Adult Culinary Arts

Unless specifically stated as a professional division,
all other contests are for amateurs only.

Barbara Roadcap, Superintendent, 540-830-1896, broadcap@statefairva.org

2026 Schedule

Deadline for Entries ..... Friday, Sept. 4, 2026

Delivery for Entries ..... Wednesday, Sept. 23, 7:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Pick-Up Dates for Ribbons... ..... Wednesday, Oct. 7, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

***Enter on-line at www.statefairva.org via fairentry. Please note that on-line entries are charged $1.00 per class. Mail- in entries must be accompanied by a check or money order per exhibitor to cover entry fees.**

Mail entry forms to SFVA Arts, 13191 Dawn Blvd., Doswell, VA 23047.

Faxed entries will not be accepted.

Department Terms & Conditions

1. **State Fair of Virginia General Rules & Guidelines**- By entering, you agree to the State Fair of Virginia Rules and Guidelines and the rules of the Department. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to be familiar with and understand all terms and conditions concerning exhibition.
2. **Disputes**- Should any dispute arise, the State Fair of Virginia Executive Director, Manager of Agriculture Education or Department Superintendent's decision is final.
3. **Damaged/ Lost Items**- The State Fair of Virginia is not responsible for any damaged or lost items.
4. **Admission**- All exhibitors entering the fairgrounds on or after Friday, September 26, must pay admission or have an admission ticket upon entry. Any exhibitor leaving the fairgrounds, wishing to return the same day must obtain a hand stamp from the gate attendant or pay admission to re-enter.
5. **Exhibit Drop Off**- Exhibitors that have a check-in time during the Fair will receive the necessary unloading pass and admission ticket to enter the grounds on those dates specified.
    a. **For live competitions during fair:** Recipes must be submitted by email (arts@statefairva.org) prior to your competition day AND a printed recipe must be provided on day of competition. Failure to do so will result in a competition penalty. Late entries will not be accepted.
6. **Professional vs. Amateur Chefs**
    a. Professional exhibitors should only participate in professional divisions. **This is an honor system.**
    b. If a division is not stated as a professional division, it is an amateur division.
    c. A professional is defined as either an individual with a year or more of formal culinary training with or without certifications and/or an individual that earns over $5,000 annually from cooking, baking, catering, recipe development, or food sales as a professional (executive chef, head chef, pastry chef, bakery owner, caterers, culinary instructors, etc.)
    d. A person working at a food enterprise or restaurant may be considered an amateur if they are not the lead (i.e. line cooks, prep cooks, servers, bartenders, etc.)
7. **Judging**
    a. All culinary contests will be judged on appearance (30%), texture (30%) and flavor (40%) unless otherwise noted.
    b. Judges shall not award prizes to unworthy exhibits, whether there be competition or not.
    c. With the exception of live contests during the fair, exhibitors will not be allowed to be in the building while

judging is taking place nor will they be allowed to talk to the judges about exhibit pieces.

d. The judge is the "judge and jury" and will have the final decision on exhibit pieces.

8. **Results**- The State Fair will upload results online as soon as possible. However, we cannot guarantee them until the conclusion of the fair due to time restraints. For the earliest results, we recommend coming to the fair.
9. **Premiums**- Premiums are awarded on a class-by-class basis. Please review class listings for premium assignments. **Premium checks** will be mailed **after** the fair concludes by the end of November. To ensure proper delivery, be sure to enter your full and complete address on your entry form.

Adult Baked Goods Department Rules & Entry Information:

