

**ARKANSAS VALLEY FAIR
OPEN CLASS COMPETITION
FOODS DIVISION
August 18 - 23, 2026**

For more information call the Otero County Extension Office 254-7608 or Sally Cope at 254-7483 or 254-7723

SUPERINTENDENT: Judy Brown

ENTRY DATE & TIME: Tuesday, August 18, 2026, from 7:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
No entries will be accepted after this time.

ENTRY LOCATION: Exposition Building, Arkansas Valley Fairgrounds

ENTRY FEES: \$1.00 per item

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- 🍓 All products must have been prepared since August 31, 2025, by person entering them. No more than one entry by an exhibitor in any one class.
- 🍓 **Please no recipes using cream cheese**
- 🍓 Competition is open to all persons, male or female.
- 🍓 Professionals may exhibit. A professional is a person deriving any financial income from their skills in canning, baking, etc.
- 🍓 No product may be entered which is not found in the premium list.
- 🍓 All canned products must include the following information on the label: name of the product; method of preparation (type syrup, type pack, any additional ingredients added) as applies to product canned; method of processing (pressure canner or water bath only) and pounds of pressure used if food pressure canned; elevation at which processing was done; exact processing time; date processed.

EXAMPLES:

PEACHES

vinegar salt dip
hot packed - thin syrup
boiling water bath canned
35 minutes at 5000 feet
September 15, 2025

STRAWBERRY JAM

hot pack
powdered pectin added
boiling water bath
10 minutes at 5000 feet
April 25, 2026

GREEN BEANS

hot pack, ½ tsp salt
pressure canned at
12-1/2 lbs
30 minutes @ 5000 feet
September 1, 2025



- 🍓 Processing times information are from the 2006 (or current) Ball Blue Book and high-altitude adjustments.
- 🍓 Elevation for area towns:

Cheraw: 4131	La Junta: 4078
Fowler: 4341	Rocky Ford: 4180
Manzanola: 4255	Swink: 4121
- 🍓 All jars and glasses must be standard caps and jars (with stamped name on jar) and labeled as above without exhibitor's name. No blue jars accepted.
- 🍓 Appropriate packaging needs to be used to cover products, such as plastic wrap, waxed paper, or a zip type bag.

JUDGING AND AWARDS:

- 🍓 Judging will begin at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 18, 2026, on the Fairgrounds in Rocky Ford.
- 🍓 Any article may be tested to the satisfaction of the judge. Judging will follow state fair rules.
- 🍓 In those classes in which no competition exists, or if, in the opinion of the judges, an article exhibited is not worthy of a first award, the judge may award second, third, or no award. All items will be graded, and only blue grade items will receive first, second, or third awards.
- 🍓 If there are enough similar items entered in any "Other" category to make a class, they will be judged separately. The decision is up to superintendents and judges.
- 🍓 Prize categories are: Best Use of Watermelon or Cantaloupe (any product that has used cantaloupe or watermelon – baking, canning, etc.) or looks like a melon (cake decorating, candy, etc.) – sponsored by Scaff Brothers; Judge's Choice Jr. & Sr. – sponsored by Rocky Ford Food Market; Most entries (person with the most entries in competition) – sponsored by Sutherlands; Most Promising Young Baker (Jr. division) – sponsored by Walmart.
- 🍓 Food items in bakery division not used for display need to be picked up after 2:00 p.m. (or after judging is completed) on Tuesday, August 12, 2025. Decorated cakes will be left intact for display.

CHECK-OUT TIME: ***Sunday, August 23, 2026, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. – No Exceptions!***

- 🍓 Pick up ribbons and cash prizes. Prize money will be forfeited if not picked up between check out times.
- 🍓 Canned goods need to be picked up before 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 23, 2026.
- 🍓 Workers will not be responsible for lost, stolen, broken items or items left after check-out time. The greatest caution will be taken, however, to ensure safety of displays.

FOOD PRESERVATION DIVISION

DEPARTMENT A - CANNED FRUITS

All fruits must be processed in boiling water bath. Fruits should be uniform in size, natural color and shape, well preserved. Liquid should be clear and bright, covering food in jar.

