



# **FOODS DEPARTMENT**

ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-SEVENTH  
**NEBRASKA STATE FAIR**

August 28 – September 7, 2026

Grand Island, NE



Join the Foods Department in celebrating “It All Happens Here” at the 2026 Nebraska State Fair.

**Superintendent: Deb Langenheder, Grand Island, NE**

**Phone: 308-379-1341**

**Email: [lang4der@gmail.com](mailto:lang4der@gmail.com)**

## New in 2026

- Divisions: 4617 Smoked Meats, 4624 BBQ Meats, 4625 Choc-tacular, 4690 Breakfast Cookoff, Patriotic Desserts – Celebrate America 250
- King Arthur Flour Contest: Specialty Breads with a Patriotic Flair

## Important Dates

- Entry Deadline: Tuesday, August 11, 11:59 PM
- Exhibit Delivery: Refer to the Receiving and Judging Schedule on Page 6
- Exhibit Release: Monday, September 7, 6 pm –8 pm. **Early Release is Prohibited**  
Tuesday, September 8, 8 am – Noon

As an Open Class exhibitor you are an important part of what makes the Nebraska State Fair great. If you've appreciated your involvement and want to find other ways to support Competitive Exhibits, we hope you'll consider coming out to volunteer with us during the event! All volunteers get to pick what department they'd like to volunteer, they receive free gate admission for each shift worked and a complimentary official souvenir shirt. For more information or to register as a volunteer, please contact Haley Hewen at [hhewen@statefair.org](mailto:hhewen@statefair.org) or visit [www.statefairvolunteer.org](http://www.statefairvolunteer.org).

## Special Thank You to our Sponsors.

|                                   |                       |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Grand Island Casino Resort      | • Red Star Yeast      |
| • Nebraska Beekeepers Association | • King Arthur Flour   |
| • Hy-Vee                          | • Jim's Foods IGA     |
| • Hometown Market                 | • Kerry's Grocery     |
| • Conservation Blueprint LLC      | • Nebraska State Fair |

## Class Premiums and Overall Awards

The premiums and special awards listed below are paid by the Nebraska State Fair

| Place | Ribbon |     |
|-------|--------|-----|
| 1     | Blue   | \$7 |
| 2     | Red    | \$4 |
| 3     | White  | \$3 |
| 4     | Pink   |     |
| 5     | Yellow |     |

Nebraska State Fair also awards the following:

- Best of Division: \$20 and a rosette
- Best Exhibit awards for a range of classes in several divisions: \$15 and a rosette
- Three Sweepstakes Awards:
  - Canned Goods (Division 4601-10) – 1<sup>st</sup> place \$25, 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$20, 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$15
  - Baked Goods (Divisions 4611-13, 4618-20, 4622-23) – 1<sup>st</sup> place \$25, 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$20, 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$15
  - Youth Baked & Canned Goods (Division 4630) – 1<sup>st</sup> place \$20, 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$15, 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$5
    - Sweepstakes awards are based on total points from the designated divisions as follows:
      - Blue (1<sup>st</sup> Place) – 4 points
      - Red (2<sup>nd</sup> Place) – 2 points
      - White (3<sup>rd</sup> Place) – 1 point
- Nebraska Beekeepers Association awards special premiums in Division 4616 – Food with Honey.
- Conservation Blueprint LLC will select an entry featuring a Wild or Native Ingredient and present a special award of \$20 and a rosette.

## Sweepstakes Sponsored by Grand Island Casino Resort

These are based on a point system. 1<sup>st</sup> place – 5 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> place – 3 points, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place – 1 point.

Best of Show – 15 points, Reserve Best of Show – 12 points, Best of Division 10 points, Reserve Best of Division 7 points.

Note: If an exhibitor wins for 2 consecutive years, they will be ineligible to win for the following 2 years.

1<sup>st</sup> place - \$300

2<sup>nd</sup> place - \$200

3<sup>rd</sup> place - \$100

The first-place winner will then go in for a people's choice Overall Sweepstakes Winner receiving a plaque and their name engraved on a trophy that will be displayed each year during the fair. The voting will begin the final weekend of the fair after all static events are complete. It will be a google form that you will use an email address to submit a vote.

## Department Rules

It's the Exhibitor's responsibility to be familiar with the [General Rules & Regulations](#) linked here which apply to all Nebraska State Fair open class departments of Competitive Exhibits and the specific rules for each department.

### Additional Rules Specific to the Foods Department are:

1. Competition is limited to Nebraska residents only.
2. Recipes are required for any entry in Division 4611-20, 4622-25, 4630, and 4690. Entries without recipes will be disqualified. Recipes must be typed or written legibly on an 8 ½" x 11" piece of paper unless otherwise stated. A photocopy is acceptable. Include the exhibitor's name, address, phone number, division, and class number on the back of the recipe in the upper right-hand corner. Self-adhesive address labels may be used. Recipes winning 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place become the property of the Nebraska State Fair and/or the sponsoring company. The Nebraska

State Fair compiles winning recipes from each year's fair into a cookbook. The Nebraska State Fair management and staff reserve the right to limit the number and type of recipes used in the cookbook and to reprint recipes in future editions. Cookbooks are available for sale during the Nebraska State Fair in the Foods Department and directly from the State Fair Administration Office year-round by calling 308-382-1620. The cost is \$15 for the 2025 cookbook, \$11 for the 2024 cookbook, and \$6 for the 2023 cookbook.

