

Brazoria County Fair World Class Barbecue Cook-Off Contest

Chairman – Katie Goff

Sanctioned by CBA (Championship Barbecue Alliance)
The most current CBA rules will be used: <https://cbabbq.com>

Team Entry Fee and Dates

Entry form and fee must be completed and paid for each individual spot.

Registration - Regular Spot: \$400

Registration - Premium Spot: \$525

Jackpot Contests: \$20 each

Open Registration

June 1, 2026 - UNTIL FULL or Thursday, October 8, 2026, by 5 pm

BCFA BBQ Head Cook's/Packet Pickup Meeting

Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at 7 pm, BCFA Auditorium

Cook-Off Arrivals Times

Thursday, October 8, 2026, 7 am – 8 pm

Friday, October 9, 2026, 7 am – 12 noon

CBA Head Cooks/Container Pickup Meeting

Friday, October 9, 2026 - Cook-Off Pavilion

Tray pickup starts at 12 noon – Meeting at 1:00 pm

(Times are at the discretion of the CBA Head Judge)

Judging Times

Auxiliary Categories - Friday, October 9, 2026*

5:00 pm - Beef Fajitas Jackpot

6:00 pm - Dessert Jackpot

7:00 pm - Beans Jackpot

8:00 pm - Friday Special Jackpot

Sanctioned Categories - Saturday, October 10, 2026

12 noon - Chicken Turn In

1:00 pm - Pork Ribs

2:00 pm - Pork

3:00 pm – Brisket

4:30 pm - Awards

Rules

Registration and entry fee payment will be available online only. Entries will be limited to the first 93 entrants on a first come, first serve basis. The online entry form is at:

<https://www.brazoriacountyfair.com/events/2024/2024-bbq-cookoff>

1. Open registration team entries and fees can be submitted starting the first Monday in June (June 1st). Team entry and fee must be registered and paid **INDIVIDUALLY UNTIL FULL OR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2026, BY 5 PM. NO ENTRIES WILL BE TAKEN AFTER THAT DATE AND TIME.**

If team registration and fee payment has been received before or at the HEAD COOKS MEETING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2026, then teams can pick their spot at the meeting. If registration and fee is received after September 22, 2026, the BBQ Committee Chairman will choose a spot location. All refunds, if any, will be at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT A TEAM REPRESENTATIVE LISTED ON THE ENTRY FORM BE PRESENT AT BCFA BBQ HEAD COOK'S MEETING.*

2. A maximum of two (2) spaces will be allowed for any team or related teams. There will be a waiting list of teams that cannot obtain an entry to the 2026 BCFA BBQ Cook-Off due to space limitations each year. If the teams on the waiting list turn in a registration the following year before the deadline, they will maintain their position on the waiting list for a space the following year if new spots become available.
3. Entrants for the Barbecue Cook-Off will be those persons who have completed the online registration, submitted an entry fee **FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL SPOT**, have been approved, and satisfactorily met the Rules and Regulations governing the contest. For any new and returning teams wanting additional spots, paying an entry fee does not entitle you to a spot but only puts you on the waiting list to select spots at the head cook's meeting. Any team that paid entry and did not receive a spot at the head cook's meeting will receive a refund in 7 to 10 business days following the day after the head cook's meeting.
4. For the purpose of assigning team space - the person signing as coordinator, owner, or chief cook's signature on the online registration form will be considered the owner of that team name, and the use of a name of another team from the previous year will not be allowed. If a different team name is desired, the team must fill out the registration form using last year's name first, followed by the new name. No change of team name will be

allowed after the Fair Office accepts an entry application form.

