

2025 EAS HONEY SHOW RULES

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2025 Entry and Release Schedule

**Entries Received: 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm on Tuesday July 29th
and 8:00 am- 11:00 am on Wednesday July 30th
Terrace Room on the Lobby level**

**Honey Show Opens- Thursday. July 31st at 11:30 am
Entries, Awards and Score Sheets Released: Friday, Aug. 1st from 3-5 pm.**

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the EAS competitive shows is to provide a competitive forum directed toward improvement of the products of beekeeping. This policy statement is intended to establish the rules/standards for you to achieve this goal.

It is important that all members of our community realize that we all owe it to our craft to show our products, whether or not we feel that our entry has a chance of receiving an award. A class with only a few entries, even if they all have ribbons, does not compare to the impressiveness of a large class!

As the show is to be a competition, it is fundamental that all exhibitors know in advance the judging criteria for each class and follow the rules herein. The EAS Honey Show Advisory Committee is responsible for drafting policies, rules and judging criteria and for disseminating information. Judges will adhere to the Committee's policies and rules. Annually, the committee within the host state will be responsible for:

1. Allocating space for the show and arranging entries

2. Compliance with show rules and judging criteria.
3. Obtaining qualified judges.
4. Cooperating with EAS Treasurer in obtaining awards.
5. Accepting entries and opening show at a predetermined, published time.
6. Within the three weeks following the Show, fill out a yearly comparison sheet and make recommendations for future shows.
7. Record all winners for the EAS, and other Journals.
8. Support arranging media coverage of the EAS Honey Show.
9. Providing EAS a file of high-quality presentation photographs, which may be accessed by Sponsors and Silver Award Winners, for media projects and/or publicity purposes. This requirement is to be completed AS SOON AS POSSIBLE following the Awards Ceremony.

The Honey Show Judging Criteria are designed to reflect the skill of the exhibitor, shine a favorable light upon our craft, and create a learning experience for exhibitors. Items over which the exhibitor has no direct control will be de-emphasized. For example, natural flavor or color of honey will not affect scoring, but alteration of either color or flavor in handling or preparation of the entry by the beekeeper will adversely affect the score. Likewise, manufacturing defects in glass jars and bottles will not affect scoring, but surface dust, smudges, scratches, chips or other handling alterations on entry containers will adversely affect the score.

Honey Show judges may be professors of apiculture, or students of apiculture under a professor's supervision, blue-ribbon winners of local, state and/or regional honey shows, or professionals judging in their fields, such as crafts, mead or cooking. Black Jar judges may be obtained from a variety of sources including EAS Master Beekeepers. Judges must completely fill out a score card for each entry (except for the Black Jar class). If an entry is disqualified, the reason for disqualification must be stated on the score card. Judges should make comments on score cards in order to help the exhibitor improve. The score cards and entries are the property of the exhibitor. Judges must break all ties.

All text in red reflects a change in rules from the prior year.

GENERAL SHOW RULES

1. **Entries shall be registered at the EAS Honey Show Entries may be dropped off from 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm on Tue. July 29th and on Wed. July 30th from 8:00 am until 11:00 am- in the Terrace Room**
2. Entries can only be made during the hours published.
3. Entries must be left intact and on display until released by the Show Superintendent.
4. Entries, **awards and score sheets are released for pick up only on Friday, August 1st from 3-5 pm.** **Entries** not claimed by the end of the conference Friday will be disposed of by the Show Superintendent.
5. All exhibitors **MUST BE** current dues-paying members of the Eastern Apicultural Society. If **NOT** registered for the current conference, proof of current paid dues status must be submitted at the time of making entries.
6. Judges are discouraged from entering the show room during entry times if serving as a judge.
7. Only one entry in each class may be exhibited by an individual, that individual's family, or that individual's apiary. If two entries end up in the same class, the one entered in the correct class by the exhibitor will be the only one judged.
8. At the time of entering, the stewards will place small labels, with the exhibitor's number, and one with the class entered, inconspicuously on the entry. The purpose of these small, numbered labels is to keep track of entries in a registration book in case of ownership disputes. One label containing the entrant number shall be affixed to the Entry Form, one label shall be affixed to the Judging

Sheet, and one label shall be given to the exhibitor, in order to reclaim their entry after the Honey Show. Required 3" X 5" cards will also be numbered at the time of entry registration.

