



HOME CIDER MAKING COMPETITION

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

ONLINE ENTRY REGISTRATION STARTS APRIL 1, 2026
ONLINE ENTRY DEADLINE & DROP OFF May 4, 2026, by Noon

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.

Drop Off: Entries must be dropped on or before May 4 by Noon at any of the following locations:

- Hamburg Brewing Company during business hours (Please check availability ahead of time) at 6553 Boston State Rd, Hamburg, NY
- Erie County Fairgrounds Main Offices (9:30 AM – 4:00 PM Monday-Friday) at 5600 McKinley Pkwy, Hamburg, NY
- Resurgence Brewing Company during business hours (Please check availability ahead of time) at 55 Chicago St, Buffalo, NY

Cider Competition Rules:

1. Please read and abide by all The Erie County Fair and Creative Arts Department rules and regulations.
2. **All entries must be registered by Monday, May 4, 2026.** Entries not registered by this date will not be accepted. For more information see the Important Entry Information page at www.ecfair.org.
3. Open to any home brewer, 21 years or older, who is a resident of New York State.
4. **No amateur exhibitor shall be involved in commercial cider making or use the services of a commercial cider making facility.**
5. All ciders must be produced and bottled by the exhibitor. Any cider entered in competition becomes the property of the Erie County Agricultural Society.
6. Two (2) bottles per entry, 12 oz., 22 oz. or 750ml. Each bottle must be labeled (paper label attached to the bottle with a rubber band, do **NOT** stick or tape labels to the bottles) with the following: One (1) name of cider, two (2) class number, three (3) variety, four (4) cider maker's name, five (5) cider maker's address, six (6) ABV of the Cider. One (1) bottle will be used for the first pour of the competition. The second bottle will be used for Best of Show. A fillable template provided.
7. The decision of the judges shall be final.
8. All exhibitors will receive a standard score sheet for each cider entered from at least two (2) judges.
9. Each brewer will be limited to 2 entries. All ciders should be 7% ABV or lower, should not contain molasses, beer or malt products and should not be fortified.
10. Some recipes are more challenging to make commercially; the Erie County Fair reserves the right to bypass the Best of Show based upon recipe. Cider must be dropped off for judging **NO LATER THAN May 4, 2026**. If you are mailing your entry, you must mail the entry to: The Erie County Fair, Attn: Home Brew Competition, 5600 McKinley Parkway, Hamburg, NY 14075.



HOME CIDER CLASSES

AMATEUR CIDER-1

**Amateur – someone not involved commercially with cider making. Does not sell cider.*

1. Modern Cider
2. Fruit Cider
3. Hop Cider
4. Spiced Cider
5. Wood- Aged Cider

PROFESSIONAL CIDER-2

**Professional – someone who is involved commercially with cider making. Works for a cider maker or sells their own cider.*

1. Any Style

SPECIAL AWARDS

BEST OF SHOW AMATEUR

\$100 & Banner

Reproduction of Winning Cider

Will be awarded for overall outstanding amateur cider **

BEST OF SHOW PROFESSIONAL

\$75 & Banner

Will be awarded for overall professional outstanding cider

MOST CREATIVE in Celebration of America 250

\$50 & Banner

Will be awarded for overall most creative cider

**If the recipe is too challenging, we reserve the right to reproduce another cider as deemed necessary.