5. Five (5) wristbands for head cook and assistant cooks will be given to each team to provide admission to the BBQ gate ONLY and ensure the right to stay on site after hours. An additional five (5) wristbands will be available for purchase (\$20/each) and signed out by the Head Cook ONLY. Team members must have wristbands fastened around their wrists so that they cannot be slipped off. Wristbands are used at BBQ Gate 4 ONLY.
6. All contestants must check in between 7 am and 8 pm Thursday, October 8, 2026, or between 7 am and before 11:30 am on Friday, October 9, 2026. All vehicles must be out by 12 noon on Friday, October 9, 2026. Teams may spot their equipment in their space and leave the contest area. Only teams that have registered, paid the \$50 fee per spot, and have wristbands attached to their wrist are permitted to stay Thursday after 8pm. However, they must stay within their designated spots. A minimum of 8 teams is needed to participate.
7. Each entry will receive three hanging (BU) unloading vehicle passes to enter the contest area. This pass is to be used by vehicles unloading equipment or supplies only. Only vehicles with vehicle passes will be allowed into the contest area. Passes must be in plain sight and always remain on the vehicle while the vehicle is in the contest area. Vehicles can move around only during open-gate hours. These vehicles should exit the contest area after the unloading is complete. No vehicles will be allowed into or out of the contest area before or after gate hours. **NO VEHICLE CAN STAY IN COOKING SPOTS DURING CLOSED GATE TIMES OR OVERNIGHT.** Contestants will not be permitted to bring any wheeled transportation, i.e., golf carts, three-wheelers, four-wheelers, bicycles, etc., into the contest area at any time.
8. Each entrant will be assigned a regular 30' wide by 36' deep or a premium 45' wide by 40' deep cooking site. Props, trailers, tents, motor homes, or other contestant equipment must not exceed the assigned space. **ANY AXLE VEHICLE OR TRAILER MUST HAVE THE WHEELS CHOCKED.** Contestants are not allowed to use ditches, unused spaces, unused roads, or walkways for any reason for any use. The Barbecue Committee reserves the right to adjust spaces, sites, walkways, ditches, or roads as needed. The Fair

Association will supply space and two standard 120-volt 15-amp plugs for electricity.

9. Any special entertainment (i.e., bands, promotions, skits, shows, demonstrations, contests, etc.) must be fully described in writing and submitted to the Fair Office before September 11, 2025, for approval by the Chairpersons of the Barbecue Committee.
10. Noise levels from cooking sites must not interfere with or disrupt ongoing concerts. While concerts are going on all music must be turned OFF.
11. No additional ice or alcoholic beverages may be brought into the BBQ area after 12 noon on Friday, October 9, 2026, through any BCFA entrance gate or RV area. Additional beer and ice may be purchased from the Fair concessions.
12. NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL WILL BE ALLOWED INTO THE DESIGNATED CONCERT AREA.

No single-serve glass bottles will be allowed in the cook-off contest area.

13. Due to TABC laws, there will be NO open bars, NO margarita or other slush machine for liquor, NO general area for liquor in your assigned area, and NO jello shots.
14. The Chief Cook will be held responsible for the conduct of his team and guests. EXCESSIVE USE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND/OR UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT WILL BE GROUNDS FOR DISQUALIFICATION IN CURRENT AND FUTURE PARTICIPATION PLUS FORFEITURE OF AWARDS AND SITE NEXT YEAR.
15. Each entry must have its own pit and members. Team members are not allowed to participate in the cook-off on more than one team. Each entry must cook on their own pit for all categories you enter. Entries cannot share the same cooking pit. We reserve the right to inspect at any time.
16. Each team must post a sign on the cook site (minimum size 11" x 17") listing the space number, team name, head cook, and all team members' names. The sign must be posted on the outside space perimeter where the sign can be clearly seen from the walkway in front of the team's space.

17. Holes or pits are not permitted. No holes from stakes, tent poles, BBQ pits, etc., are permitted in FLY-ASH. You must have Pit-Bibs to catch your pit grease. Any equipment or devices that may damage the surface area of the contest site in any way are prohibited. A grease trap will be provided and located at area road & BBQ entrance road. Ash barrel will be provided and located at midway & BBQ entrance.
18. **Absolutely no pets are allowed on the grounds per BCFA rules.***
19. **All generators, chillers, RVs, and other powered equipment brought to the cook-off must be "whisper quiet" models. Any other type will not be allowed unless approved in writing by the Chairman of the BBQ Cook-Off Committee BEFORE 5 pm on Friday, September 25, 2026.***
20. No Fundraising of any kind is allowed during the BBQ Cook-Off by any Cook-Off Teams.
21. The contestants must ensure that their respective areas are kept clean and that the cooking sites are cleaned and policed following the Cook-Off Contest. Any space left in disarray or with trash, garbage, hay, etc... could result in non-acceptance in next year's contest and/or forfeiture of site location next year.
22. One trash receptacle will be provided for each cooking space. **The cook-off team is responsible** for pulling each trash bag from the receptacle and placing it outside their cooking space. BCFA will periodically come around to pick up the trash bags and provide additional trash liners if needed. Trash receptacles located in the BBQ Pavilion for use by the BBQ Committee are NOT to be removed from the Pavilion.
23. All equipment in your space must be removed **Sunday from 7 am to 12 noon**, using the BBQ Gate 4 ONLY. Unless approved in writing by the Chairman of the BBQ Cook-off Committee BEFORE 5pm on Friday, September 25, 2026.
24. Fires must be wood or wood substances. Contestants must take all precautions necessary to prevent fire hazards. All fires must be contained properly. Contestants may be