1. **Online registration** will be available at www.sfva.fairwire.com and must be completed prior to the entry deadline. Each exhibitor is required to pay an entry fee at the time of entry. Payment can be made online with a valid credit card. Entries will not be accepted over the phone.
2. The mail-in entry form can be found on the website and fully completed. No late additions or alterations of entries are permitted. Mailed forms postmarked after **September 11** will not be accepted.
3. Exhibits must be made or prepared by the exhibitor and shown in his or her own name (excluding the Antiques Division). **Articles created by professionals, teachers, etc. will not be eligible for competition, except where indicated.** Students in grades K through 12 attending school in Virginia or youth 18 years old and under should enter in the Youth Culinary Arts Department, including Parent/Child Cookies.
4. List article on entry form according to DIVISION and CLASS. You may make only one entry per class with no more than **15** items entered all together in the Culinary Arts department. As a competitor, you are solely responsible for deciding on the proper DIVISION and CLASS for your entry. **Entries improperly classified will not be changed or judged**. We reserve the right to accept or refuse an exhibit.
5. No article will be accepted unless there is a DIVISION and CLASS covering it as listed in the Competition Guide. Articles entered in the "Miscellaneous" or "Other" classes must not fit in any class listed elsewhere in the Guide. Articles entered in "Miscellaneous" or "Other" classes must be named and described on entry form.
6. Upon receiving and processing your entry form, the State Fair will print entry identification tags which will be made available to you to attach when your entries are brought to the Fair. Altered tags will not be accepted, but you may add requested information to the back of the tag. If the item is original or unusual, please include that information on the BACK of the tag. Items consisting of multiple parts must be connected, mounted or stabilized in some way to keep all pieces together.
7. The Fair assumes no responsibility in case of loss or damage to exhibited items from any cause. Any insurance desired on an entry must be carried by the individual who entered it. No one will be allowed to set up, remove, handle or rearrange exhibits. Security will be provided. Every possible care will be taken to protect the exhibit and competitor's materials. All articles will be entirely under the control and jurisdiction of the State Fair of Virginia until after close of the Fair.
8. Entries that do not receive a ribbon will not be displayed if space does not permit. **All items become property of the State Fair of Virginia and will not be returned after the Fair.** The State Fair reserves the right to dispose of winning entries once they are no longer shelf stable.

Again, no Baked Goods entries will be returned but ribbons will be available during pickup.

NOTE: Baked goods and candies must be brought to the **Arts Hall** on **Wednesday, September 23, between 7:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.**

- All entries, except cakes, must be put in clear zipper lock plastic bags on small white paper plates. All entries must be placed on non-returnable plates. Cardboard base for cakes must not exceed 13 inches square. Whole cakes and pies are required for judging.
- Decorated cakes to be judged on decorations only so forms may be used. Cakes are to be on cardboard base or disposable plate not to exceed 13 inches square. Cakes not to exceed 18" tall, including decorations.
- All baked goods become the property of the State Fair of Virginia and will not be returned.

Premium Structure: All classes have a $5 first place premium.
Contests winners will receive a ribbon, best of section winners will receive a rosette.

Division 79: Yeast Breads

Breads may be submitted as ½ loaves or as a set of 4+ rolls/biscuits

7901: Breads, Wheat
7902: Bread, White
7903: Dinner rolls 4 on a plate
7904: Freeform or rustic bread
7905: Rye bread
7906: Stollen
7907: Sweet Bread, rolls
7908: Miscellaneous yeast bread not previously listed

Division 81: Quick Breads

Breads may be submitted as ½ loaves or as a set of 4+ rolls/biscuits

8101: Biscuits Baking Powder 4 on a plate
8102: Cornbread including hush puppies
8103: Fruit bread (apple, peach, cherry) half loaf
8104: Muffins, 4 on a plate
8105: Pumpkin bread half loaf
8106: Sweet bread or Breakfast bake
8107: Zucchini Bread
8108: Miscellaneous quick breads not previously listed

Division 82: Sourdough

Breads may be submitted as ½ loaves or as a set of 4+ rolls/biscuits

8201: Bread, plain
8202: Bread, flavored
8203: Other bakes

Division 83: Cookies

Minimum of 4 cookies submitted on a small white paper plate with sealable plastic bag over top.

8301: Bar cookies of any type
8302: Chocolate chip cookies with nuts
8303: Chocolate chip cookies without nuts
8304: Drop cookies including cocoanut macaroons
8305: Filled or sandwich cookies
8306: Fruit cookie
8307: Rolled cookie
8308: Spice cookies
8309: Sugar cookies
8310: Miscellaneous cookies not previously listed

Division 84: Cakes

May be submitted as a half cake. Cakes in this category are judged on the cake (not decorations). Place on cardboard and cover with clear wrapping, bag or top.

8401: Fruit or vegetable cake
8402: Layer cake any kind judged on frosting techniques as well
8403: Pound cake – iced or not
8404: Miscellaneous cake not previously listed in any other category

Division Award: Greatest State Fair Cake (Best of Section) - $35

Division 85: Decorated Cakes

Judged on decorations, not flavor. Cake molds allowed.

