

SPECIAL BAKING CONTESTS

— Karen Dobson

As I travel around to my fair visitations this summer, I always look forward to seeing the creativity and detail that Baking Department volunteers put into making these displays eye-catching for the fairgoers. A special shout out to the Blue Valley Farm Show in our Zone for their excellent baking displays!

These displays do two things...1) give the well-deserved recognition to the baking contestants who took the time to bake the entries and travel to the fair to compete; and 2) recognize our sponsors. Every time they see their name in print, it helps Kevin and I when we got back to the table to negotiate next year's sponsorship.

PA Egg Farmers (Angel Food Cake contest) and PA Preferred (Junior Baking contest) – include special contest banners as one way to promote and recognize. All participating fairs are required to display these banners at their events. PA Preferred even redesigned the Junior Baking contest banner and made sure each fair received the brand-new version this year.

So it was very disappointing this summer when we saw that some fairs are still incorrectly advertising the cake and youth contests as “*PA Preferred Chocolate Baking*”. Some are still displaying the old banners. Others are still using the wrong contest name in their premium books, entry tags and bake sale signage. So just to set the record straight...

- The Homemade Chocolate Cake contest is sponsored by PSACF; not PA Preferred.
- The youth contest is called the “PA Preferred Junior Baking Contest”. It is not to be advertised as a “chocolate” contest. While contestants may use chocolate in their recipes, youth bakers can use a variety of PA Preferred products including fruits and, vegetables!

So, if your fair still has the old “chocolate contest” banner, please remove it! Check premium books and other advertising to be sure the correct contest names are listed. Talk to your Baking Department chairperson! Let's show our appreciation to our sponsors and our contestants by promoting the proper contest information.

January's PA Farm Show - make sure your special contest 1st place winners receive their Farm Show Certification Forms. If the certified winner is unable to physically get to Farm Show, a representative can bring their entry for them if they possess that Certification Form.

Remember this year ... “**Report Made-Get Paid!**” Premiums will be distributed after November 15 only if the Fair submitted its Contest Summary Reports on time. Reports can be mailed or emailed, or submitted online. Only two contests are eligible for sponsored premiums: Angel Food Cake (\$50) and the Junior Baking (\$45).

We will be running our Special Baking Contest seminar at Convention where we will update on any rule or process changes. AND...if you bring me your old “PA Preferred Chocolate Banner”, I'll give you a prize!!