



## Fair looking for 'blue ribbon' contestants

*Rules for entering Fair exhibits and contests now available*

Allentown, Pa.—Persons interested in entering The Great Allentown Fair's blue ribbon competitions have three more weeks until the August 4 deadline.

Premium List booklets, that detail all of the categories and procedures for entering exhibits, are now available at the Allentown Fairground's main office during weekday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. office hours. For exhibitors' additional convenience, PDF versions of each book are available for downloading on the Fair's Web site at

[www.allentownfairpa.org](http://www.allentownfairpa.org).

Placement ribbons and cash prizes are awarded in each of the exhibitor categories judged the weekend before and throughout fair week running August 28-September 3.

Amateur crafters, collectors, cooks, photographers and others with creative talents have the opportunity to compete as well as area farmers and gardeners. All exhibitor entries will be displayed inside Agri-Plex, the fair's main exhibit hall which is sponsored by Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network.

Flipping through the Premium Booklet reveals hundreds of entry categories from every known fruit and vegetable to every variety of annual and perennial plant. Items that are sewn, knitted, crocheted, carved, painted and photographed are up for consideration. Christmas decorations, antiques and every imaginable baked and canned good are all eligible to be judged and on display. Special youth categories include the entire family in the quest for blue ribbons.

Each day of the fair, unique cookery contests are offered at the Culinary Contest Stage presented by PenTeleData. The 14 corporate-sponsored special contests are described in the Premium List but they have separate pamphlet applications for entry that are available at the Fair Office and online. These contests offer substantial prize money, gifts and in some instances, the opportunity to go on to state or national competitions.

Mail-in registration forms that may be obtained from the Premium Booklet or online may be submitted up until August 1.

The fair will hold walk-in registration hours at Agri~Plex starting on Monday, July 30 and ending Saturday August 4. Entry clerks will be on hand to help prospective exhibitors complete the forms during the walk-in hours that will be 10 a.m.– 6 p.m. every day but Monday, July 30 when they run from 1-6 p.m.

Persons with questions before registration hours begin or who are registering by mail may call the fair office at 610-433-7541.

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## ***Descriptions of special Culinary Contests***

The Great Allentown Fair is continuing its tradition of offering unique culinary contests with daily judging in front of audiences inside Agri~Plex, the Fair's major exhibition building.

The 14 corporate-sponsored special contests offer substantial prize money, gifts and in some instances, the opportunity to go on to state or national competitions. Registration for entering these contests closes on August 4.

When the Fair opens Tuesday, August 28, Agri~Plex will be "Hershey-land."

The first two special Culinary Contests of the week are Hershey's annual "Greatest Cocoa Classic Cake" and its youth "Baking Chips, Cocoa Cookie, Brownies & Bars" contests for the chance to compete in the state competitions at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in January. All entrants must be Pennsylvania residents. The youth category is for ages 8–18.

First place winners go on to the Farm Show in January where they will compete for cash prizes of \$250, \$100 and \$50 in the youth contest and \$500, \$250 and \$100 in the Cocoa Cake Contest.

Fleischmann's Yeast has developed a new "Bakers United for a Cause" contest aimed to increase Breast Cancer Awareness that will take place Wednesday afternoon, August 29. For each entry submitted, ACH Food Companies will contribute \$10 to a leading Breast Cancer Foundation.

Fleischmann's offers two categories for the contest that is a preliminary for a national competition. One gives winners a chance to win \$150, \$75 or \$50 by entering a themed and decorated baked good. The second contest calls for the best one-dish entry in an 8 x 8 pan to be made using two envelopes of Fleischmann's Rapid Rise Yeast. One \$100 winner will be selected.

Winning recipes will be submitted to the ACH Food Companies test kitchen for an opportunity to win a \$1,000 national prize.

The new Best Ever Chili Contest, sponsored by Don Hullenbaugh of State Farm Insurance will debut on Wednesday evening. The main dish creation will be judged on taste appeal, creativity and appearance. Awards for this contest are \$200 for first place, \$125 for second place and \$75 for third place.

