2027 Chatham County Beekeepers Association Honey Show

Jan 30, 2027

Chairperson: Valarie Pallatto, 919-770-7910, valvet@me.com

Location: Starrlight Mead, 130 Lorax Lane, Pittsboro, NC 27312

Entries Accepted: January 30, 2027 from 12:00 PM until 2:00 PM (Starrlight Mead 130 Lorax Lane, Pittsboro, NC 27312)

Release Time: Exhibitors must pick up their entries between January 30, 2027 from 6:00 PM until 7:00 PM (Starrlight Mead 130 Lorax Lane, Pittsboro, NC 27312)

ENTRY FEE: $0.00 per show

Important notice:

For the purposes of this honey show, this is the definition of what would be accepted as honey.

Honey is defined as a sweet liquid substance called nectar that is collected by honey bees from flowers and plants and processed by the bees into honey. Any substance collected by honey bees from other insects is not considered honey in this competition. This includes, but is not limited to, honeydew, forest honey and spotted lanternfly honey.

General Rules

I. ELIGIBILITY

1. The honey show is open to anyone who wishes to enter one or more exhibits, except as otherwise specifically provided for herein.
2. The honey show is NOT open to individuals serving as judges, stewards, or show secretaries, nor to individuals who are immediate family members of those individuals serving as judges, stewards, or show secretaries. “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.

II. Turn-in / Submission Period(s) & Deadline

3. Entries must be received during the submission period(s): January 30, 2027 from 12:00 PM until 2:00 PM (Starrlight Mead 130 Lorax Lane, Pittsboro, NC 27312) at Starrlight Mead. No entries will be accepted after this deadline.

III. Exhibitor Declarations & Affirmations

4. 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.
5. Each Exhibitor must affirm the inclusion of any image, likeness, or work of any individual other than the Exhibitor, portrayed in or made part of any exhibit, was done so with the prior, informed consent of said individual, and that each exhibit is submitted with the full consent of all parties.
6. Unless specifically otherwise provided for under an individual category's rules, ALL honey, beeswax, propolis, pollen, or royal jelly exhibited, or made part of any exhibit, must be produced by the exhibitor from honeybees owned and kept by the Exhibitor. Any exhibit previously submitted for consideration in any prior honey show sponsored by the host organization, with the exception of mead, is not eligible for this competition.
7. All beeswax items, unless otherwise specifically allowed herein, must be prepared from pure, unadulterated beeswax, harvested from your bees. The beeswax must be 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.
8. The preferred colors of beeswax range from white into all natural shades of the color palette yellow. Wax of other color palettes, especially those including shades of gray or brown, shall be deemed faulted, and shall be penalized by the judge(s) according to the degree of severity of said fault. The preferred aroma of beeswax should include honey and/or floral notes. Other aromas, especially those associated with caramelization, smoke, burnt sugar, chemical contamination/adulteration, or other aromas uncharacteristic of that of commonly found in natural beeswax, shall be considered faulted, and shall be penalized by the judge(s) according to the degree of severity of said fault.

IV. Double Entries Prohibited

9. 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.
10. 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.
11. Double Entries are strictly prohibited. A "Double Entry" is 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).

V. Security

12. Exhibits must not be marked or identifiable in any way, except as specifically provided herein. An example of identifying marks that are not allowed, but not limited to, are labels, signatures, signs, advertising, or anything that would identify the exhibitor to the judge. Certain categories will allow identifying marks if they are completely covered so that they are not visible. Please see category rules for where this exception is allowed. Exhibits found to be in violation of this rule will be severely penalized.
13. The Show Secretary will provide each exhibitor identifying labels to be affixed to each exhibit as provided in the rules for each exhibition category. The Exhibitor shall be responsible for placing the ID labels on each exhibit as directed for each exhibition category, unless otherwise specified herein.
14. Once exhibits have been accepted into the competition by the Show Secretary, they may not be altered in any way.
15. After submitting entries to the Show Secretary, exhibitors may not enter the area where the exhibits have been placed. The Secretary, Stewards or Judges are the only persons who may enter the honey judging area.
16. Judges will enter the honey show area after the close of exhibitor acceptance. This is to ensure as close to a blind judging as possible.