Class

1. Apricots
2. Peaches
3. Pears
4. Apples
5. Apple Sauce
6. Pitted Red Pie Cherries
7. Black Sweet Cherries
8. Rhubarb in Syrup
9. Plums
10. Miscellaneous Fruit
11. Grape Juice
12. Any Other Fruit Juice
13. Tomatoes – water bath process
14. Tomato Juice

DEPARTMENT B - CANNED VEGETABLES

Prime stages of maturity, tender and firm vegetables. Vegetables should be uniform in size and shape. Natural clear bright color. Clear liquid should be covering food in jar. All entries must be canned in pressure canner.

Class

15. Green or Wax Beans - cut or broken
16. Beans, fancy pack or whole
17. Corn
18. Asparagus
19. Beets, small whole
20. Beets, sliced or diced
21. Carrots
22. Mixed Vegetables
23. Miscellaneous Vegetables (other than above) - label variety
24. Stewed Tomatoes, tomatoes canned with non-acid vegetables
25. Sweet Peppers
26. Chilies (No Vinegar)

27. Vegetable Juice

28. Tomatoes – pressure cooker process

DEPARTMENT C - JELLIES (COOKED)

Standard jelly jars must be used. All other containers will be disqualified. Jelly must be processed in boiling water bath. Jellies should hold shape, cut easily with a spoon leaving sharp edges, not syrupy or sticky but spreadable. NO PARAFFIN.

Class

29. Apple Jelly
30. Crabapple Jelly
31. Chokecherry Jelly
32. Grape Jelly
33. Plum Jelly
34. Cherry Jelly
35. Red Raspberry Jelly
36. Mint Jelly
37. Cranberry Jelly
38. Strawberry Jelly
39. Rhubarb Jelly
40. Combination 2 or more
41. Miscellaneous Jellies (other than above)
- label variety



DEPARTMENT D – PRESERVES & MARMALADE

Must be sealed jars processed in a boiling water bath. NO PARAFFIN. **Preserves:** Uniform and distinct pieces of fruit in syrup or jelly juice.

Marmalade: Small transparent pieces of fruit and peel in soft jelly. **Conserves:** Similar to jam but always mixture of fruit and usually has nuts and sometimes raisins.

Class

42. Tomato Preserves
43. Cherry Preserves, red or black
44. Peach Preserves
45. Pear Preserves
46. Strawberry Preserves
47. Plum Preserves
48. Miscellaneous Preserves (other than above) - label variety
49. Miscellaneous Marmalade - label variety
50. Miscellaneous Conserves - label variety

51. Watermelon Preserves

**DEPARTMENT E - BUTTERS & JAMS
(COOKED)**

Must be sealed jars processed in boiling water bath. NO PARAFFIN. **Jams:**

Chopped or mashed fruit cooked with sugar to form thick mixture. **Butters:** Pureed fruit pulp, sugar and spices of smooth consistency.

Class

- 52. Apple Butter
- 53. Peach Butter
- 54. Plum Butter
- 55. Pear Butter
- 56. Miscellaneous Butter - label variety
- 57. Peach Jam
- 58. Plum Jam
- 59. Cherry Jam
- 60. Strawberry Jam
- 61. Raspberry Jam
- 62. Blackberry Jam
- 63. Any other Berry Jam
- 64. Apricot Jam
- 65. Combination (2 or more fruits) - label variety
- 66. Miscellaneous Jams (other than above) - label variety

**DEPARTMENT F - PICKLES &
RELISHES (PINT OR QUART)**

Must be sealed jars processed in boiling water bath. Uniform in size, color and shape. Tender plump or crisp according to kind. Clear liquid, not cloudy. Product retains natural color and flavor.

