

2021  
**DEPARTMENT 36**  
**HONEY**

As we continue to plan for The Big E fair to be held September 17 through October 3 of 2021 our **exhibitor handbooks and schedules are subject to change** and we suggest you request to be added to the email lists of the departments you are entering, follow the department Facebook page, or check our website frequently for updates.

Email [CreativeArts@TheBigE.com](mailto:CreativeArts@TheBigE.com) to request to be added to be added to our email list.

Follow us on Facebook @bigcreativearts

Exhibitors are required to read and comply with all the <u>General Rules and Regulations</u> of the Creative Arts Division <u>Canning Department (30-39) Rules.</u>				
<b>Entry Form Due</b>	August 16	Online: <a href="https://TheBigE.fairwire.com/">https://TheBigE.fairwire.com/</a>		
<b>Entry Fee per Item</b>	\$5			
<b>Entry Limit</b>	3 entries per Department in Departments 30-39			
<b>Classes</b>	A: Adult Professional	B: Adult Non-Professional	C: Youth 13-18	D: Youth 5-12
<b>Premiums</b>	Best of Department: \$20	Blue: \$20	Red: \$17	White: \$14
<b>Receiving</b>	Tuesday, September 7: 8:00 am to 7:00 pm		New England Center	
<b>Judging</b>	Closed to the public	Wednesday, September 8:	Saturday, September 11	
<b>Release</b>	Monday, October 4, 12:00 pm to 7:00 pm	Tuesday, October 5, 8:00 am to 1:00 pm	New England Center	
After November 1, all unclaimed items become the property of Eastern States Exposition and will be disposed of as deemed necessary.				
For additional information, contact Creative Arts at <a href="mailto:Creativearts@TheBigE.com">Creativearts@TheBigE.com</a> or call 413-205-5015.				

**Division 3601** 2 Jars Extracted and Bottled Honey in Queen-line Bottles

**Division 3602** 2 Jars Extracted and Bottled Honey in Ball Jars

**Division 3603** 2 Jars Chunk Comb Honey in Ball Jars or other canning jars

**Division 3604** 2 Jars Round Comb Honey and Rectangular Comb Honey



Honey by Pamela Rys

2021  
**HONEY GUIDELINES**

**There are some general criteria for judging honey regardless of the category or entrant experience level. These areas are:**

- A. Percent Moisture content as measured by refractometer. It is essential that honey be bottled at 18.5% moisture or less. This is usually the case when the extracted honey is from closed combs. At 18.5% or less, the honey will not ferment, above 18.5% and the honey can ferment and become a form of mead, or mold. The method to measure moisture content is with a refractometer. A handheld refractometer is a very simple device which uses light to project a refracted image on a scale measuring the amount of water. Another method (which is more expensive), is with an electronic refractometer. Either will work, one is analog, the other digital. Moisture above 18.5% is a criterion for rejection of a sample for further consideration.



- B. Clarity of the honey. This is less applicable to the comb honey since there is a minimum of free honey in these samples. The items that we are looking for are foam, foreign material (either dust, dirt, wax particles, or bee parts, etc.), and entrapped bubbles. Visual review of the sample can work, but the best way to judge such samples is with a Polarimeter which uses polarized light to highlight imperfections in the clear liquid honey. The measurement of these parameters can be used to differentiate various samples of honey.



C. Flavor: this is very subjective and not a good criterion for judging except when of such a nature as objectionable.

D. Other criteria are dependent upon the category:

**1. Extracted and Bottled Honey in Queen-line Bottles**

- a. The extracted honey should be filled into the bottle to reach the “queen-line” which is a raised glass bar on the side of the bottle. This is done to provide a rather precise measurement of the honey to the 1-pound level for the jar.
- b. There should be no floating foam, or visual crystallization of the honey. Crystallization of the honey does not affect the palatability of the honey or its ability to be consumed but is not considered a beneficial aspect of jarred honey.
- c. Bee parts should not be present in the honey



2021



## 2. Extracted and Bottled Honey in Ball Jars

- a. All the criteria for #1, except that since this is bottled in Ball Jars or Compatible there will be no “queen-line” on the jar. Jars should be filled to the bottom of the screw cap ridges

## 3. Chunk Comb Honey in Ball Jars or other canning jars

- a. All the criteria for #2
- b. Also, the chunks of honeycomb should be covered with honey which meets the criteria of extracted honey
- c. Chunks should be appropriately measured so that they closely meet the dimensions of the container in which they are being displayed/sold. Comb honey traditionally sells for considerably more than extracted honey, since the comb honey is using added resources of the bees to make the comb, which in the case of comb honey, is not being reused. The bees can make considerably more simply extractable honey vs extractable honey and its associated wax comb. Hence to display or sell a small piece of chunk comb in a large container filled with extracted honey is sub-par to a container filled mostly with comb and the void spaces filled with extracted honey.





#### 4. Round Comb Honey and Rectangular Comb Honey

- a. All the criteria of #3 except.
- b. Round and rectangular comb honey is usually created using specialized comb frames which produce the round or rectangular sections. Hence, they can then be placed in plastic clamshell containers which fit the size of the round or rectangular comb and there is very little to almost no void space. In this case the filling of the void space is difficult at times or impractical.
- c. Measurement of the free honey is difficult for clarity or moisture content
- d. However, it is much easier to assess that all the combs have been capped and hence would be below 18.5% moisture since the bees would not cap cells above that level. Judging can be performed based upon the determination of the percent of fully capped comb as well as how neat the comb has been cut and filled the container.