3. Recipe selection: Members of the same family may not use the same recipe. Also, a recipe from a previous year's Nebraska State Fair cookbook may not be used regardless of the source of the recipe. Recipe Reminders: Be sure All ingredients are listed in order of preparation, using standard measurements. Include pan size, oven temperature, baking time, and yield amount of the recipe.
4. When entering a special contest use the sponsor's product name in your ingredient list i.e., King Arthur Flour, Red Star Yeast, etc.
5. All age-restricted classes will use the exhibitor's age as of January 1. Birth date must be included on the entry form.
6. Youth (ages 17 and under) may enter an item in any non-age restricted classes in Divisions 4601-4625 and Division 4690 or the youth division 4630 but not the same item in both places.
7. Premium money will be sent by check from the Nebraska State Fair office within 30 days of the fair closing. All special awards will be distributed after the fair either by the Foods Department staff or by the award sponsor. The Nebraska State Fair will not be held liable for any award or premium offered by an individual or company, separate from the fair, should that individual or company fail to provide the offered award. However, the staff will attempt to contact the sponsor to obtain the promised award.
8. The superintendent has the authority to remove and dispose of foods that become unsightly.
9. Early release is prohibited.

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## Entering Exhibits – The deadline is Tuesday, August 11, 11:59 pm

Exhibitors may purchase \$5 Exhibitor Gate Tickets. A maximum of 5 exhibitor tickets per family is allowed. No refunds will be given on any unused or lost tickets. To purchase these tickets, go to <http://bit.ly/4bVSm5v> and use password CVENT. Exhibitor tickets go off sale Thursday August 27, 2026 at 11:59pm.

Please note that daily gate admission for seniors (age 60+) and kids (6-12) is \$6 for any day of the fair. Find additional ticket deals and details at [www.statefair.org](http://www.statefair.org) "Buy Tickets".

**Online Registration:** The most time and cost-efficient way to enter is online. Exhibitors can enter all their open class exhibits and order exhibitor tickets (optional) in one session. Online entry begins around July 1. Instructions on how to enter online are found on the website [www.statefair.org](http://www.statefair.org) – Menu – Competitive Exhibits – Scroll down to Foods Department – Online Entry

**Mail-In or In-Person Registration:** When using mail-in or in-person registration, the exhibitor must use a separate form for each department entered. Either print the entry form from the following link: [2026 Foods Entry Form](#) or request a form from the Nebraska State Fair Office, 501 E Fonner Park Rd Ste 200, Grand Island, NE 68801, Phone 308-382-1620.

Entry forms must be mailed, faxed, or delivered to the Nebraska State Fair. The deadline is Tuesday, August 11.

- Mailing Address: Nebraska State Fair, PO Box 1387, Grand Island, NE 68802-1387
- Fax: 308-384-1555
- In-person delivery: Nebraska State Fair, 501 E Fonner Park Rd Ste 200, Grand Island, NE 68801

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## Guidelines for Completing Entry Form

- Enter all items you plan to bring. Write the class numbers of items in each class you plan to exhibit on the entry form.
- There is no entry fee. Items not brought will be deleted at the fair
- No late entries including add-ons and substitutes at delivery check-in
- Birthdate is required on the entry form only if you are entering an age-restricted (youth-only) class
- Retain a copy of the entry form. A copy is required when you deliver your exhibits. For online registration, print either the entry receipt activity report or a packing/loading report.

## **Delivery of Exhibits – See Receiving and Judging Schedule**

After the Nebraska State Fair is underway, enter Gate 5 to the 4-H/FFA Fieldhouse and use the North or West doors.

If you wish to remain at the fair, you'll need to re-enter through the main gate off South Locust. Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup> deliveries you will need to park on E Fonner Park Rd due to the Marathon. You can enter the walk-through gate 5 off E Fonner Park Rd. The other option would be to park in the main public lot and walk in.

## **Return of Exhibits – Monday, September 7, 6 pm - 8 pm or Tuesday, September 8, 8 am - noon**

Early release is prohibited.

Entries from Divisions 4611-4625 and baked goods from Youth Division 4630 are not returned to the exhibitor except cakes, pies, and classes judged on stage during the fair. Cakes and pies must be picked up within 24 hours after the judging is complete. Pies will be refrigerated pending pickup. Winning entries judged on stage will be retained for display. The remaining entries will be released to the exhibitors.

Canned Goods Divisions 4601-4610 and from Youth Division 4630 can be picked up in person on Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm-8 pm and Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 8 am - noon.

Return of Ribbons and Judging Comments Only: If you want your ribbons and the judge's comments please provide the superintendent with a large self-addressed manila envelope with \$5 minimum postage when you bring your entries. Premium money is sent separately from the State Fair Office.

Canned goods not picked up during release time may be picked up from the Nebraska State Fair office, 501 E Fonner Park Rd Ste 200, Grand Island, NE by the end of business day Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> after which they will be discarded.

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## **Judging**

The judge may, but is not required to, award all the ribbons offered in a class (1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>). Fair Management intends that no premium or distinction be given to any exhibit deemed unworthy by the judge. In large classes, the judge may opt to award an additional set of ribbons. All judge's decisions are final. Only judges and assistants are allowed in the judging area, except for the judging done during the Fair on the stage in the 4-H FFA Fieldhouse.

Judging results will be available at [www.statefair.org](http://www.statefair.org). Select Competitive Exhibits and scroll down to each department for results.