VII. Miscellaneous

17. All exhibits submitted in categories containing the designation “Extracted Honey” are to be presented in one-pound, glass (no plastic), “Queen-line” or “Classic” style jars.
18. Regarding 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.
19. 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 complement and add merit to the accompanying exhibit.
20. All weight requirements refer to the net contents of the exhibit. For instance, a 16-ounce jar of honey should contain 16 ounces of honey. This does not include the weight of the container, the lid, the label, or any other packaging.
21. For all exhibits which call for the submission of a white descriptive card or index card with the exhibit, any size card or sheet of paper from 3”x5” to 8.5”x11” 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 clips.

22. Copyright of any submitted recipe, artwork, literary work, or other media remains with the exhibitor, but the host organization 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.
23. Where the submission of a “recipe” is required, that term includes the complete list of ingredients, quantities thereof, and the procedure used to combine and prepare the exhibit.
24. The Presiding Judge may, based on the number of exhibits submitted, combine one or more categories into a single category, or divide a single category into one or more subcategories.
25. The honey show committee reserves the right to reject any exhibit submitted if it is objectionable in any way. For these purposes, the definition of “objectionable” includes, but is not limited to: representations of nudity, graphic violence, profanity, obscenity, or any depictions of a sexually explicit nature. Decisions of the Presiding Judge on this issue will be final.
26. The use of AI to create or enhance an entry in any category is prohibited. An example of entries not allowed, but not limited to are ...AI generated poetry, AI generated photographs, AI electronic media, AI artwork and 3D printing. It is our intent to showcase beekeepers’ talents, creativity, and originality in the culture of beekeeping.

Return/Disposition of Exhibits

27. Exhibitors who wish to retrieve their exhibits at the conclusion of the honey show must plan to pick their exhibits up by the pickup time on January 30, 2027. If an exhibitor wishes to have their exhibit(s) released to a third party or proxy they must indicate so in writing.
28. 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 sponsoring organization, nor the Honey Show Committee, is not responsible for any items left after the pick-up deadline.

Prizes and Awards

It is the intention that ribbons will be given in all categories even if there is only one entry in the category. Entry into a category does not guarantee an award. In order to receive an award, that entry must be worthy of placement. A Judge may, in his or her sole discretion, make or withhold the award of any given prize(s) or placement(s) in any category over which said Judge officiates. 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 association/conference for a period of not less than three (3) years.

Ribbons, Prize Cards & Awards:

Ribbons will be awarded to all winners from First Place through Third Place in each category.

Major Awards

Ribbons will be awarded to all Major Division winners as follows:

- Best in Show

Prize cards for participants in the AHJA Honey Judging Program will be provided electronically (via email) upon written request.

Cash Prizes will be awarded as follows

Major Awards

- Best in Show: $50.00 Midnight Bee Supply Gift Card

Appeals

After the announcement of awards, any exhibitor may meet with the category judge to discuss their entry and ask questions. An Exhibitor may appeal the Bench Judge's ruling concerning their own exhibit in instances where the Exhibitor believes the Bench Judge misinterpreted or misapplied a rule in regard to the judging of their exhibit. The Presiding Judge, after hearing both sides and examining the rules and the exhibit at issue may, as he or she deems appropriate, uphold, reverse, or amend the decision, award(s), and/or official record in such a manner as to affect the most just result available. The decision of the Presiding Judge is final.

Accepted Categories

The following categories will be accepted and judged at the honey show:

EXTRACTED HONEY (Category H)

- Light Extracted Honey
- Amber Extracted Honey
- Dark Extracted Honey
- Black Jar

BEESWAX (Category W)

- Beeswax Block (standard)
- Beeswax Bars

ARTS & CRAFTS RELATED TO BEEKEEPING (Category A)

- Photography (open)

NOVICE (Category N)

- Novice Extracted Honey
- Novice Beeswax

EXTRACTED HONEY (Category H)

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 jars, as specified in Rule 17 under the General Rules of the Honey Show. 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: confirmation 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 needed); and aroma and flavor (for off aromas or flavors). *See Appendix hereafter for notes on correct jars and fill level.

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on each of the jars comprising the exhibit. The labels should be affixed at the front, bottom, center of each jar, approximately ½ inch from the bottom of the jar.

