



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

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 (see attached example). 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 preparation instructions. The name of each PA Preferred® ingredient or locally produced ingredient must be clearly listed with the words "PA Preferred" and then the name of the source that made/grew the product (ex: PA Preferred Milk – Galliker’s brand; or PA Preferred Apples - Smith Farm Orchard). Entrant’s name, age, address and phone number must be printed on the back side of all 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
<i>(aroma, taste, good balance of flavorings)</i>	
Inside Characteristics	30 points
<i>(texture, even grain, evenly baked)</i>	
Overall Appearance	20 points
<i>(surface, shape, size, color)</i>	
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

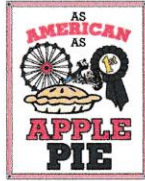
First Place - \$500.00 Second Place - \$250.00 Third Place - \$100.00

Fourth Place – Rosette Ribbon Fifth Place – Rosette Ribbon

2026 Participating Fair and 2027 PA Farm Show Contest Rules

PSACF Release: January 2026

BLUE RIBBON APPLE PIE CONTEST



INSTRUCTIONS TO BE USED BY FAIRS AT THEIR 2026 EVENT

Each county/local fair is encouraged to conduct a 38th Annual Blue Ribbon Apple Pie Contest at their 2026 event. Listed below are the criteria which we would like each fair to use in their contest. The certified first place winner from each fair will then have the opportunity to enter an apple pie in the BLUE RIBBON APPLE PIE CONTEST at the 2027 PENNSYLVANIA FARM SHOW.

RULES for local Fair and the PA Farm Show contests are as follows:

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 Crust 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 preparation instructions. Entrant's name, address and phone number must be printed on the back side of all 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)	35 points
Filling (consistency, doneness, moistness, flavor)	25 points
Crust (color, flavor, texture doneness)	20 points
Overall Appearance (surface, shape, size, color)	15 points
Creativity	<u>5 points</u>
TOTAL	100 Points

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

Each Fair must submit the Contest Summary Report verifying the winning apple pie baker. This person will then be eligible to enter the state competition at the 2027 PA Farm Show and will receive the Official PA Farm Show Certification Entry Form directly from the PA Fairs Special Baking Contest Committee.

***NOTE:** If an individual has already won 1st place at another fair in 2026 for this Blue Ribbon Apple Pie contest, that individual is now considered qualified through that Fair to compete at the 2027 PA Farm Show and is no longer eligible to enter this contest at any upcoming Fairs.*

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 Participating Fair and 2027 PA Farm Show Contest Rules

PSACF Release: January 2026



2026 HOMEMADE CHOCOLATE CAKE CONTEST

Sponsor: PA State Association of County Fairs

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. 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 preparation instructions. Entrant's name, address and phone number must be printed on the back side of all 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
<i>(aroma, taste, good balance of flavorings)</i>	
Inside Characteristics	25 points
<i>(texture, moist and tender crumb; not soggy or dry)</i>	
Frosting	20 points
<i>(taste, texture, even color)</i>	
Overall Appearance	15 points
<i>(surface, shape, finished size, color)</i>	
Creativity	5 points
TOTAL	100 points

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



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 8-1/2" x 11" sheets of paper. Recipe must list all ingredients, quantities, and preparation instructions. Entrant's name, address and phone number must be printed on the back side of all 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