disqualified if precautionary measures are not followed or unsafe conditions exist.

25. Each cooking team must have an unexpired fire extinguisher, rated for types A, B & C fires, with a minimum of 5 pounds. A fire extinguisher is required for each assigned spot and should be centrally located.
26. There are eight cooking competitions:

Beef Fajitas, Dessert, Beans, Friday Night Special, Chicken, Pork Ribs, Pork, and Brisket.

JACKPOT contests include Beef Fajitas, Dessert, Beans, and Friday Special.

Chicken, Pork Ribs, Pork, and Brisket are CBA SANCTIONED judging contests.
27. Barbeque may not be sold to the general public.
28. During the cook-off, the BBQ Committee reserves the right to request one person provided by EACH team to help judge any category if needed. Judges for all contest categories must be 21 years of age or older.
29. All Friday auxiliary contests are optional jackpot contests, which must be purchased separately from team entry. Cost is \$20 per category. Jackpot entries may be purchased at either Head Cooks Meeting. Each team is limited to one (1) additional jackpot entry per spot, per jackpot contest.*
30. Beef Fajitas are to be placed in the judging container with or without garnishing. Only the meat will be judged.
31. Desserts must be cooked on-site, in the spot registered. No alcohol shall be placed in the judging container, including beer, wine, jello shots, etc., but may be used in the cooking process. Failure to comply will result in the entry being disqualified.
32. Only pinto beans are permitted for use in the bean jackpot contest.
33. Each Friday Night Special entry must contain at least 4 oz of animal protein, such as beef, chicken, pork, fish, lamb, etc.

No alcohol of any kind shall be placed in the judging container, including beer, wine, jello shots, etc., but may be used in the cooking process. Failure to comply will result in the entry being disqualified.

34. The Showmanship contest is an OPTIONAL, FREE contest that begins at 5:30 pm on Friday, October 9, 2026. Teams participating in showmanship will be judged on appearance, theme, hospitality, entertainment, and rig/pit area. First, second, and third place will be given awards.
35. The Kids Cook-Off Competition is CBA Sanctioned and will be held on Saturday, October 10, 2026, and will consist of two age divisions: Junior (6-11 years old) and Senior (12 to 17 years old). The entry fee per cooker is \$25, and each division is open to 20 cookers.
36. Registration will begin on Monday, July 27, 2026, and closes when full or at 5 pm on Friday, September 18, 2026. <https://www.brazoriacountyfair.com/events/2024/kids-cook>,
37. The Brazoria County Fat Stock and Fair Association, Inc. WILL NOT be responsible for theft or damage to property.
38. Unless otherwise specified, all participants must comply with the Brazoria County Fair Association General Rules and Regulations (available online). <https://www.brazoriacountyfair.com/p/about-us-/general-rules>
39. The consequences will be as follows:

First offense - Glass bottles in violation will be confiscated.

Second and/or subsequent offenses - Glass bottles confiscated, loss of same cooking space the next year, and person or persons in violation will be escorted out the fair gate.
40. Awards will be presented at a minimum for the following categories: *

Grand Champion

Reserve Grand Champion

Chicken - First Place, Second Place, and Third Place

Pork Ribs - First Place, Second Place, and Third Place

Pork - First Place, Second Place, and Third Place

Brisket - First Place, Second Place, and Third Place

41. Decisions of the Barbecue Cook-Off Contest Committee Chairman and Chairpersons will be final.*

2025 Grand Champion – Josh Jones, All American Rigging

2025 Reserve Grand Champion – Eric Riojas, Loud and Heavy

*2026

