



CANNING COMPETITION

Competitive Exhibits Office
Phone: 716-649-3900 ext. 6407
ceoffice@ecfair.org

ONLINE ENTRY REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 1, 2026
ONLINE ENTRY REGISTRATION CLOSES JULY 27, 2026
ENTRY DROP OFF AUGUST 10, 2026, 1PM-8PM at the AG-GRANGE BUILDING
ENTRY REMOVAL AUGUST 24, 2026, 7:30AM-9AM

Entry Fee: \$25.00 allows entries throughout Departments in Creative Arts, Ag-Grange, and Environment and Sportsman. A promo code redeemable for three (3) admission passes will be emailed to the exhibitor on Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Ages: 13 & Up

Prize Checks: Available Thursday, August 20, 2026, between 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM at the AG-Grange Info Desk along with satin ribbons earned. Checks not picked up by Sunday, August 23, 2026, will be mailed.
***Checks are VOID 60 days from issue date and WILL NOT BE REISSUED. Ribbons will not be mailed.**

Canning Competition Rules:

1. Please read and abide by all the Erie County Fair rules and regulations.
2. **All entries must be registered by Monday, July 27, 2026.** For more information see the Important Entry Information page at www.ecfair.org.
3. Anyone 13 years of age or older may enter.
4. Only one (1) entry may be made in a class.
5. **NO LABELS ON THE SIDES OF JARS. DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ANYWHERE ON THE JAR.**
6. The jars must have 2-piece lids. Please check the jar for a perfect seal before entering. **Any product that spoils or ferments after it has been judged shall forfeit its premium. We reserve the right to dispose of any spoiled food.**
7. **All jars should be pint jars unless otherwise noted.**
8. All meat and meat products, (except dried), must be pressure canned. All vegetables, except dried or pickled, must be pressure canned.
9. If food has been artificially colored, it **must** be indicated at time of drop off.
10. Jars **must** have rust-free screw bands in place.
11. All preserved food must have been canned within the past year.
12. A sweepstakes ribbon will be awarded to the exhibitor winning the most 1st and 2nd awards. The Tri-Color may be awarded to the exhibit judged most outstanding overall. An exhibitor may only be awarded either the Tri-Color or Sweepstakes award.
13. Dried food categories should be packed in regulation pint canning jars with screw tops and packed attractively. Sealing the jars is not required.

Judging Criteria

Score Card for Canned Goods:

Color (20) As nearly as possible to the color of the freshly cooked product; even color.
Clearness (20) Clear liquid, free from bubbles. Must cover canned product.
Texture (20) No blemishes; firm enough to hold shape; uniformity.

- Pack (20) Attractively arranged with the best use of space; uniform pieces; jars full (1/2 to 1/8 inch from top, according to product)
- Container (20) Suitable size as specified according to class. Perfect seal; clean and properly labeled. No rust on lid or screw band.

CANNING COMPETITION CLASSES

Premiums Offered: 1st Place Blue \$10, 2nd Place Red \$8

Tri-Color: \$25 & Eligible for *Best of Tri-Color Award*

*Tri-Color is an honorary award chosen by the judge for the outstanding article among those entered in competition in each section.

Canned Goods 5 Varieties-1

- 1A. Canned Vegetables* (Only one (1) variety in each jar) **FIVE (5)** varieties in same size & height jars.
- 2A. Canned Fruits (in pints) or Fruit Sauce (in half-pints) (Only one (1) variety in each jar) **FIVE (5)** varieties in same size & height jars.
- 3A. Pickled Food Items **FIVE (5)** varieties (in same size & heights jars.)

Canned Goods-2

*** = Pressure Canned**

- 1B. Canned Applesauce
- 2B. Canned Blueberries
- 3B. Canned Cherries
- 4B. Canned Peaches
- 5B. Canned Pears
- 6B. Any other Canned Fruit or Fruit Sauce (not apple)
- 7B. Dried Fruit or Fruit Leather
- 8B. Fruit Juice (not Tomato)
- 9B. Pickled Beets
- 10B. Dilly Beans (Whole)
- 11B. Carrots*
- 12B. Any other vegetable not listed above
- 13B. Tomato or Vegetable Juice*
- 14B. Sauerkraut
- 15B. Any Dried Vegetable
- 16B. Dried Meat- Cured by you
- 17B. Poultry*
- 18B. Meat & Fish*
- 19B. Dried Herbs
- 20B. Chili Sauce
- 21B. Pickled Peppers
- 22B. Pickled Mixes Vegetables
- 23B. Bread and Butter Pickles
- 24B. Sweet Pickles
- 25B. Dill Pickles
- 26B. Pickled Fruit or Vegetable not listed
- 27B. Relish

- 28B. Salsa or Picante Sauce
- 29B. Spaghetti Sauce
- 30B. Flavored Vinegars (*attach recipe and uses*) (*Entry must be in a clear bottle, not to exceed 16 oz*)
- 31B. Soup or Stew Meat/Vegetable/Chicken
- 32B. Pie Filling
- 33B. Family Tradition - 1 jar (any item). 1 adult and 1 child (up to 17 years of age.) Child must submit a 3x5 card telling what they learned. Any size jar from ½ pint to quart is accepted **FOR THIS CLASS ONLY.**
- 34B. Meal Deal - 3 items total (3 separate jars) Meal must consist of 1 meat and 2 sides of your choice. **Pint jars only, no quart jars will be judged.**
- 35B. Chutney
- 36B. Canned Tomatoes (Whole or Stewed)

Jam & Jelly-3

Jelly = No Fruit Bits; 1 Jar

- 1C. JELLY Strawberry or Raspberry
- 2C. Any Other Jelly

Jam=Fruit Bits; 1 Jar

- 3C. Strawberry or Raspberry
- 4C. Any other Jam
- 5C. Preserves – 1 jar
- 6C. Marmalade – 1 jar
- 7C. Fruit Butter – 1 jar
- 8C. Conserve

Baskets

- 9C. Jelly Basket (3 varieties) in same size and height jars. The decorated basket must be related to the Fair's Theme 'Stars, Stripes & Summer Nights'
- 10C. Jam Basket (3 varieties) in same size and height jars. The decorated basket must be related to the Fair's Theme 'Stars, Stripes & Summer Nights'

Home Grown-4

- 1D. Vegetables- Grown and canned by exhibitor- 1 jar
- 2D. Fruits- Grown and canned by exhibitor- 1 jar

Tasting Item-5

Tasting items will not be returned. ½ Pint or Pint allowed

- 1E. Pineapple Zucchini
- 2E. Any Flavor of Chutney
- 3E. Zesty Peach Barbecue Sauce
- 4E. Fruit Cocktail-Celebrate 250 Americana Red, White & Blue Fruit

Decorative Canning-6

- 1F. Decorative Canning