

DEPARTMENT 11 and 15 – Special Baking Contests

NOTE There have been rule changes for 2026 – please read the rules carefully.

Intent to participate in these contests should be done by entry form prior to 6 pm on July 19. Actual baked good may be delivered on day of contest.

The Special Baking Contests judging will not be done on Monday morning.

The Special Recipe Contest, The PA Preferred Junior Baking Contest and the Chocolate Cake Contest will be judged on Monday evening. Entries must be delivered to the General Exhibits, blue Shields Building by 5:30 pm on July 20, 2026.

Results of judging will be made public at 7:00 pm followed by the sale of the entries.

The Apple Pie Contest and Angel Food Cake Contest will be judged on Tuesday, July 21, 2026. Entries must be delivered to the General Exhibits, blue Shields Building by 5:30 pm on July 21.

Results of judging will be made public at 7:00 pm followed by the sale of the entries.

All products must have been made by the exhibitor. No box mixes. Complete baked goods must be brought to the Fair. After judging, the Fair will display only a portion of the product for the week. Use plastic or saran wrap.

**Send ENTRIES to General Exhibit Committee,
Jefferson County Fair Authority
PO Box 213
Brockway, PA 15824
Email: generalexhibits@gmail.com**

Questions and Answers from Karen Dobson, PA Fair Talk Newsletter, September 2019.

Q: Are youth allowed to enter the chocolate cake, apple pie and angel food cake contests?

A: Absolutely! The rules for these three contests specifically say “open to any individual who is a Pennsylvania resident”. The only contest that has an age limit is the PA Preferred® Junior Baking contest which is only for youth ages 8 through 18).

Q: What constitutes a “professional” baker and should they be allowed to enter?

A: Professional bakers would be considered those individuals who make money from selling their baked products on a regular, frequent basis. They may have a brick-and-mortar store front or may run a business from their home or a website. The intent of the state baking contests is to provide opportunities for amateur home bakers to compete.

Entry Details – use the following codes for your entry

Department 11	Section 3	Class 30	PA Preferred Junior Baking Contest
Department 15	Section 1	Class 1	Chocolate Cake Contest
Department 15	Section 1	Class 2	Blue Ribbon Apple Pie Contest
Department 15	Section 1	Class 3	Incredible Angel Food Cake Contest
Department 15	Section 1	Class 4	Special Recipe Baking Contest

ANGEL FOOD CAKE CONTEST RULES



1. Open to any individual amateur baker who is a Pennsylvania resident. One entry per person.
- 2. Entrants may NOT have won 1st place in this Angel Food Cake contest at any other fair in 2026.**
3. The Cake and any Fillings and Frostings must be made from scratch with edible ingredients. No pre-packaged ingredients may be used (ex: no pre-made mixes, cookie dough, pie crust, frosting, etc.). Any decorations must just be edible.
4. The recipe shall include eggs that were produced in Pennsylvania, if possible.
5. The entire cake entry must be submitted for judging on cardboard or other food safe disposable setting. No internal supports permitted. (All pans, plates and dishes are considered to be disposable and will not be returned.)
6. The Cake entry and its recipes will become the property of the Fair or PA Farm Show and will not be returned.
7. Recipe(s) must be submitted with the entry, printed on one side of 8 ½” x 11” sheets of paper. Recipe(s) must list all the ingredients, quantities and preparation instructions. Entrant’s name, address, phone number, and email address must be printed on the back of all the pages.
8. Refrigeration is NOT available at the Fair or PA Farm Show. Entries that require refrigeration after baking must indicate so in the recipe. Those entries will not be sold, auctioned, or otherwise distributed for consumption after judging for food safety reasons.
9. Judging will be based on the following criteria:

Flavor (aroma, taste, good balance of flavorings)	40 points
Inside Characteristics (texture & lightness)	30 points
Overall Appearance (surface, shape, size, color)	20 points
Topping, Icing, Decoration	10 points

FAIR PRIZES: 1st = \$25 2nd = \$15 3rd = \$10

First Place Winner is eligible for the 2027 PA Farm Show competition.