## Food Department- Receiving and Judging Schedule

Note that all canned goods and all baked goods are received on Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup> except for those judged on the 4-H FFA Fieldhouse stage during the fair (marked with an asterisk below).

| Division Names                     | Division Numbers        | Receive Date                           | Receive Time    | Judging Date                           | Judging Time          |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Canned Goods                       | 4601-4610               | Monday<br>August 24 <sup>th</sup>      | 8 am – 8 pm     | Tuesday<br>August 25 <sup>th</sup>     | Throughout the<br>Day |
| Breads & Rolls &<br>Cookies        | 4611                    | Monday<br>August 24 <sup>th</sup>      | 8 am – 8 pm     | Tuesday<br>August 25 <sup>th</sup>     | Throughout the<br>Day |
| Decorated Cakes                    | 4621                    | Monday<br>August 24 <sup>th</sup>      | 8 am – 8 pm     | Tuesday<br>August 25 <sup>th</sup>     | Throughout the<br>Day |
| Cakes & Candy                      | 4612 & 4615             | Monday<br>August 24 <sup>th</sup>      | 8 am – 8 pm     | Tuesday<br>August 25 <sup>th</sup>     | Throughout the<br>Day |
| Food with Honey                    | 4616                    | Monday<br>August 24 <sup>th</sup>      | 8 am – 8 pm     | Tuesday<br>August 25 <sup>th</sup>     | Throughout the<br>Day |
| Youth (Canned /<br>Baked Goods)    | 4630                    | Monday<br>August 24 <sup>th</sup>      | 8 am – 8 pm     | Tuesday<br>August 25 <sup>th</sup>     | Throughout the<br>Day |
|                                    |                         |                                        |                 |                                        |                       |
| *BBQ Meats                         | 4624<br>Classes 2401-04 | Saturday<br>August 29 <sup>th</sup>    | 9 am - noon     | Saturday<br>August 29 <sup>th</sup>    | 1:00 pm               |
| *King Arthur<br>Flour Baking       | 4690<br>Classes 9004-05 | Saturday<br>August 29 <sup>th</sup>    | 9 am - noon     | Saturday<br>August 29 <sup>th</sup>    | 2:00 pm               |
| Kids Cupcake<br>Decorating Contest | 4630<br>No Pre-Entry    | Saturday<br>August 29 <sup>th</sup>    | 10 am - 2:15 pm | Saturday<br>August 29 <sup>th</sup>    | 3:00 pm               |
|                                    |                         |                                        |                 |                                        |                       |
| *Choco-tacular                     | 4625<br>Classes 2501-03 | Monday<br>August 31 <sup>st</sup>      | 9 am – noon     | Monday<br>August 31 <sup>st</sup>      | 1:00 pm               |
| *Breakfast<br>Cookoff              | 4690<br>Classes 9011-12 | Monday<br>August 31 <sup>st</sup>      | 9 am – noon     | Monday<br>August 31 <sup>st</sup>      | 2:00 pm               |
| *Smoothie<br>Contest               | 4620<br>Classes 2001-03 | Monday<br>August 31 <sup>st</sup>      | 9 am – noon     | Monday<br>August 31 <sup>st</sup>      | 3:00 pm               |
|                                    |                         |                                        |                 |                                        |                       |
| *Smoked Meats                      | 4617<br>Classes 1701-04 | Wednesday<br>September 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 9 am – noon     | Wednesday<br>September 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 1:00 pm               |
| *Patriotic<br>Desserts             | 4690<br>Classes 9025-27 | Wednesday<br>September 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 9 am – noon     | Wednesday<br>September 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 2:00 pm               |
| *Pies                              | 4619<br>Classes 1901-20 | Wednesday<br>September 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 9 am – noon     | Wednesday<br>September 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 3:00 pm               |

# Canned Goods - Divisions 4601-4610

Receive Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 8 am – 8 pm  
Judge Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>

The most current USDA processing methods must be used: boiling water bath canning for high-acid foods and steam pressure canning for low-acid foods. Processing must have occurred from August 19, 2025, through August 24, 2026.

During judging all entries except for those in Division 4601 (Fruits & Vegetables), 4607 (Juices & Syrups), and 4610 (Main Courses) will be opened. Canned fruits or vegetables will not be opened unless it appears that the specimens are packed in water or alcohol for display. Any spoiled canned fruits or vegetables will be disposed of and the jars will be held for the exhibitor until noon Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.

Canned Goods Exhibits Guidelines:

Jars used for canning must be standard colorless glass jars specially made for canning, sealed with 2-piece lids with the brand name of the lid corresponding with the brand name of the jar. Leave rings on jars. Do not use rusty rings. Jars should be full, proper headspace, liquid clear, free of sediment, and food of uniform size or pieces.

All exhibits must contain a label on the jar (not the lid) with the following information:

- Division and class number
- Pounds pressure, if process method (boiling water or pressure) style of pack (raw or hot)
- Date and time of processing

Additional information is available from the Nebraska Cooperative Extension Office or online <http://food.unl.edu>. Food Safety and Preservation.

## **Canned Goods**

### **Division 4601.1: Canned Fruits**

- 0101 Apples – sliced, halved, quartered
- 0102 Apple sauce
- 0103 Apricots
- 0105 Cherries – whole pitted or pitted
- 0107 Mixed Fruit – at least 3 kinds
- 0108 Peaches – halves, sliced
- 0109 Pears – halves, sliced
- 0113 Any fruit not named – identify kind

Nebraska State Fair will award \$20 and a rosette to the Best Canned Fruit

### **Division 4601.2: Canned Vegetables**

- 0123 Beans – green, snap, wax
- 0124 Beets – whole, sliced
- 0125 Carrots – whole, sliced
- 0126 Mixed Vegetables
- 0131 Potatoes – small whole, cubed
- 0135 Sweet Corn
- 0136 Tomatoes – whole not cherry
- 0137 Tomatoes – halved, quartered
- 0139 Vegetable Soup
- 0140 Any Vegetable not named – identify kind

Nebraska State Fair will award \$20 and a rosette to best Canned Vegetable

## **Division 4602: Dried/Dehydrated Foods**

Involves drying out the natural moisture, preserving all fruit, vegetables, etc. so that the enzymes that cause decay are inhibited. Exhibit in an unsealed pint or half-pint jar preferred. Product must fill jar.