Class

- 67. Pickled Onions
- 68. Pickled Fruit
- 69. Pickled Beets
- 70. Pickled Cucumbers, sweet
- 71. Pickled Cucumbers, dill
- 72. Pickled Cucumbers, limed
- 73. Pickled Peppers, red or green
- 74. Sauerkraut
- 75. Mustard Pickles
- 76. Mixed Vegetable Pickles
- 77. Bread and Butter Pickles
- 78. Any other Pickled Vegetable

79. Tomato Catsup

80. Chili Sauce

81. Salsa

82. Any Other Sauce

83. Pepper Relish

84. Corn Relish

85. Cucumber Relish

86. Any other Vegetable Relish

DEPARTMENT G - DRIED FOODS

Class

- 87. Fruit Leathers (6 pieces)
- 88. Dried Fruit (½ cup) see note
- 89. Dried Vegetables (½ cup) -(see note)
- 90. Soup Mix (½ cup) see note
- 91. Dried Meats (6 pieces)
- 92. Quick breads made with dried food (recipe must be included)
- 93. Herbs (1 oz.) (see note)
- 94. Noodles (4 oz.)

NOTE: For dried food only: One exhibitor may enter three (3) or more varieties in classes 88, 89, 90, 93. Must be packaged in appropriate containers for dried products.

**DEPARTMENT H - NUTRITIOUS
SNACKS**

Mixtures: Place one half cup of mixture in small plastic bag. Candy, cookies or bars: Place on paper plate in plastic bag.

Class

- 95. Granola Mix, recipe required
- 96. Trail Mix, recipe required
- 97. Cookies or bars, (3), recipe required
- 98. Candy, (6 pieces) recipe required
- 99. Muffins, (3) recipe required

BAKERY DIVISION

DEPARTMENT I - YEAST BREADS

Yeast bread should have a uniform golden crust, smooth, well-rounded top, slice easily and hold shape. The texture should be moderately fine, even grained and free from large air bubbles. The flavor should be pleasant, well baked, bland nut-like taste. Allow bread to cool before wrapping.

Class

- 100. Loaf White Bread
- 101. Loaf Whole Wheat Bread - at least 90%
- 102. Loaf Raisin Bread
- 103. Loaf Rye Bread
- 104. Loaf any other Flour or Grain Bread
- 105. Dinner Rolls, any form (3)
- 106. Dinner Rolls, Whole Wheat (3) - at least 90%
- 107. Cinnamon Rolls (3)
- 108. Raised Doughnuts (3)
- 109. Raised Coffee Cake
- 110. Raised Special Rolls (3)
- 111. Holiday Breads (Easter, Christmas, St. Patrick's, etc.)
- 112. Sourdough – any item

DEPARTMENT J - QUICK BREADS

Quick breads should be even or slightly rounded, golden-brown crust, equally light throughout. Texture should be fine even grain, not crumbly. Flavor should be characteristic of ingredients. Any nuts or fruits should be uniformly distributed. No Quick Bread Mixes.

Class

- 113. Loaf Nut Bread, no fruit or vegetables
- 114. Loaf Banana Bread with nuts
- 115. Loaf Banana Bread without nuts
- 116. Loaf Other Fruit Bread with nuts
- 117. Loaf Other Fruit Bread without nuts
- 118. Loaf Vegetable Bread with nuts
- 119. Loaf Vegetable Bread without nuts
- 120. Muffins, any variety (3)
- 121. Biscuits (3)
- 122. Scones (3)
- 123. Cake Doughnuts
- 124. Gingerbread
- 125. Quick Coffee Cake, no yeast
- 126. Most Original Variety, quick bread, no yeast. Recipe must be included.
- 127. Any Other Quick bread, label variety



DEPARTMENT K - ROUND THE WORLD BAKED GOODS

Items must be labeled. Include name of item and country of origin. Items requiring refrigeration will not be accepted.

Class

- 128. Potica
- 129. Foreign Coffee Cake (patica cake, stollen, kulich, etc.)
- 130. Foreign Coffee Cake; non yeast, (patica cake, stollen, kulich, streusel, etc.)
- 131. Foreign Pastries (3), yeast (French, Danish strudel, puff, etc.)
- 132. Foreign Pastries (3) non-yeast (timbale cases, rosettes, baklava, etc.)
- 133. Foreign bread, yeast rolls, (3), loaf (1)
- 134. Foreign bread, non-yeast, (soda bread, etc.) Individual servings (3), loaf (1)
- 135. Foreign Cookies
- 136. Tortillas (3)

DEPARTMENT L - PIES

(NO CREAM OR CUSTARD PIES)

All pies must be in throw away pie tins.