9. Separate section or class rules will apply.
10. Identifying labels on the entries are forbidden. In Arts & Crafts & Gift Arrangements classes, if the exhibitor's name and/or apiary are an integral part of the entry, names are permitted.
11. The exhibitor must choose the class in which to place entries. Judges, under the direction of the Honey Show Superintendent, may adjust classes at their discretion.
12. No commercial products or displays are permitted except for A1 Gift Arrangement.
13. No **prior** EAS entry may be resubmitted.
14. The decision of the judges in all cases will be final. Any exhibitor wishing to protest must do so to the Show Superintendent by the end of the day the show opens to the public.
15. Entries will not be accepted by mail or commercial carriers but may be hand delivered on behalf of a qualified entrant, by another person attending the conference; proof of EAS membership may be required.
16. The Show Superintendent has the authority to accept, reject and classify entries in accordance with the show policies, rules and judging criteria.
17. EAS assumes no liability for loss or damage of entries. Although EAS will exercise all due care in judging and displaying entries exhibitors enter items at their own risk.

HONEY SHOW

Class Descriptions

Extracted Honey

- H1* Three 1-lb. jars of honey, extracted, light
- H2* Three 1-lb. jars of honey, extracted, amber
- H3* Three, 1-lb. jars of honey, extracted, dark
- H4 Three 1-lb. jars of creamed honey

Comb Honey

- H5 Three wooden section boxes of comb honey
- H6 Three circular sections of comb honey
- H7 Three packages of cut-comb honey, 4" square
- H8 Three 16-oz. jars of chunk honey
- H9 One frame of comb honey, any size, wooden frame

Black Jar

H10* A minimum of a one pound glass jar, made opaque, with tape, paint, or other covering filled with extracted honey of any color. If the EAS Honey Show provides Black Jars, entrants will pour their honey into the provided jar (up to 6 ounces).

1. Entries in classes H1-H3 and H10 marked * must be in glass Queenline type or Gamber Classic jars and may have plain metal or plastic lids. Canadian and International exhibitors may enter Classes H1-H3 and/or H10 with 500 gram universal jars; Classes H4 and H8 see #5 below. Class H10 exhibitor will provide their own container made opaque, with tape, paint, or other covering.

2. Entries in class H9 must be displayed in bee-proof cases having the front and back sides made of transparent glass or plastic. No plastic foundation, no plastic frames, and no wired foundation is permitted. Frame must be accessible to judges.
3. Entries in classes H5, H6 and H7 must be in the appropriate container: window cartons; round section lids – both sides transparent; cut-comb box – all sides transparent.
4. Entries in class H7 should be a minimum weight of 12 oz. per comb section.
5. Entries in classes H4 must be in one pound, round, short glass jar or an one pound, round, tall glass or GCI type jar. Entries in class H8 must be in one pound, round, tall glass or GCI type jar.
6. Honey color in classes H1-H3 may be adjusted by the Honey Show Superintendent.
7. All entries must be the product of the exhibitor's apiary and have been produced since the previous EAS Honey Show.

Honey Show Judging Criteria

Extracted Honey Judging Criteria

Classes H1 to H3, MAX. POINTS

1. Container appearance 15 (**Condition and Cleanliness**: absence of dust, dirt, smudges, honey or other foreign material on the rim or outside of the container)
2. Accuracy/Uniformity of filling 25 (jars filled to the top of the fill line, molded on the jar, will receive maximum points)
3. Absence of crystals 12
4. Cleanliness of Honey 35 total (without lint – 7; without dirt – 7; without wax – 7; without foam – 7, **without air bubbles – 7**)
5. Density 0 (water content above 18.6% & below 15.5% will be disqualified)
6. Flavor 8 (points will be reduced ONLY for honey flavor adversely affected by processing, overheating, fermentation, etc.)
7. Color 5 (uniformity of color)

Creamed Honey Judging Criteria

Class H4, MAX. POINTS

1. Container appearance (**Condition and Cleanliness**: **absence of** dust, dirt, smudges, honey or other foreign material on the rim or outside of the container) 10
2. Accuracy of filling and uniformity 10 (jars filled to the top of the fill line, molded on the jar, will receive maximum points)
3. Cleanliness & freedom from foam 20
4. **Texture**/Fineness of crystals 25
5. Uniformity & firmness of product 20
6. Flavor 15 (Points will be reduced for honey flavor adversely affected by processing). (Disqualified for fermentation)

Comb Honey Judging Criteria Wooden Sections

Classes H5 MAX. POINTS

Wooden Sections

1. Uniformity of appearance 20
2. Uniformity of color 15
3. Absence of uncapped cells 10
4. Absence of watery and weeping cappings 10
5. Cleanliness (20) Absence of travel stain (5) Dirt 5, Propolis on Comb 5, Dirt or Propolis on Wood Section 5
6. Freedom from granulation and pollen 10
7. Uniform weight of each section 15