- 0201 Citrus Peel
- 0202 Fruits, Fruit Leathers
- 0203 Herbs – identify kind
- 0204 Meat Jerkies – identify kind
- 0205 Vegetables
- 0206 Soup Mix
- 0208 Snack Mix ex. Mix fruit & nuts

Nebraska State Fair will award \$20 and a rosette to the Best Entry in Division 4602

## **Division 4603: Preserves, Marmalades & Conserves**

Preserves are small fruit pieces suspended in their own jelly, shown in pint or half-pint jars made specifically for canning. Conserves look like jams and have the same consistency, but they are made with a combination of fruits often nuts or raisins are added. Marmalades are soft fruit jelly containing small pieces of fruit or peel evenly suspended in translucent jelly. **Exhibitors may enter up to 5 entries in each class but each one must be a different variety.**

- 0301 Any preserves – single fruit – identify kind
- 0302 Any conserve – single fruit - identify kind
- 0303 Any marmalade – single fruit - identify kind
- 0304 Combination Fruits – 2 Kinds – Identify Kinds
- 0305 Combination Fruits – 3 or more Kinds - Identify Kinds

Nebraska State Fair will award \$20 and a rosette to the Best Entry in Division 4603

## **Division 4604: Butters**

- 0401 Apple
- 0407 Any Butter not named – identify kind

Nebraska State Fair will award \$20 and a rosette to the Best Entry in Division 4604

## **Division 4605: Jams**

Made of crushed fruit, juice combined with sugar and cooked till thick, shown in pint or half-pint jars made specifically for canning. **Exhibitors may enter up to 5 entries in each class but each one must be a different variety.**

- 0501 Lower Sugar Recipes, any fruit – identify kind
- 0502 Dietetic Jam, any fruit, no sugar – identify kind
- 0503 Single Fruit – identify kind
- 0504 Combination Fruit – 2 kinds – identify kind
- 0505 Combination Fruit – 3 or more kinds - identify kind

Nebraska State Fair will award \$20 and a rosette to the Best Entry of Division 4605



### **Division 4606: Jellies**

Juice of fruit boiled with sugar, shown in pint or half-pint jars made specifically for canning.

- 0601 Apple
- 0603 Cherry
- 0604 Choke Cherry
- 0605 Crabapple
- 0607 Elderberry
- 0608 Grape - tame or wild
- 0609 Mint
- 0610 Pepper
- 0611 Plum - tame or wild
- 0613 Red Raspberry
- 0614 Rhubarb
- 0615 Strawberry
- 0616 Any Jelly, not named – identify kind
- 0617 Lower Sugar Recipes, any fruit – identify kind

Nebraska State Fair will award \$20 and a rosette to the Best Entry of Division 4606

### **Division 4607: Juices & Syrups**

- 0705 Tomato Juice
- 0706 Any Juice, not named – identify kind
- 0711 Any Fruit Syrup – identify kind

Nebraska State Fair will award \$20 and a rosette to the Best Entry of Division 4607

### **Division 4608: Pickles**

- 0801 Apple Rings
- 0802 Bean - string or wax
- 0803 Beets - whole or sliced
- 0804 Bread & Butter
- 0806 Cinnamon Cucumber Rings
- 0807 Crabapple
- 0809 Dill Cucumber – sliced
- 0810 Dill Cucumber – whole
- 0818 Pepper – sweet or hot
- 0821 Watermelon
- 0823 Any Pickled Fruit, not named – identify kind
- 0824 Any Pickled Vegetable, not named – identify kind

Nebraska State Fair will award \$20 and a rosette to the Best Entry of Division 4608

### **Division 4609: Relishes**

Must exhibit in pint or half-pint jars

- 0902 Barbeque Sauce
- 0903 Chili-Sauce
- 0904 Corn
- 0906 Pepper – red or green – hot or sweet
- 0909 Cucumber – sweet
- 0910 Salsa – red
- 0911 Salsa – green

- 0912 Spaghetti Sauce – no meat  
0913 Any Relish, not named – identify kind

Nebraska State Fair will award \$20 and a rosette to the Best Entry of Division 4609

### **Division 4610: Main Course**

Must be ready to serve as canned but may be heated or chilled. Please include menu for class 1003 & 1004 on a 3x5 card.

- 1001 Home Canned Meat – identify kind  
1003 Emergency Dinner (five canned foods, all different varieties) – identify varieties  
1004 Emergency Dinner (five jars of dehydrated fruit, vegetable, meat to make up a meal) – identify varieties  
1005 Home Canned Fish

Nebraska State Fair will award \$20 and a rosette to the Best Entry of Division 4610

Nebraska State Fair Sweepstakes Award Overall Canned Goods from Division 4601-4610: Highest scoring exhibitor \$25 and a rosette, Second \$20, Third \$15

## **Baked Goods**

### **Division 4611: Bread & Rolls**

- Bread must be one whole loaf, baked in a single bread pan, about 5x9 inches (top measurements for white and whole wheat bread)
- Quick bread is a term used to describe bread leavened by baking powder or baking soda instead of yeast. Quick bread must measure 3.5x7x2 inches or larger.
- No knead is a method of bread baking that uses a very long fermentation time instead of kneading to form the gluten strands that give bread its texture. It is characterized by a low yeast content and a very wet dough. At the same time, the flavor of the dough is developing as fermentation begins to take place. The longer you can leave the dough resting in the fridge (up to 7 days) the better the flavor and texture will get.
- Muffins or rolls should be shown in groups of six on a sturdy paper plate within a plastic bag.
- Recipe required with each entry in Division 4611. See Food Department Rules #2 and #3.