The makers of Hidden Valley dressings are searching for America's most "Family Friendly Food" by asking contestants to create a crowd-pleasing appetizer, classic casserole, sizzling stir-fry or other family favorite in which contestants use at least one packet of Hidden Valley Original Ranch Salad Dressing and Seasoning Mix.

Each place winner of the contest on Thursday afternoon, August 30 will receive a ribbon, an award certificate and an apron in addition to cash prizes of \$200 for first place, \$100 for second place and \$50 for third place. A national grand prizewinner will be chosen from all first place-winning recipes at each individual fair and that winner will receive \$1,000 cash.

Thursday evening, another new contest will take the stage. The KC Masterpiece Memorable Meals Contest is looking for recipes prepared with at least one half cup of its brand of barbecue sauce to create an appetizer, baked main dish, side dish or other food. The top three placing entrants will receive \$200 for first, \$100 for second and \$50 for third.

Eagle Brand Great Baking Bonanza is also new to the Fair on Friday afternoon, August 31. The contest requires applicants to use at least one 14 oz. can Sweetened Condensed Milk to create an original dessert. Prizes of \$100, \$75 and \$50 for first, second and third places, respectively, as well as an honorable mention prize to the best youth entrant that is age 15 or under will be awarded.

For its annual Friday evening contest, Clover Hill Vineyard and Winery has come up with a new format this year. The local winery and retailer is asking contestants to create their own favorite holiday appetizers using imagination and their choice of Clover Hill wine. Recipes will be judged on taste appeal, appearance and originality and the winner will receive \$200, second place \$125, and third place \$75.

The Saturday afternoon, September 1 contest brings back Pampered Chef Independent Kitchen Consultants looking for a cookie recipe “like Gram Ma made.” The top three recipes will win prize packages of products valued at \$125, \$75 and \$50. Taste, originality and appearance will be considered.

The popular Strawberry Acres Fresh Peach Dessert Contest returns on Saturday evening with its search for amateur bakers to submit a creation using at least 60 percent fresh peaches. First prize is \$200, second \$150, third \$100 and fourth \$50. All participants will receive a \$10 gift certificate for Strawberry Acres located in North Whitehall.

What better time than a Sunday afternoon, September 2 for a Comfort Food Contest? Kimberly Schaffer, a local independent Longaberger Sales Consultant, sponsors the opportunity for an adult or family entrant to win Longaberger Baskets valued at over \$100 for first, \$75 for second and \$50 for third places respectively. A description is required along with the recipe that explains what the comfort food means to the contestant or the contestant’s family.

That evening, General Mills Sales, Inc. is looking for a national winner to come out of The Allentown Fair with a special two-crust fruit pie baking championship using Pillsbury Refrigerated Pie Crusts. Cash prizes of \$200 for first place, \$100 for second place, and \$50 for third place will be awarded at the fair along with the chance for the first place winner to be eligible for a national grand prize of \$1,000. Each winner will also receive a ribbon, an award certificate and a Pillsbury apron.

The Blue Ribbon Apple Pie Contest, sponsored by Alpha Graphics, returns in the afternoon of Labor Day Monday, September 3. Entrants are invited to prepare their favorite apple pie using at least 60 percent Pennsylvania apples in the filling. Winners receive \$125, \$75 and \$50 for first, second and third places, respectively and the winner will compete in the 2008 Pennsylvania Farm Show.

Later on that day, the contests wind up with the Ghirardelli Chocolate Championship. The famous San Francisco company invites contestants to submit their most decadent chocolate recipe for a dessert or treat. Entries must be created using at least one of the Ghirardelli premium baking products.

The first place winner receives \$150 and a Ghirardelli gift basket, second place \$50 and a Ghirardelli gift basket and third place a Ghirardelli gift basket. Each winner will also receive a ribbon, apron and award certificate.

Premium lists and applications for the special contests can be picked up at the fair office behind the Ritz Barbecue on the Allentown Fairgrounds at 17th and Chew streets from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays- Fridays or by visiting the Fair’s Web site at [www.allentownfairpa.org](http://www.allentownfairpa.org) and downloading the list and applications there. Walk-in entry hours start on June 30 and conclude on August 4 in Agri-Plex. For more information, call 610-433-7541.