awards will be given in all categories even if there is only one entry in the category. However, to receive an award that entry must be worthy of placement. Entry into a category does not guarantee an award but will receive a comment card from the judges. 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 Beckley Honey Festival or the AHSTC for a period of not less than three (3) years.

Awards & Prize Cards

Awards will be given to First, Second, and Third place winners in each category. In addition, there will be awards for Best in Show and Sweepstakes among beekeeper entries and separate awards for Best in Show and Sweepstakes among the public entries (non-beekeepers).

Point values will be awarded to the First through Third place winners in all categories as follows:

First Place = 6 points; Second Place = 5 points; Third Place = 4 points. Best in Show entries will earn an additional 6 points. The Sweepstakes prizes will be awarded to the exhibitor who earns the highest number of prize points across all categories for beekeepers and separately for the public (non-beekeepers)

Prize cards for participants in the AHSTC Honey Judging Program will be provided electronically (via email) upon request. Points earned may also be counted toward requirements for those participating in the West Virginia Master Beekeeper Program.

Appeals

After the announcement of awards, any exhibitor may meet with the Category Judge to discuss their entry and ask questions. The showroom will be open to exhibitors for a reasonable interval (typically 10-20 minutes) prior to opening to the public to allow for any appeals. An Exhibitor may appeal the Category Judge's ruling concerning their own exhibit in instances where the Exhibitor believes the Category Judge misinterpreted or misapplied a rule in regard to the judging of their exhibit. The Exhibitor must first present their protest to the Category Judge who judged their exhibit, and calmly and clearly state the basis for their protest. The Category Judge should hear the Exhibitor out, and then typically should explain to the Exhibitor the basis for their initial decision and discuss the Exhibitor's concerns with them. The Category Judge, together with the Exhibitor, will then bring the protest to the Presiding Judge. After hearing both sides and examining the rules and the exhibit at issue, if the Category Judge concedes an error, or if the Presiding Judge decides in favor of the Exhibitor, the Presiding judge may amend the decision, award(s), and/or official record in such a manner as to bring about the most just result available. If, after hearing both sides and examining the rules and the exhibit at issue, the Presiding Judge decides the Category Judge's original decision was correct, the Presiding Judge may uphold the Category Judge's original decision. The decision of the Presiding Judge is final.

**THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM BEEKEEPERS
AND JUDGED AT THE HONEY SHOW:**

HONEY (Category H)

H1A: Light Extracted Honey
H1B: Amber Extracted Honey
H1C: Dark Extracted Honey

BEESWAX (Category W)

W1: Beeswax Figurines
W2: Beeswax Candles (Molded Ornamental)
W3: Beeswax Sculpture or Carving

**FOOD ITEMS MADE WITH HONEY
(Category F)**

F1: Honey Cake (pound cake)
F2: Honey Cake (open recipe)
F3: Honey Cake (cupcakes and petit fours)
F4: Honey Breads (loaves)
F5: Honey Muffins (rolls and muffins)
F6: Honey Confections
F7: Honey Cookies
F8: Honey Candy

**THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM THE PUBLIC (Non-Beekeepers)
AND JUDGED SEPARATELY AT THE HONEY SHOW:**

**FOOD ITEMS MADE WITH HONEY
(Category F)**

PF1: Honey Cake (pound cake)
PF2: Honey Cake (open recipe)
PF3: Honey Cake (cupcakes and petit fours)
PF4: Honey Breads (loaves)
PF5: Honey Muffins (rolls and muffins)
PF6: Honey Confections
PF7: Honey Cookies
PF8: Honey Candy

The non-beekeeper public is exempt from portions of the rules stating that the honey in the Exhibitor's entry must be produced by the Exhibitor's own honeybees.

For all exhibits which call for the submission of a white descriptive card with the exhibit, any size card or sheet of paper from 3"X 5" to 8.5"X 11" 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 clip.

**Please read the rules for individual categories for guidelines
And
Food Safety Requirements**

RULES FOR INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES:

EXTRACTED HONEY

H1: Extracted 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 glass (no plastic) “Queen-line” or “Classic” style jars. Exhibits submitted in any other style of jar or container will not be accepted by the show Secretary. 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: conformation 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 in question); and aroma and flavor (for off aromas or flavors). ***See Appendix hereafter for notes on correct jars and fill level.**

BEESWAX & CANDLES

W1: Beeswax Figurines

A figurine is a small sculpted, carved, cast or molded statue (without a wick) that represents a person, animal, plant, creature, or deity (either real or fictional). A figurine may be free-standing, or be supported by a base, stand, or appropriate fixture. An entry is defined as three (3) identical beeswax figurines, depicting any person, animal, plant, creature, or deity of the exhibitor’s choosing. Each figurine may be no more than sixteen (16) ounces in weight and the height may not be less than two (2) inches nor more than twelve (12) inches. Figurines may be molded or hand-formed. Beeswax should be of a vibrant, natural beeswax color, and should have a pleasant, natural beeswax fragrance. 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. Items comprising the exhibit should be uniform in every aspect, including height, thickness, weight, and appearance. Judges evaluate entries on the following: conformation with the criteria set forth herein; cleanliness; color; aroma (for off aromas); uniformity; casting flaws; and sharpness of detail.