Black Jar

An entry consists of not less than two ounces, nor more than four ounces, of pure, unadulterated honey. The required jar will be provided by the Show Secretary at the sign-in table, and the Exhibitor

will transfer their entry into the jar and return the exhibit to the Show Secretary. Black Jar entries will be judged by People's Choice for flavor only.

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the exhibit. The label should be affixed at the front, bottom, center of the jar, approximately ½ inch from the bottom of the jar. *Black Jar entries are not eligible for Best in Show.

In the Black Jar category, 3 places will be awarded.

Black Jar entries will not be returned.

BEESWAX (Category W)

Beeswax Block (standard)

An exhibit consists of one (1) block of pure beeswax. The block must weigh between one to two pounds, no more, and should have a thickness no greater than 1.5 inches. The wax should be clean, and free of impurities. The block should be smooth-surfaced and free of blemishes, decorations or embellishments. Beeswax should be of a vibrant, natural beeswax color, and should have a pleasant, natural beeswax aroma. The preferred colors of beeswax range from white into all natural shades of the color palette yellow. Wax of other color palettes, especially those including shades of gray or brown, shall be deemed faulted, and shall be penalized by the judge(s) according to the degree of severity of said fault. The preferred aroma of beeswax should include honey and/or floral notes. Other aromas, especially those associated with caramelization, smoke, burnt sugar, chemical contamination/adulteration, or other aromas uncharacteristic of that of commonly found in natural beeswax, shall be considered faulted, and shall be penalized by the judge(s) according to the degree of severity of said fault. The block should be submitted on a plain, white plate or board (which may be made of paper, foam, cardboard, or any similar material), in a zip-top bag. Alternatively, at the Exhibitor's option, the block may be presented in a protective display case. If a show case is used, it must not exceed 12" (length) x12" (width) x 4" (depth), and the wax block must be readily accessible for judging. The showcase will not be judged, aside for cleanliness. Judges evaluate entries on the following: confirmation with the criteria set forth herein; cleanliness; color; finish; absence of pouring or casting defects including cracks, raised edges, unevenness, rippled or wavy surfaces, and aroma (for off aromas).

*The presence of the word "BEESWAX" imprinted on one surface of the block shall not be counted as a flaw or defect. However, any such mark or imprint shall be judged for casting flaws and sharpness of detail.

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the underside of the wax block, and the second label on the top right-hand corner of the display case lid or plastic bag.

Beeswax Bars

An exhibit is defined as six (6) identical one (1) ounce beeswax bars. Beeswax should be of a vibrant, natural beeswax color, and should have a pleasant, natural beeswax aroma. The preferred colors of beeswax range from white into all natural shades of the color palette yellow. Wax of other color palettes, especially those including shades of gray or brown, shall be deemed faulted, and shall be penalized by the judge(s) according to the degree of severity of said fault. The preferred aroma of

beeswax should include honey and/or floral notes. Other aromas, especially those associated with caramelization, smoke, burnt sugar, chemical contamination/adulteration, or other aromas uncharacteristic of that of commonly found in natural beeswax, shall be considered faulted, and shall be penalized by the judge(s) according to the degree of severity of said fault. The wax should be clean, and free of impurities. The bars should be smooth-surfaced, free of blemishes, and identical in every way. The bars should be submitted on a plain, white plate or board (which may be made of paper, foam, cardboard, or any similar material), in a zip-top bag. Alternatively, at the Exhibitor's option, the bars may be presented in a protective display case. If a show case is used, it must not exceed 12" (length) x 12" (width) x 4" (depth), and the wax bars must be readily accessible for judging. The show case will not be judged, aside for cleanliness. Judges evaluate entries on the following: confirmation with the criteria set forth herein; cleanliness; color; aroma (for off aromas); uniformity; casting flaws; and sharpness of detail.

*The presence of the word "BEESWAX" imprinted on one surface of each bar shall not be counted as a flaw or defect. However, any such mark or imprint shall be judged for casting flaws and sharpness of detail.

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the top center of the plate the wax blocks were presented on, and the second label on the top right-hand corner of the display case lid or plastic bag.

ARTS & CRAFTS RELATED TO BEEKEEPING (Category A)

Photography Related to Beekeeping

Photographs Related to Beekeeping are judged in the selected subcategories. Specific requirements pertaining to each respective subcategory are:

a. Open — no restrictions other than those set forth herein.