Premiums for the 2027 PA FARM SHOW competition First Place - \$500.00 Second Place - \$250.00 Third Place - \$100.00 Fourth Place – Rosette Ribbon Fifth Place – Rosette Ribbon

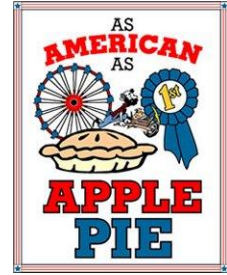
Sponsors: Pennsylvania’s Egg Farmers & PA State Association of County Fairs

BLUE RIBBON APPLE PIE CONTEST

1. Open to any individual **amateur baker** who is a Pennsylvania resident. One entry per person.
2. **Entrants may NOT have won 1st place in this Blue Ribbon Apple Pie contest at any other fair in 2026.**
3. The Apple Pie, including fillings and crust, must be made from scratch with edible ingredients. No pre-packaged ingredients may be used (ex: no pre-made mixes, cookie dough, pie crust, frosting, etc.) Any decorations must just be edible.
4. Recipe **must include at least 60% apples in the filling.** It does not need to be a “traditional” two crusted apple pie and it can have a variety of fillings.
5. The entire pie must be submitted for judging in a food safe disposable pie pan. (All pans, plates and dishes are considered to be disposable and will not be returned.)
6. The Pie entry and its recipes will become the property of the Fair or PA Farm Show and will not be returned
7. Recipe(s) for the pie and pie crust must be submitted with the entry, printed on one side of 8 ½” by 11” sheets of paper. Recipe must list all the ingredients, quantities, and the preparation instructions. Entrant’s name, address, phone number, and email must be printed on the back side of all the pages.
8. Refrigeration is not available at the Fair or PA Farm Show. Entries that require refrigeration after baking must indicate so in the recipe. Those entries will not be sold, auctioned or otherwise distributed for consumption after judging for food safety reasons.
9. Judging will be based on the following criteria:

Flavor	35 points
Filling (consistency, doneness, moistness & flavor)	25 points
Crust (color, flavor, texture, doneness)	20 points
Overall Appearance (surface, shape, size, color)	15 points
<u>Creativity</u>	<u>5 points</u>
TOTAL	100 Point

FAIR PRIZES: 1st = \$25 2nd = \$15 3rd = \$10



Creativity is essential to a varied competition. Do not limit your entry to a “traditional” two-crust apple pie. We are looking for a variety of fillings in the pies; the pie must include at least 60% apples in the filling.

First Place Winner is eligible for the 2027 PA Farm Show competition. Premiums for the 2027 PA FARM SHOW competition First Place - \$500.00 Second Place - \$250.00 Third Place - \$100.00 Fourth Place – Rosette Ribbon Fifth Place – Rosette Ribbon

Sponsor: PA State Association of County Fairs

2026 HOMEMADE CHOCOLATE CAKE CONTEST RULES:



1. Open to any individual **amateur baker** who is a Pennsylvania resident. One entry per person.
2. **Entrants may NOT have won 1st place in this Homemade Chocolate Cake contest at any other fair in 2026.**
3. The Cake and any Fillings and Frostings must be made from scratch with edible ingredients. No pre-packaged ingredients may be used (ex: no pre-made mixes, cookie dough, pie crust, frosting, etc.). Any decorations must just be edible.
4. Cake recipe must feature chocolate or cocoa as a main ingredient.
5. Entry must be a layered chocolate cake (composed of two or more individual cake layers that are stacked vertically. With each baked layer separated by a suitable edible filling.) No internal supports permitted. **The finished overall size of the cake, including decorations, shall not exceed 12” high by 12” wide by 12” deep.**
6. Entry must be frosted and frosting must also be made from “scratch” (no pre-packaged frosting).
7. The entire cake entry must be submitted for judging on cardboard or other food safe disposable setting. (All pans, plates and dishes are considered to be disposable and will not be returned.)
8. The Cake entry and its recipes will become the property of the Fair or PA Farm Show and will not be returned.
9. Recipes must be submitted with the entry, printed on one side of 8-1/2” x 11” sheets of paper. Recipe must list all ingredients, quantities, and the preparation instructions. Entrant’s name, address, phone number, and email must be printed on the back side of all the pages.
10. Refrigeration is not available at the fair or PA Farm Show. Entries that require refrigeration after baking must indicate so in the recipe. Those entries will not be sold, auctioned or otherwise distributed for consumption after judging for food safety reasons.

11. Judging Criteria:

Flavor	35 points (aroma, taste, good balance of flavorings)
Inside Characteristics	25 points (texture, moist & tender crumb; not soggy or dry)
Frosting	20 points (taste, texture, even color))
Overall Appearance	15 points (surface, shape, finished size, color)
<u>Creativity</u>	<u>5 points</u>
TOTAL	100 points

FAIR PRIZES: 1st = \$25 2nd = \$15 3rd = \$10

First Place Winner is eligible for the 2027 PA Farm Show competition. Premiums for the 2027 PA FARM SHOW competition First Place - \$500.00 Second Place - \$250.00 Third Place - \$100.00 Fourth Place – Rosette Ribbon Fifth Place – Rosette Ribbon Sponsor: PA State Association of County Fairs

2026 PA Preferred® Junior Baking Contest Cookies, Brownies and Bars



The goal of the PA Preferred® Baking Contest is to encourage young people across the Commonwealth to participate in Pennsylvania's agricultural fairs by showcasing Pennsylvania grown and produced products in their contest entries.