8501: Decorated cake whole
8502: Decorated cookies 4 on a white paper plate
8503: Decorated cupcakes 4 on white paper plate
8504: Fair theme cake – VA Best of Show presented on cardboard base

Division 86: Pies

8601: Apple pie
8602: Berry pie (any type)
8603: Cherry pie
8604: Nut pie
8605: Other pie

Division Award: Greatest State Fair Pie (Best of Section) - $35

Division 87: Special Diet

Cakes in this category are judged on the cake with no decorations unless specifically spelled out in the category. Place on cardboard wrapped in plastic wrap or a large baggie

8701: Quick bread
8702: Yeast bread
8703: Bar cookies
8704: Drop cookies
8705: Cup cakes
8706: Cakes, whole
8707: Miscellaneous special diet food not listed above made with grain

Division 88: Honey

Cakes in this category are judged on the cake with no decorations unless specifically spelled out in the category. Place on cardboard wrapped in plastic wrap or a large baggie

8801: Cake made with honey
8802: Cookies made with honey
8803: Cake made with honey

Division 91: Professionals / Businesses

Professionals and businesses. Cakes should not exceed a base of 13”x13” and 18” in height.

9101: Decorated cake
9102: Decorated cookies 4 on a plate
9103: Decorated cupcake 4 on a plate
9104: Fair Themed cake
9105: Breakfast Pastry Sampler Platter (include 4 items)
9106: Cake, judged on taste
9107: Pie, judged on taste

King Arthur Baking Contest

Breakfast Sweet Treats & Pastries

https://www.kingarthurbaking.com/

Division 92 Class 9201 – Adult Culinary Arts
***Delivered with all other culinary dishes on 9/23**

Adult Category

1st place:	$75 gift certificate to the online Baker's Catalogue at kingarthurbaking.com
2nd place:	$50 gift certificate to the online Baker's Catalogue at kingarthurbaking.com
3rd place:	$25 gift certificate to the online Baker's Catalogue at kingarthurbaking.com

All winners will also receive a beautiful ribbon.

Special Rules:

1. **Exhibitor must bring the opened bag of King Arthur Flour or submit a UPC label from the flour bag when he/she submits the entry.**
2. Entry may use any ingredients for recipe as long as King Arthur Flour is used.
3. Enter on-line or by mail using Division 92, Class 1 in Adult Culinary Arts.
4. All entries must be submitted on a disposable container for judging and follow all other general Adult Culinary Arts guidelines and delivery instructions (entries to be delivered with other culinary items)
5. Must provide a typed recipe; recipe must use King Arthur Flour.
6. Judging will be based on the following criteria:

Flavor		50 points
Overall Appearance & Creativity		25 points
Texture		25 points
	TOTAL	100 points

7. Failure to follow the rules may result in disqualification.
8. Please include a list of ingredients with your entry. Contact the Culinary Arts Department with any questions at 804-994-2847.

Dairy Days: Charcuterie Board Competition

Presented By: Southland Dairy Farmers, Class 9301

Charcuterie boards have increasingly stolen the hearts of people in the last few years, as a "girl dinner," appetizer, wine pairing, party food and so much more. However, charcuterie boards date back to the 15th century with cheese plates being a staple meal component in affluent European cultures to Ploughman's Lunch featuring cheeses, breads, cured meats, fruits, and/or pickled vegetables for field workers. As these evolved, so did the pairing and presentation. Our featured competition highlights the role of cheese in this beloved grazing board and the abundance of Virginia food and agriculture. Try your creative culinary hand at this fun competition and see who has what it takes to take home the top prize.