W2: Molded Ornamental Beeswax Candles

An exhibit is defined as three (3) identical 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 fragrance. Wicks must be trimmed to one-half inch in length. Each candle 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. All candles must be presented in a free-standing, fire-proof base or candleholder of appropriate size for the candle submitted. The 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: conformation with the criteria set forth herein; cleanliness; color; aroma (for off aromas); proper wicking; performance; uniformity; casting flaws; and sharpness of detail.

W3: Beeswax Sculpture or Carving

An Exhibitor may submit one example of any sculpted or carved beeswax item of their own creation. The use of wiring and/or coloring is permitted. Beeswax should be of a vibrant, natural beeswax color, and should have a pleasant, natural beeswax fragrance. Molded elements are not permitted. The sculpture or carving must be the original composition of the Exhibitor. The sculpture or carving must be mounted or freestanding in design. Judges evaluate entries on the following: conformation with the criteria set forth herein, cleanliness, color, aroma, (for off aromas) subject matter, aesthetic appeal, technical proficiency, creativity, and originality ***A white card with a description of the item must accompany each exhibit.**

FOOD ITEMS & BAKED GOODS

FOOD SAFETY

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.

Any food or beverage item made with any dairy (or other perishable) ingredient or component, or any exhibit that calls for or requires refrigeration for proper storage or holding, must be transported to the honey show, and presented to the Honey Show Secretary in a cooler, insulated/temperature-stable bag, or some other temperature-controlled container. The Exhibitor must notify the Show Secretary of the necessity of refrigeration or cold storage for any item at the time of submission of the exhibit. Any exhibit, or component of an exhibit, that the Judge(s) deem unfit or unsafe due to a temperature-related storage or transport issue will not be judged and may be subject to disqualification.

F1 & PF1: Honey Pound Cake

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. You are not required to use every single ingredient on the list but the use of any ingredient(s) not on 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 | |

Cakes 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: conformation with the criteria set forth herein; appearance, cleanliness; 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.** *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.

F2 & PF2: 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 (6 to 8 inch) cake. 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: conformation with the criteria set forth herein; appearance, cleanliness; 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.**

F3& PF3: Honey Cake (cupcakes and petit fours)

The Exhibitor may submit one example of cake baked by the Exhibitor. An entry consists of no less than three (3) nor more than six (6) cupcakes or petit fours. 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: conformation with the criteria set forth herein; appearance, cleanliness; 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.**

F4 & PF4: Honey Breads (loaves)

The Exhibitor may submit one example of bread baked by the Exhibitor. An exhibit consists of one (1) standard size loaf. 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: conformation with the criteria set forth herein; appearance, cleanliness; 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.** *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.

F5 & PF5: Honey Muffins: (rolls and muffins)

The Exhibitor may submit one example of bread baked by the Exhibitor. An exhibit consists of no less than three (3) nor more than six (6) 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: conformation with the criteria set forth herein; appearance, cleanliness; 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.** *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.

F6 & PF6: Honey Confections

A confection is any pastry, tart, chocolate, or other sweet food or delicacy, not otherwise encompassed in another category in this show. The Exhibitor may submit one example of a confection prepared by the Exhibitor. An exhibit consists of six (6) 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. All entries will be tasted. Judges evaluate entries on the following: conformation with the criteria set forth herein; appearance, cleanliness; 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.**

F7 & PF7: 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. 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: conformation with the criteria set forth herein, appearance, uniformity, moistness, texture, appropriate level of doneness, aroma, flavor, influence of honey on the finished product, and originality. ***A white card with a description of the product and the recipe (including all ingredients, ingredient quantities, & procedure), must accompany each exhibit.**

F8 & PF8: Honey Candy

A candy is any small (bite-sized) piece of sweet food in which one of the primary ingredients is some form of sugar, often combined with chocolate, fruit, nuts, or other ingredients, not otherwise encompassed in another category in this show. The Exhibitor may submit one example of a candy prepared by the Exhibitor. An exhibit consists of six (6) 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. All entries will be tasted. Judges evaluate entries on the following: conformation with the criteria set forth herein; appearance, cleanliness; uniformity, moistness, texture, aroma, flavor, influence of honey on the finished product, and originality. ***A white card with a description of the product and the recipe (including all ingredients, ingredient quantities, & procedure), must accompany each exhibit.**

Appendix

Notes on Correct Fill Level:

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



Queen line Style Jar

Classic Style Jar