Exhibitors may submit one exhibit in each of these selected subcategories. An Exhibitor may submit one example of any beekeeping-related photography of their own composition. The photograph(s) must be related to some aspect of apiculture and must be the original composition of the Exhibitor. Photographs must have a viewable area of 5"x 7" or less in size. The photograph(s) must be mounted, matted, or framed. The photograph(s) must stand up for display; either equipped with an easel back, or the entrant must provide an easel on which to display the exhibit. Judges evaluate entries on the following: subject matter, aesthetic appeal, technical proficiency, creativity, and originality. *A white card with a description of the photograph must accompany each exhibit.

The Show Secretary will provide each exhibitor identifying labels to be affixed to the exhibit. The Exhibitor shall place one label on the frame on the back of the exhibit (centered near the top), and the second label on the white card accompanying the exhibit.

NOVICE (Category N)

Novice Extracted Honey

This category is open only to exhibitors who have never won a First, Second or Third prize in any extracted honey category at any prior honey show. An exhibit consists of one (1) one-pound jar of extracted honey, as specified in Rule 17 under the General Rules of the Honey Show. 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: confirmation 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 needed); and aroma and flavor (for off aromas or flavors). *See Appendix hereafter for notes on correct jars and fill level.

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the exhibit. The label should be affixed at the front, bottom, center of the jar, approximately ½ inch from the bottom of the jar.

Novice Beeswax

This category is open only to exhibitors who have never won a First, Second or Third prize in any beeswax category at any prior honey show. An exhibit consists of one (1) beeswax item, weighing no less than one (1) ounce and no more than eight (8) ounces. Beeswax should be of a vibrant, natural beeswax color, and should have a pleasant, natural beeswax aroma. The preferred colors of beeswax range from white into all natural shades of the color palette yellow. Wax of other color palettes, especially those including shades of gray or brown, shall be deemed faulted, and shall be penalized by the judge(s) according to the degree of severity of said fault. The preferred aroma of beeswax should include honey and/or floral notes. Other aromas, especially those associated with caramelization, smoke, burnt sugar, chemical contamination/adulteration, or other aromas uncharacteristic of that of commonly found in natural beeswax, shall be considered faulted, and shall be penalized by the judge(s) according to the degree of severity of said fault. The beeswax should be clean, and free of impurities. The item should be smooth-surfaced, and free of blemishes. The item should be submitted on a plain, white plate or board (which may be made of paper, foam, cardboard, or any similar material), in a zip-top bag. Judges evaluate entries on the following: confirmation with the criteria set forth herein; cleanliness; color; aroma (for off aromas); uniformity; casting flaws; and sharpness of detail.

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the exhibit. The label should be affixed on the bottom of the item.

Appendix

Notes on Correct Fill Level:

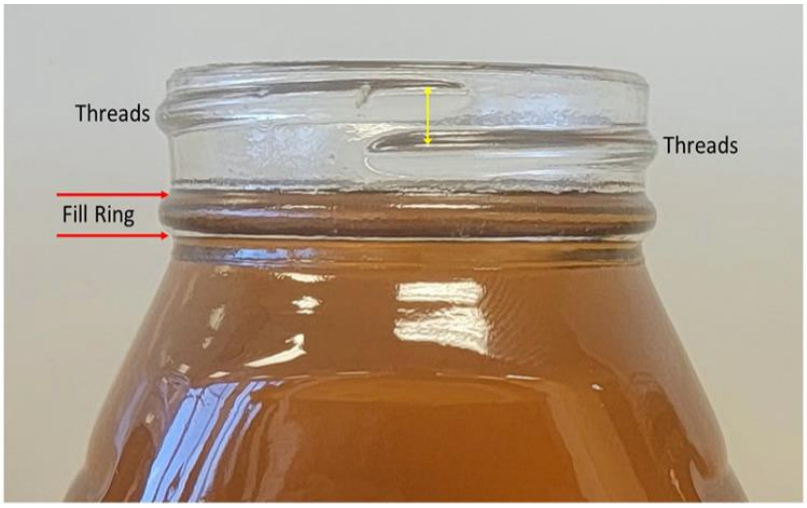
The correct fill level on honey entries is at the top of the fill ring of the jar, without going over.

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.



Jars

Extracted honey should be entered in 1-lb queenline or classic jars.