ENTRY DEADLINE: September 7, 2026

DATE OF CONTEST: Wednesday, September 30, 6:00 PM

	PREMIUMS	Awards
1st Place	$150.00	Rossett
2nd Place	$100.00	Rossett
3rd Place	$75.00	Rossett
Honorable Mention	$50.00	Rossett

CONTEST RULES

1. This contest is open to all ages. Must be a legal US resident.
2. Please turn in a list of items on your board. You must include at least **5 dairy products** and at least 4 items on your board that are processed or grown in Virginia (this may include the dairy products).
3. To be a contestant, enter on-line at StateFairVa.org. Division 93, class 9301. Please note the entry fee is $5. Email your typed contents list before competition day to arts@statefairva.org.
4. Directions for preparing the board should be approximate with any pertinent information.
5. Judging will be based on Presentation (35%), Selections/Food pairing (35%), Uniqueness(30%).
6. Decision of the judges will be final.
7. Upon submission Contents Lists become the property of the State Fair of Virginia, which reserves the right to edit, adapt, copyright, publish and use for publicity, promotion or advertising without compensation.
8. Entries must be presented at the Fair ready for judging.
9. The contest superintendent and/or contest sponsor reserves the right to make any changes or decisions prior to or during the contest as deemed necessary. Their decision will be final.

DAY OF CONTEST

- Entries will be received from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. in Competitive Arts. Please bring a copy of your Contents List with you on the day of the contest. The Contents Lists must be typed and emailed to arts@statefairva.org before competition day.
- This competition is open to fifteen contestants.
- Judging will begin at 6:00 p.m. Entries received once judging begins will not be accepted.
- Prizes will be awarded at 7:00 p.m. (or when contest is completed).
- Contestants will be admitted into the fair for free with prepared entry on the day of the contest through Gate 2. A delivery map and tickets will be sent via email after entries close.
- Entries may be brought in on any type of board or serving dish.
- Entries must be prepared at home and brought to the fair on the day and time of the contest.
- Contact the Culinary Arts Department with any questions at (804) 994-2743.

Dairy Days: Milkshakes of Champions

Presented By: Southland Dairy Farmers, Class 9302

Milk is a nutrient-rich powerhouse filled with protein, calcium and 11 other essential nutrients for strong bones and healthy living! Milkshakes are a fun and tasty way to enjoy your favorite dairy products with all your favorite ingredients. You can make it fruity or decadent, you can add your favorite toppings or keep it classic. Get ready to blend up a treat and have some fun!

ENTRY DEADLINE: September 7, 2026
DATE OF CONTEST: Sunday, September 27, 2026, 4:00 PM

	PREMIUMS	Awards
1st Place	$100.00	Rossett
2nd Place	$75.00	Rossett
3rd Place	$50	Rossett
Honorable Mention	$25	Rossett

CONTEST RULES

1. This contest is open to all ages. Must be a legal US resident.
2. Participants may use any type of ingredients they want as long as ice cream and milk are dairy. Milk and vanilla ice cream will be provided. All other ingredients must be provided by participant on contest day.
3. To be a contestant, enter on-line at StateFairVa.org. Division 93, class 9302. Please note the entry fee is $5. **Email your typed recipe before competition day** to arts@statefairva.org.
4. Directions for preparing the recipe (Quart size) must be clear as possible. Please give the information in easy-to-follow instructions and your list of ingredients when measurements are not applicable.
5. Judging will be based on Taste/Flavor (75%), Originality (15%), Ease of Preparation (10%)
6. Decision of the judges will be final.
7. Upon submission, recipes become the property of the State Fair of Virginia and Southland Dairy Farmers which reserves the right to edit, adapt, copyright, publish and use for publicity, promotion or advertising without compensation.
8. Entries will be prepared onsite beginning at 4 p.m. in the Southland Dairy Pavilion. Blenders will be provided.
9. The contest superintendent and/or contest sponsor reserves the right to make any changes or decisions prior to or during the contest as deemed necessary. Their decision will be final.

DAY OF CONTEST

- Contestants may arrive & Check in at 3:30 p.m. in the Southland Dairy Pavilion Courtyard. Please bring a copy of your recipe with you on the day of the contest. The recipe must be typed and emailed to arts@statefairva.org before competition day.
- This competition is open to fifteen contestants. Blenders will be provided for your use. Please bring everything you may need to prepare your milkshake including utensils and all other ingredients (Whole milk & Vanilla ice cream provided).
- The competition will begin at 4:00 p.m. Judging will commence as soon as the shakes are prepared.
- Awards will be presented at the conclusion of the contest. (Premium Checks will be mailed)
- Contestants will be admitted into the fair for free with supplies on the day of the contest through Gate 2. A delivery map and tickets will be mailed after entries close. (Youth Exhibitors will receive 2 tickets, adult entries will receive 1).
- Contact the Culinary Arts Department with any questions at (804) 994-2743.