### **Yeast Bread/Rolls/Miscellaneous**

- 1101 Buns – i.e., Hamburger buns  
1102 Dinner Rolls – cloverleaf, parker house, etc.  
1103 French Bread  
1104 White Bread  
1105 Raisin Bread  
1106 Sourdough Bread  
1107 Rye Bread  
1109 Whole Grain – oatmeal, granola, etc.  
1110 Whole Wheat/Graham Bread  
1111 Specialty Bread – dilly, onion, pumpernickel, etc. including Gluten Free  
1112 Any Yeast Bread not named including No Knead Breads – identify kind  
1115 Specialty Flours

Nebraska State Fair will award \$20 and a rosette to the Best Entry from classes 1101-1115

Red Star Yeast will provide prizes to the winners in classes 1101-1115

## **Sweetdough with Yeast**

- 1120 Cinnamon rolls – with or without frosting – with or without nuts
- 1121 Yeast Coffee Cake or Tea Ring
- 1122 Kolaches
- 1123 Any kind of Sweet Roll including Gluten Free/Specialty Flours– with/without fruits/nuts not named – identify kind

Nebraska State Fair will award \$20 and a rosette to the Best Entry from classes 1120-1123

## **Quick Bread**

- 1130 Fruit Bread – banana, cranberry, etc. with or without nuts
- 1131 Gingerbread
- 1132 Vegetable Bread – carrot, zucchini, etc. with or without nuts
- 1133 Coffee Cake with or without topping (no yeast)
- 1134 Corn Bread
- 1135 Baking Powder Biscuits
- 1136 Muffins of any kind – identify kind
- 1137 Other Quick Bread not named including Gluten Free/Specialty Flours – identify kind

Nebraska State Fair will award \$20 and a rosette to the Best Entry from classes 1130-1137

## **Division 4612: Cakes**

- Entries must be a 1 (one) layer cake and displayed on a plate or sturdy board.
- Recipe is required with each entry. See Food Department Rules #2 and #3.
- Egg cakes must be entire cake. Top side up.

### **Cakes with Shortening, Iced, at least 1 (one) Layer, unless specified**

- 1202 Bundt pan shape – light or dark
- 1203 Carrot
- 1204 Coconut
- 1205 Devil's Food
- 1206 German Chocolate
- 1207 Spice
- 1208 White
- 1209 Yellow
- 1210 Any Layer or Egg Cake – Gluten Free or Specialty Flours – identify kind
- 1212 Pineapple or other fruit Upside Down Cake, 8x8 pan or larger
- 1213 Pound – not layered, topping optional

Nebraska State Fair will award \$20 and a rosette to the Best Entry from classes 1201-1213

## **Division 4613: Cookies**

Cookies must be shown on a paper plate within a plastic bag. Each variety must consist of 6 (six) cookies. Recipe required with each entry. See Food Department Rule #2 and #3.

### **Drop Cookies** Dough is dropped by rounded or heaping teaspoonful onto baking sheet

- 1301 Chocolate Chip
- 1302 Chocolate Drop
- 1303 Fruit Drop – dried fruit
- 1304 Macaroon
- 1305 Oatmeal – with or without raisin
- 1306 Drop Cookie not named including Gluten Free or Specialty Flours – frosted or unfrosted – identify kind

Nebraska State Fair will award \$20 and a rosette to the Best Entry from classes 1301-1306

**Bar Cookies** spread dough in pan, bake, and cut.

- 1308 Butterscotch
- 1309 Brownies – nuts/frosting optional
- 1311 Layered Bar Cookies with nuts, fruit, and/or chips
- 1312 Lemon
- 1313 Pumpkin or Zucchini – identify kind
- 1314 Bar Cookies not named including Gluten Free or Specialty Flours – frosted or unfrosted– identify kind

Nebraska State Fair will award \$20 and a rosette to the Best Entry from classes 1308-1314

**Refrigerator Cookies** dough must be chilled in the refrigerator before baking. Rolled cookies – dough must be rolled and cut into desired shapes with cookie cutter.

- 1315 Gingerbread boys & girls – decorated (4 only)
- 1316 Pinwheel – rolled
- 1317 Refrigerator – sliced
- 1318 Sugar – rolled
- 1319 Refrigerator or Rolled not named including Gluten Free or Specialty Flours – frosted or unfrosted – identify kind

Nebraska State Fair will award \$20 and a rosette to the Best Entry from classes 1315-1319

**Molded Cookies** formed into desired shapes with your hands. Pressed cookies formed with a press.

- 1320 Coconut
- 1321 Filled Cookies
- 1322 Gingersnap
- 1323 Peanut Butter
- 1324 Spritz
- 1325 Snickerdoodle
- 1327 Sugar – not rolled
- 1328 Thumbprint – filled with jelly or frosted
- 1329 Molded/Pressed cookies not named including Gluten Free or Specialty Flours – identify kind

Nebraska State Fair will award \$20 and a rosette to the Best Entry from classes 1320-1329

**Division 4615: Candy**

Entry must be shown on a 6" sturdy paper plate, within a plastic bag. Each entry must consist of at least 6 pieces, unless otherwise specified. Recipe required with entry. See Food Department Rule #2 and #3.

- 1501 Caramel
- 1502 Candy made with Almond Bark
- 1503 Fudge – any type – specify kind
- 1504 Covered Candies – cream centers, cherries, etc.
- 1505 Divinity – any flavor
- 1507 Sugar-Free Candy
- 1508 Mints – cream cheese or chocolate
- 1509 Peanut Brittle
- 1511 Penuche
- 1513 Toffee
- 1514 Any Candy not named – specify kind

Nebraska State Fair will award \$20 and a rosette to the Best Entry from classes 1501-1514

## **Division 4616: Food with Honey**

All entries must use at least 50% honey for sweetening.

- Bread must be one whole loaf, baked in a single bread pan, about 5x9 inches (top measurements for white and whole wheat bread). Pan or loaf size is optional for other types of bread.
- Cake must be a whole cake.
- Quick bread is a term used to describe bread leavened by baking powder or baking soda instead of yeast. Quick bread must be shown on a sturdy paper plate within a plastic bag.
- Rolls must be shown in groups of at least 6 on a sturdy paper plate within a plastic bag.
- Recipe Required with entry. See Food Department Rule #2 and #3.