RULES:

1. Open to any individual **amateur baker** (ages 8 through 18 at the time of the fair's contest) who is a Pennsylvania resident. One entry per person.
2. **Entrants may NOT have won 1st place in this PA Preferred® Junior Baking contest at any other fair in 2026.**
3. Entry must be six (6) individual sized portions of the baked entry item (cookies, brownies or bars).
4. The Cookies, Brownies or Bars, and any fillings and frostings, must be made from scratch with edible ingredients. No pre-packaged ingredients may be used (ex: no pre-made mixes, cookie dough, pie crust, frosting, etc.). Any decorations must just be edible.
5. At least two (2) PA Preferred® or locally produced ingredients must be used in the recipe. Some examples of qualifying ingredients include grains (such as oats or flour), butter, milk, eggs, fruits and/or vegetables.
6. A PA Preferred® logo is not required because not all PA Preferred® products carry the label. The name of the ingredient and the source is sufficient. Contact RA-AGPAPreferred@pa.gov for any assistance with qualifying ingredients.
7. Entry must be submitted for judging on a food safe disposable setting. (All pans, plates and dishes are considered to be disposable and will not be returned.)
8. The PA Preferred® entry and its recipes will become the property of the Fair or PA Farm Show and will not be returned.
9. Recipe(s) must be submitted with the entry, printed on one side of 8-1/2" x 11" sheets of paper. Recipe must list all ingredients, quantities, and the preparation instructions. The name of each PA Preferred® ingredient or locally produced ingredient must be clearly listed along with the name of the source that made/grew the product (ex: PA Preferred Milk – Galliker's brand; or Apples - Smith Farm Orchard). Entrant's name, age, address, phone number, and email must be printed on the back side of all the pages.
10. Refrigeration is not available at the fair or PA Farm Show. Entries that require refrigeration after baking must indicate so in the recipe. Those entries will not be sold, auctioned or otherwise distributed for consumption after judging for food safety reasons.

11. Judging Criteria:

Flavor	40 points (aroma, taste, good balance of flavorings)
Inside Characteristics	30 points (texture, even grain, evenly baked)
Overall Appearance	20 points (surface, shape, size, color))
Topping, Icing, Decoration	10 points
TOTAL	100 points

FAIR PRIZES: 1st = \$20 2nd = \$15 3rd = \$10

First Place Winner is eligible for the 2027 PA Farm Show competition. Premiums for the 2027 PA FARM SHOW competition First Place - \$500.00 Second Place - \$250.00 Third Place - \$100.00 Fourth Place – Rosette Ribbon Fifth Place – Rosette Ribbon 2

SPECIAL RECIPE BAKING CONTEST

Premiums \$6.00 \$5.00 \$4.00

1. Open to any individual who is a Pennsylvania resident. (*Youth may enter this class – no age restrictions.*)

2. All exhibitors entering this contest must use the recipe provided: Spicy Groundhog Cookies. If you do not have a groundhog cookie cutter they can be purchased in Punxsutawney at several of the souvenir sites or you may use a different animal cookie cutter if you have one – suggested size of 3 inches.

3. Entries must be received by 5:30 pm on Monday, July 20. Winners announced at 7:00 pm. Cookies will be offered for sale following the announcement of winner.

4. Entry must be 6 cookies.

Spiced Groundhog Cookies

2 cups sifted flour

1 cup sugar

1 teaspoon baking powder

½ cup soft butter

½ teaspoon baking soda

1 egg yolk

½ teaspoon salt

½ cup molasses

1 teaspoon ground ginger

currants, raisins, or candies

1 ½ teaspoons cinnamon

1 egg white slightly beaten

1 teaspoon ground clove

Sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt and spices. In a separate bowl cream the butter and sugar together until fluffy. Add the molasses and egg yolk and blend. Add the flour mixture and mix well. Form dough into a ball and wrap it in plastic wrap or wax paper. Chill overnight or freeze. For ease in rolling, work with small amounts of the dough at a time. Roll to 1/8 inch thick. Cut out cookies with lightly floured cutter. Place cookies on greased baking sheet. Brush lightly with slightly beaten egg white. Decorate each one by giving an eye – currant, raisin, or small candy. Bake 8 to 10 minutes in a preheated 350 F degree oven. Cool slightly before removing from baking sheet. Place cooled cookies in a sealed container. If you desire a soft cookie place a slice of bread in the container.

Yield: 3 inch medium groundhog cutter – 3 to 4 dozen.