Comb Honey Judging Criteria Circular

Classes H6, MAX. POINTS

Circular

1. Container Appearance (Condition and Cleanliness: absence of dust, dirt, smudges, honey or other foreign material on the rim or outside of the container) 10
2. Uniformity of appearance 20
3. Uniformity of color 15
4. Absence of uncapped cells 10
5. Absence of watery and weeping cappings 10
6. Cleanliness and absence of travel stains 5, Dirt 5, Propolis on Comb- 5
7. Freedom from granulation and pollen 10
8. Uniform weight of each section 10

Cut Comb Honey Judging Criteria

Class H7, MAX. POINTS

1. Container Appearance: Condition and Cleanliness: absence of dust, dirt, smudges, honey or other foreign material on the rim or outside of the container 10
2. Neatness and uniformity of cut, absence of liquid honey 20
3. Absence of watery and weeping cappings, uncapped cells and pollen 20
4. Cleanliness of product, absence of travel stains, crushed wax 20
5. Uniformity of appearance 20 (color of honey, capping structure, thickness of comb; lack of crystallization)
6. Uniformity of weight of each/Total weight of entry (minimum net weight 12 oz per comb section) 10

Chunk Honey Judging Criteria

Class H8, MAX. POINTS

1. Container Appearance: Condition and Cleanliness: absence of dust, dirt, smudges, honey or other foreign material on the rim or outside of the container 10
2. Neatness and uniformity of cut 10 (parallel & 4-sided cuts; downgrade for ragged edges)
3. Absence of watery cappings 5, travel stain 5, uncapped cells 5, and foam 5 (20 total)
4. Cleanliness of product 20 (foreign matter 5, wax 5, pollen 5 or crystallization 5)

5. Uniformity of appearance in capping structure 5, thickness of chunks 5, **cell orientation** 5 accuracy of fill 5, **Correct size of comb** 5.
6. **Color Uniformity of color between jars** 5, **Uniformity between the liquid honey and the comb** 5
7. **Flavor/Taste: Disqualified for fermentation. Points reduced if adversely affected by processing** 5
8. **Moisture Content and Density of honey** (Entries will be disqualified for fermentation or moisture content of liquid portion above 18.6% & below 15.5%)

Frame of Comb Honey Judging Criteria

Class H9, MAX. POINTS

1. Uniformity of appearance 20
2. Uniformity of color 10
3. **Absence of Uncapped Cells** 10
4. Absence of **watery and weeping cappings**, 20
5. Cleanliness and absence of travel stains **5, Dirt 5, Propolis on Comb 5, Crushed Wax 5, Dirt or propolis on wood frame 5, Cleanliness of display case 5**
6. Freedom from granulation and pollen 10

Black Jar of Honey Judging Criteria

Class H10

To be judged solely on the merits of its taste with no quantitative scores provided

BEESWAX SHOW

Class Descriptions

B1 Single piece, pure beeswax, 2 lbs. or more

B2 Candles, dipped tapers, one pair, pure beeswax

B3 Candles, molded tapers, one pair, pure beeswax

B4 Candles, novelty, single or coordinated set, pure beeswax (with no color or embellishment permitted)

1. Entries in Class B1 should be covered with clean, transparent plastic film. **Entries in B2, B3 may also be covered**
2. The optimum color for pure beeswax in Classes B1-B3 is light canary to straw yellow.
3. Candle wicks for entries in Classes B2, B3, and B4 should be waxed.

Beeswax Show Judging Criteria

Single Piece Judging Criteria

Class B1, MAX. POINTS

1. Aroma 15
2. Color 15
3. Cleanliness 35
4. Uniformity of appearance: **Texture/Smoothness/Luster 5, Absence of blemishes 5, Mold marks 5, Air bubbles 5**
5. Absence of cracks & shrinkage 15

Candles, Dipped and Molded Tapers Judging Criteria

Classes B2-B3, MAX. POINTS

1. Cleanliness, color, quality of wax 25
2. Uniformity of appearance and shape 25
3. Uniformity of pair 25
4. Finishing details: 25
 - a) For molded flat, finished bottom, wicks trimmed to ½"
 - b) For dipped: last drip left on, wicks left joined

Candles, Novelty, Judging Criteria

Class B4, MAX. POINTS

1. Cleanliness & quality of wax 25
2. Design & overall appearance 25
3. Finishing details wick trimmed to ½, flat, finished bottom with centered wick 25
4. Originality 25
 - a) For molded flat, finished bottom, wicks trimmed to ½"
 - b) For dipped: last drip left on, wicks left joined

MEAD & HONEY BEER SHOW

Class Descriptions

M1 Mead, dry, one bottle

M2 Mead, sweet, one bottle

M3 Mead made with fruit or juices [Melomel, Cyser or Pyment], one bottle

M4 Mead, sparkling, made with or without fruit juices, one bottle

HB1 Honey Beer; light-to-medium bodied ale or lager using honey as 15-30% of fermentables.