- 1601 Yeast Bread – white, whole wheat, or whole grain
- 1602 Yeast Product – sweet rolls
- 1603 Any other yeast baked goods made with honey – specify kind
- 1604 Quick Bread or Quick Coffee Cake
- 1605 Layer or Loaf Cake
- 1606 Rolled/Drop Cookies
- 1607 Dessert
- 1608 Candy
- 1609 Dressing, Sauces, or Spreads made with Honey

Nebraska Beekeeper's Association will award the following awards:

First Place \$7 and a 1lb jar of Honey, Second Place \$4, Third Place \$3

Best Entry of Division \$25 cash and a 2lb jar of Honey

## **Division 4621: Decorated Cakes**

We urge all exhibitors to use Royal or Fondant icing on dummy forms (such as Styrofoam). Other icings and cakes may be used but can deteriorate quickly in the heat. Judging will be based on Icing and Decorations.

**Professional Division** open to anyone with extensive training in decorating cakes who is currently employed by a commercial establishment.

- 2121 Any Novelty, Season, Event, It All Happens Here, or America 250

**Amateur Division** Open to anyone with only a beginner's class of training or no training in decorated cakes.

- 2131 Any Novelty, Season, Event, It All Happens Here, or America 250

**Amateur Division – Cupcakes** Open to anyone with only a beginner's class of training or no training at all.

- 2137 Character Cupcakes – multiple individual cupcakes that come together to create a character. The cupcake character must be displayed on a cake board, maximum size of 9x13".

**Youth Division** open to anyone 17 years of age or younger by January 1. Birthdate must be listed on entry form.

Use of #104 tip is Required. Other tips may also be used.

- 2141 Any Cake or Gingerbread House

# Youth – Division 4630

The youth division includes both baked goods and canned goods. It is specifically for exhibitors who are 17 years of age and younger as of January 1. Birthdate must be listed on the entry form. Note that youth may enter an item in any non-age restricted classes in Division 4601-4624 and Division 4690 or in Youth Divisions 4630 but not the same item in both places.

## **Division 4630: Youth Baked Goods**

- Bread must be one whole loaf, baked in a single bread pan, about 5x9 inches (top measurements) shown on a sturdy paper plate or cardboard.
- Rolls and cookies must be shown in groups of six on a sturdy paper plate within a plastic bag.
- Recipe required with each entry. See Food Department Rules #2 and #3.

|      |                                            |
|------|--------------------------------------------|
| 3001 | Whole Wheat Bread                          |
| 3002 | White Bread                                |
| 3003 | Baking Powder Biscuits                     |
| 3004 | Fancy Dinner Rolls                         |
| 3005 | Cinnamon Rolls                             |
| 3006 | Quick Bread – banana, cranberry, etc.      |
| 3007 | Other Bread/Roll not named – specify kind  |
| 3011 | White Cake                                 |
| 3012 | Carrot Cake                                |
| 3013 | Coffee Cake, quick with or without topping |
| 3014 | Other Cake not named – specify kind        |
| 3021 | Brownies, unfrosted                        |
| 3022 | Bar Cookie – not brownie                   |
| 3023 | Chocolate Chip Cookies                     |
| 3024 | Oatmeal Cookies                            |
| 3025 | Peanut Butter Cookies                      |
| 3026 | Sugar Cookies                              |
| 3027 | Holiday Cookies – decorated (6 cookies)    |
| 3028 | Other Cookies not named – please specify   |
| 3031 | Candy any kind – specify kind              |

## **Division 4630: Youth Canned Goods**

Refer to Canned Goods Exhibit Guidelines in the introduction to Divisions 4601-4610 for additional information.

|      |                                               |
|------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 3041 | Canned Goods – fruit                          |
| 3042 | Canned Goods – vegetables                     |
| 3043 | Canned Goods – soft spreads                   |
| 3044 | Canned Goods – pickled foods                  |
| 3045 | Canned Goods – other not named – specify kind |

Nebraska State Fair will award \$20 and a rosette to the Best Entry from classes 3001-3045

Nebraska State Fair Youth Sweepstakes Award  
From Division 4630

Highest Scoring Exhibitor \$20 and a rosette, Second \$15, Third \$5

## **Division 4630: Kids Cupcake Decorating Contest**

Come to the Foods Department on Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, between 10:00 am and 2:45 pm. Sign up on the spot to enter the contest with your name, address, phone number, and date of birth as of January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Each participant will be provided with a variety of supplies to decorate a cupcake.

**\*\*Please note some decorating supplies may contain nuts.\*\***

Rules:

- Competition will be by age groups. Help from parents may be given to those 5 years and younger.
- Participants have up to 15 minutes to decorate the cupcake.
- Participants can take their entries home after judging and pictures are taken.
- Ribbons 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> places will be awarded in each age group and category.
- Please no eating of cupcakes or decorations prior to the contest end.

Categories:

- America 250
- Faces
- Sports
- Animals
- Flowers
- Holiday

Age Groups:

- Up to 5 years
- 6-9 years
- 10-13 years
- 14-17 years

# Live Competitions

The Nebraska State Fair live competitions are a great opportunity to see how your baking skills measure up! Some judging categories to consider include overall taste, texture, presentation, originality, adherence to theme, and skill level.

You may learn new techniques, receive constructive feedback, and make new friends. Judges are shielded from seeing the name of the contestant as they taste. Even though you may think you would not win, try it! You just never know!