Two crusts required on all pies. NO CREAM OR CUSTARD PIES. Crust should be golden brown, flaky and crisp eating, cut easily with fork or knife but holds shape when served, pleasant flavor.

Fruit fillings should be whole fruit or sizes of pieces suited to fruit used. Texture should be tender but hold shape and flavor should be characteristic of fruit used. No starchy taste.

Class

- 137. Apple Pie
- 138. Cherry Pie
- 139. Peach Pie
- 140. Berry Pie, any variety - label variety
- 141. Mincemeat Pie
- 142. Raisin Pie
- 143. Rhubarb Pie
- 144. Any Other Fruit Pie (label variety)



DEPARTMENT M - CAKES AND SPONGE CAKES

Cakes must be on a firm base (no glass or metal) no more than 1/2 inch wider than cake. Cakes must be covered with transparent or wax paper. No cake mixes. Cakes should have a neat appearance,

texture consistent with recipe and ingredients used, flavor well blended and pleasant to the taste. **No cream cheese frostings allowed.** Decorated cakes can be uncovered.

Class

- 145. White Cake, iced-made with egg whites, 2 layers
- 146. Yellow Cake, iced-made with whole eggs, 2 layers
- 147. Chocolate Cake, iced, 2 layers
- 148. Spice Cake or Applesauce, iced or not
- 149. Pound Cake
- 150. Devil's Food Cake, iced, 2 layers
- 151. Carrot Cake
- 152. Fruit Cake, light or dark
- 153. Cup Cakes (3)
- 154. Any Other Cake (non-perishable)
Include recipe for proper judging
- 155. Angel Food Cake, iced or not
- 156. Sponge Cake, iced or not
- 157. Light or Dark Chiffon - iced or not
- 158. Jelly Roll (not in tube-pan)
- 159. Bundt Cake - not filled

DEPARTMENT N – DECORATED CAKES

Decorated cakes will not be tasted; they are judged on skill of decorating. Cake forms may be used. Cakes must be on a firm base (no glass or metal) no more than ½ inch wider than cake. Decorated cakes can be uncovered.

Class

- 160. Decorated Cupcakes (3)
- 161. Decorated Cake

DEPARTMENT O - COOKIES (EXHIBIT 3 PIECES)

All cookies should be at least 2" and not more than 3" in diameter and must be placed on a small paper plate and placed inside a plastic bag. Cookies should be of an even thickness. Drop cookies should be free from thin edges or spreading and dropped from spoon - not pressed. All cookies should be free from excess flour on the outside and delicately browned unless recipe states otherwise. Flavor should be free from excess taste of spice, flavoring,

molasses or other sweetening. Texture depends on type of cookies. Thin, rolled cookies or refrigerator cookies should be crisp, others should have a fine even grain, and be somewhat moist. All cookies should be tender. Bar cookies must be soft, chewy or cake-like inside.

Class

- 162. Drop Cookies
- 163. Filled Cookies
- 164. Brownies
- 165. Oatmeal Cookies
- 166. Bar Cookies
- 167. Chocolate Chip Cookies
- 168. Ginger Cookies
- 169. Rolled Cookies
- 170. Sugar Cookies
- 171. Refrigerator Cookies
- 172. Press Cookies - shaped before baked
- 173. Peanut Butter Cookies
- 174. Decorated Cookies
- 175. Miscellaneous Cookies - other than above, label variety
- 176. Unbaked Cookies

DEPARTMENT P - MICROWAVE COOKERY

Class

- 177. White or Yellow Cake, any kind
- 178. Candy (3 pieces)
- 179. Cookies (3)
- 180. Jelly or Jam, any variety
- 181. Muffins
- 182. Loaf quick bread, with or without nuts

DEPARTMENT Q - CANDY (EXHIBIT 3 PIECES)

Class

- 183. Mints
- 184. Fudge
- 185. Divinity
- 186. Brittles
- 187. Penuche or Brown Sugar Candies
- 188. Dipped Candy (Chocolate or summer coated)
- 189. Caramels
- 190. Toffee
- 191. Molded Candies
- 192. Miscellaneous

JUNIOR DIVISION (16 AND UNDER)

DEPARTMENT R – CAKES - JUNIOR

Class

- 193. Cake, iced
- 194. Chocolate Cake, iced
- 195. Any Other Cake
- 196. Cupcakes (3)

DEPARTMENT S – DECORATED CAKES – JUNIOR

Class

- 197. Decorated Cup Cakes (3)
- 198. Decorated Cake

DEPARTMENT T – COOKIES - JUNIOR

Class

- 199. Brownies (3)
- 200. Chocolate Chip Cookies (3)
- 201. Peanut Butter Cookies (3)
- 202. Sugar Cookies (3)
- 203. Bar Cookies (3)
- 204. Drop Cookies (3)
- 205. Misc. Cookies (3)
- 206. Unbaked Cookies (3)

DEPARTMENT U – BAKED GOODS - JUNIOR

Class

- 207. Pies, any variety (except cream or custard)
- 208. Fruit and/or Nut Bread
- 209. Yeast Rolls (3)
- 210. Loaf White Bread
- 211. Loaf Whole Wheat Bread (90% wheat)
- 212. Muffins (3)
- 213. Scones (3)
- 214. Quick Breads

DEPARTMENT V – FOOD PRESERVATION - JUNIOR

Class

- 215. Jelly or Jam, any variety, label content and date
- 216. Canned Fruit
- 217. Canned Vegetables
- 218. Pickles & Relishes (Pint or Quart)

- 219. Nutritious Snacks
- 220. Dried Foods
- 221. Candy (3 pieces) on plate in plastic bag

PROFESSIONAL DIVISION

DEPARTMENT W – CAKES – PROFESSIONAL

Class

- 222. Cake, iced
- 223. Chocolate Cake, iced
- 224. Any Other Cake
- 225. Cup Cakes (3)

DEPARTMENT X – DECORATED CAKES– PROFESSIONAL

Class

- 226. Decorated Cupcakes (3)
- 227. Decorated Cake



DEPARTMENT Y – COOKIES PROFESSIONAL

Class

- 228. Brownies (3)
- 229. Chocolate Chip Cookies (3)
- 230. Peanut Butter Cookies (3)
- 231. Sugar Cookies (3)
- 232. Bar Cookies (3)
- 233. Drop Cookies (3)
- 234. Misc. Cookies
- 235. Unbaked Cookies (3)

DEPARTMENT Z – BAKED GOODS - PROFESSIONAL

Class

- 236. Pies, any variety (except cream or custard)
- 237. Fruit and/or Nut Bread
- 238. Yeast Rolls (3)
- 239. Loaf White Bread
- 240. Loaf Whole Wheat Bread (90% wheat)
- 241. Muffins (3)
- 242. Quick Breads
- 243. Scones (3)

**DEPARTMENT AA – FOOD
PRESERVATION – PROFESSIONAL**

Class

244. Jelly or Jam, any variety, label content
and date

245. Canned Fruit

246. Canned Vegetables

247. Pickles & Relishes (Pint or Quart)

248. Nutritious Snacks

249. Dried Foods

250. Candy (3 pieces) on plate in plastic
bag

**ARKANSAS VALLEY FAIR
OPEN CLASS COMPETITION
FOODS**

Official Entry Blank

Entry Date & Time: Tuesday, August 18, 2026, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

(No Entries Will be Accepted After this Time)

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City/State/Zip _____

Dept	Class	Item	(leave blank)

Additional items may be listed on the back.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXHIBITS:

All care possible will be used to ensure the safety of the entries. However, under no circumstances will the fair be responsible for any loss, injury or damage done to, occasioned by, or arising from any article on exhibition or when left after check-out time.

CHECK OUT TIME: 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Sunday, August 23, 2026.

A professional is a person deriving any financial income from their skills in canning, baking, etc.

I am a professional according to the
above definition.

(SIGNATURE) - AMATEUR

(SIGNATURE) - PROFESSIONAL