Please bring in your entries on the selected dates and times listed in the Entry Book on page 6. After the Nebraska State Fair is underway, enter Gate 5 to the 4-H/FFA Fieldhouse and use the North or West doors. Time is given so you may unload your entries. If you wish to remain at the fair, then you'll need to re-enter through the main gate off South Locust. These live competitions are open to the public, and you are welcome to watch the judging. After the judging is complete, winning entries are retained for display. The remaining entries will be released to the exhibitors.

## **Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>**

|                                    |                         |                                     |                 |                                     |         |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|---------|
| *BBQ Meats                         | 4624<br>Classes 2401-04 | Saturday<br>August 29 <sup>th</sup> | 9 am - noon     | Saturday<br>August 29 <sup>th</sup> | 1:00 pm |
| *King Arthur<br>Flour Baking       | 4690<br>Classes 9004-05 | Saturday<br>August 29 <sup>th</sup> | 9 am - noon     | Saturday<br>August 29 <sup>th</sup> | 2:00 pm |
| Kids Cupcake<br>Decorating Contest | 4630<br>No Pre-Entry    | Saturday<br>August 29 <sup>th</sup> | 10 am - 2:15 pm | Saturday<br>August 29 <sup>th</sup> | 3:00 pm |

### **Division 4624: BBQ Meats**

- You may add a side dish to enhance your entry but will be judged on the meat products.
- Entries are judged on taste, originality, and appearance.
- Recipe required with all entries. See Food Department Rules #2 and #3.

2401 Pulled Meat - Pork, Beef, or Chicken – 16 oz  
2402 ½ Rack of Ribs  
2403 3 Pieces of chicken  
2404 Any other

Nebraska State Fair will award \$20 and a rosette to the Best Entry from classes 2401-2404  
Hy-Vee will award gift cards: First Place \$20, Second Place \$15, and Third Place \$10 in each class

### **Division 4690: King Arthur Flour Baking Contest**

9004 Specialty Breads with a Patriotic Flair

Rules:

- Open to all ages
- Bake your best homemade Specialty Bread using King Arthur Flour
- Exhibitor must bring the opened bag of King Arthur Flour or submit UPC label from the flour bag at the time entry is submitted.
- May enter 1 Loaf or 12 Rolls displayed on a tray or plate. Garnishes welcome. You may use a jam, jelly, and/or sauce to enhance your entry.
- All recipes must be original and become the property of King Arthur Flour and the Nebraska State Fair. Recipes must be typed and presented on 8 ½ "x11" paper.
- Failure to follow the rules may result in disqualification.
- Find ideas to get you started and stores to purchase your flour at [kingarthurfLOUR.com](http://kingarthurfLOUR.com). King Arthur Flours are available in every state so look for them at your favorite supermarket. Just google King Arthur Flour then go to shop and then store locator.



- Photos will be taken and shared with King Arthur Flour and on the fair Facebook page. Winners will be displayed. All other entries will be released to the exhibitor.
- Judging criteria: flavor 50%, creativity and overall appearance 25%, texture 24%.

Prizes:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$75 gift card to [www.kingarthurfLOUR.com](http://www.kingarthurfLOUR.com)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$50 gift card to [www.kingarthurfLOUR.com](http://www.kingarthurfLOUR.com)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$25 gift card to [www.kingarthurfLOUR.com](http://www.kingarthurfLOUR.com)

9005 Specialty Breads with a Patriotic Flair

Rules:

- Open to ages 9-17 as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. Birthdate must be on the entry form.
- Bake your best homemade Specialty Bread using King Arthur Flour.
- Exhibitor must bring the opened bag of King Arthur Flour or submit a UPC label from the flour bag at the time entry is submitted.
- May enter 1 Loaf or 12 Rolls displayed on a tray or plate. Garnishes welcome. You may use a jam, jelly, and/or sauce to enhance your entry.
- All recipes must be original and become the property of King Arthur Flour and the Nebraska State Fair. Recipes must be typed and presented on 8 ½ "x11" paper.
- Failure to follow the rules may result in disqualification.
- Find ideas to get you started at [kingarthurfLOUR.com](http://kingarthurfLOUR.com). King Arthur Flour is available in every state so look for them at your favorite supermarket. For locations near you go to [www.kingarthurfLOUR.com/wheretobuy](http://www.kingarthurfLOUR.com/wheretobuy)
- Photos will be taken and shared with King Arthur Flour and on the fair Facebook page. Winners will be displayed. All other entries will be released to the exhibitor.
- Judging criteria: flavor 50%, creativity and overall appearance 25%, texture 25%.

Prizes:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$40 gift card to [www.kingarthurfLOUR.com](http://www.kingarthurfLOUR.com)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$25 gift card to [www.kingarthurfLOUR.com](http://www.kingarthurfLOUR.com)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – King Arthur Flour Whole Grain Tote Bag.



## **Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>**

|                       |                         |                                   |             |                                   |         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| *Choc-tacular         | 4625<br>Classes 2501-03 | Monday<br>August 31 <sup>st</sup> | 9 am – noon | Monday<br>August 31 <sup>st</sup> | 1:00 pm |
| *Breakfast<br>Cookoff | 4690<br>Classes 9011-12 | Monday<br>August 31 <sup>st</sup> | 9 am – noon | Monday<br>August 31 <sup>st</sup> | 2:00 pm |
| *Smoothies            | 4620<br>Classes 2001-03 | Monday<br>August 31 <sup>st</sup> | 9 am – noon | Monday<br>August 31 <sup>st</sup> | 3:00 pm |

### **Division 4625: Choc-tacular**

- Indulge in your creative chocolate recipes. Be creative and garnishes are welcome.
- Entries are judged on taste, originality, and appearance.
- Recipe is required for all entries. See Food Department Rules #2 and #3.
- Entries must be 12 pieces of fudge, candy, cookies, or bars. Dessert size 8 inches or larger.

2501 Fudge or Candy  
2502 Bars or Cookies  
2503 Any Other Chocolate Dessert

Nebraska State Fair will award \$20 a rosette to the Best Entry from classes 2501-2503  
Hy-Vee will award Gift Cards: First Place \$20, Second Place \$15, and Third Place \$10 in each class

Nebraska State Fair Sweepstakes Award for Overall Baked Goods  
From Divisions 4611-4613, 4618-4619, 4622-4623, 4620 class 2002, 4625  
Highest Scoring Exhibitor \$25 and a rosette, Second \$20, Third \$15

### **Division 4690: Breakfast Cookoff**

9011 Egg Casserole Dish  
9012 Burritos or Sandwiches

#### **Rules:**

- Be Creative.
- Garnishes are welcome.
- Recipe is required with all entries. See Food Department Rules #2 and #3.
- Judging criteria: taste, originality, and appearance
- Entry size: Casserole 1 quart, 4 sandwiches or 4 burritos displayed on a plate or sturdy board.
- Winners will be placed on display all other entries will be released to the exhibitors.

Nebraska State Fair will award First Place \$20, Second Place \$15, and Third Place \$10 in each class

## **Division 4620: Smoothie Contest**

Be creative! Let's make Smoothies! Use any combination of fruits or vegetables you choose. Entry must be 16 16-ounce sturdy container. Garnishes are welcome.

Entries will be judged on taste, originality, and appearance.

Recipe required with all entries. See Food Department Rules #2 and #3.

2001 Vegetable  
2002 Fruit  
2003 Holiday

Nebraska State Fair will award \$20 and a rosette to the Best Entry from classes 2001-2002

Hy-Vee will award Gift Cards: First Place \$20, Second Place \$15, and Third Place \$10 in each class.

### **Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>**

|                        |                         |                                        |             |                                        |         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------------|---------|
| *Smoked Meats          | 4617<br>Classes 1701-04 | Wednesday<br>September 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 9 am – noon | Wednesday<br>September 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 1:00 pm |
| *Patriotic<br>Desserts | 4690<br>Classes 9025-27 | Wednesday<br>September 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 9 am – noon | Wednesday<br>September 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 2:00 pm |
| *Pies                  | 4619<br>Classes 1901-20 | Wednesday<br>September 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 9 am – noon | Wednesday<br>September 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 3:00 pm |

## **Division 4617: Smoked Meats**

- You may add a side dish to enhance your entry but will be judged on the meat products.
- Judging will be on taste, originality, and appearance.
- Entries are made at home and brought in on the day of the contest. Please let a Food Department staff worker know at check-in if your entry needs refrigerated.
- The recipe is required with all entries. See Food Department Rules #2 and #3.

1701 Pulled Pork, Beef, or Chicken – 16 oz  
1702 ½ Rack of Ribs  
1703 3 Pieces of Chicken  
1704 Any Other

Nebraska State Fair will award \$20 and a rosette to the Best Entry from classes 1701-1704

Hy-Vee will award Gift Cards: First Place \$20, Second Place \$15, Third Place \$10 in each class

## **Division 4690: Patriotic Desserts – Celebrate America 250**

- Show off your red, white, and blue!
- Entry size: 12 cookies or 12 candies, dessert dish 8 inches or larger
- Garnish is welcome. Use your creativity. Anything goes!
- Prepare item at home before coming to the fair.
- Recipes required. See Food Department rules #2 and #3.
- Winning entries will be displayed. All other entries will be released to exhibitor.
- Judging criteria: flavor 50%, texture 25%, creativity and overall appearance 25%

9025 Candy or Cookies  
9026 Fruit Dish  
9027 Any other Patriotic Dessert

Prizes Hy-Vee Gift Cards:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$50
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$35
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$20
- Best Overall Theme Board - \$55

## **Division 4619: Pies**

- Pies must be not less than 8 inches in diameter with top & bottom crust, unless cream or custard.
- Crusts must be homemade – no mixes or prepared crusts.
- All cream fillings must be fresh on Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Recipe required with entry. See Food Department Rules #2 and #3.

1901 Apple  
1905 Cherry  
1906 Custard only – no additions  
1907 Lemon  
1908 Peach  
1909 Pecan  
1910 Pumpkin  
1911 Raisin  
1912 Rhubarb  
1913 Coconut Cream  
1914 Any other Cream Pie – identify kind  
1915 Any other Fruit Pie – identify kind  
1916 Original Recipe, prepared filling may be used – give details with recipe  
1917 Two or more Fruit Pies – example Strawberry Rhubarb  
1920 Sugar Free Pie – identify kind

Nebraska State Fair will award \$20 and a rosette to the Best Entry from classes 1901-1920

# Drop-Off and Pick-Up Sites

## For Non-Perishable Exhibits

Please package each department's exhibits separately. For example, if you are entering both textile arts and photography, which belong to different departments, package them separately. Ensure a copy of your entry form is taped to the top of each package.

**Important:** We will not accept exhibits that are not properly packaged. We will make an effort to return your exhibits in the same packaging used for drop-off. To make transportation easier and safer, we recommend packaging your exhibits in a box.

## Drop-Off and Pick-Up Locations:

This year, exhibits can be dropped off and picked up at the following locations during the Extension Office's business hours:

### Drop-Off Dates:

- Thursday, August 13th and Friday, August 14th, 2026

### Pick-Up Dates:

- Monday, September 14th and Tuesday, September 15th, 2026
  - Must be picked up no later than September 15th.

### Location Hours:

- **Lincoln/Logan/McPherson County Extension Office:**  
348 West State Farm Rd, North Platte, NE 69101  
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- **Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office:**  
8015 West Center Rd, Omaha, NE 68124  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
- **Seward County Extension Office:**  
322 S. 14th St, Seward, NE 68434  
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

**Reminder:** Please bring a copy of your entry form(s) when dropping off your exhibits.