HB2 Honey Beer; Medium-to-strong ale using honey as 31-65% of fermentables

1. All wines/beers should have been made by the exhibitor by the process of fermentation (**processing for more than 12 months allowed**). In classes 3 and 4 the type(s) of fruit used must be included on a 3" x 5" card to accompany each entry. The card must have the exhibitor's number on it.
2. Still wines are to be exhibited in clear (not frosted), colorless (not tinted), 750 ml wine bottles. Sparkling wines must be exhibited in champagne-type bottles such as the domestic (U.S.) Champagne bottle along with appropriate wire closures (hoods) and capsules. Beers are to be exhibited in plain, unmarked, brown glass, 12 ounce, capped beer bottles.
3. Natural cork stoppers are preferred for mead entries but screw top wine bottles or synthetic corks may be used in classes 1-3. Corks may be straight cork or flanged and machine or hand-applied. **Tee, tasting or mushroom-style corks are acceptable closures. Corks are to be seated level with the bottle top or slightly below.** Capsules, if appropriate, are to be compatible with the bottle shape in order to fit tightly.
4. Entries must not have any identifying labels on the bottles.
5. Wine bottles should be filled so that when the cork is pushed right home, the air space is between ¾" & 1" in depth. Sparkling wine bottles should have an air space of 1" to 1-1/4. Beer bottles should be filled so the air space is between ½" and ¾" below the cap.

Mead and Honey Beer Judging Criteria

	Still Meads	Sparkling Meads	Honey Beers
Clarity, color	10	10	10
Flavor, Balance, body and finish	50	40	40
Bouquet, aroma	20	20	20
Bottle	10	10	10
Bottle closure, cork	10	10	10
Carbonation	--	10	10

ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW

Class Descriptions

A1 Gift Arrangement

A2 Sewing or needlework items

A3 Novelty beeswax with embellishment and color permitted

A4 Miscellaneous Arts and Crafts

1. All items in Class A1, A2, and A4 must have a beekeeping theme.
2. Exhibitor must submit estimate of time to make item on a card, to be included with the entry.
3. Small changes to commercial items or copies of commercial items may be downgraded.
4. Gift arrangements must include one or more homemade products of the hive but may also include other items that enhance the appeal or promote the use of hive products.

Arts and Crafts Show Judging Criteria

Gift Arrangement Judging Criteria

Class A1, MAX. POINTS

1. General appearance 30
2. Originality 30
3. Quality of honey & products 25
4. Variety of products 15

Sewing, Needlework, Novelty Beeswax, & Misc. Arts and Crafts Judging Criteria

Classes A2-4, MAX. POINTS

1. Artistic Merit 25
2. Originality 25
3. Skill involved 25
4. Design 25

GADGET SHOW

Class Descriptions

G1 Large devices (honey extractors, wax equipment, etc.)

G2 Small devices

All entries must be accompanied by a typed or written explanation. This is to be used by the judges in scoring.

Gadget Show Judging Criteria

Classes G1 & G2, MAX. POINTS

1. Explanatory text 25
2. Practicality 35
3. Ease of reproduction 15
4. Help to beekeeping 10
5. Originality 15

HONEY COOKERY SHOW

Class Descriptions

C1 Cookies, Bars, or Brownies: 1 dozen, no frosting or decoration

C2 Yeast Bread (1 loaf) or Yeast Rolls (1 dozen)

C3 Cake (1): no frosting or decoration

C4 Candy: 1/2 lb. or 12 pieces

1. At least 25% of sweetening agent must be honey.
2. Entries must be accompanied by the recipe as used, printed on 3"x5" cards in duplicate, without the name of the exhibitor.
3. EAS reserves the right to publish the recipes.
4. Entries must be presented on plain paper or foam plates, in dome top cake carriers, or on cardboard covered with foil. Plates and covers will not be furnished by the Show Committee.
5. Enter all cakes, breads, and rolls un-sliced.

Honey Cookery Judging Criteria

Cookie, Yeast Bread, Cake Judging Criteria

Classes C1-C3, MAX POINTS

General Appearance 20

Flavor 35

Texture, grain, moisture, uniformity of color 30

Lightness 15

Candy Judging Criteria

Class C4, MAX POINTS

Attractive appearance 20

Flavor 35

Texture 25

2025 EAS Honey Show Rules 5/25/2025 All text in red reflects changes in rules from the prior year.

PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW

Class Descriptions

P1 Close-up/macro print; Subject must relate to beekeeping

P2 Scenic, print; Apiary subject such as flowers, hives, etc.

P3 Portrait, print; Person or beekeeping procedure in appropriate setting

P4 Essay, prints; A set of from 4 to 7 pictures depicting a beekeeping story.

1. The photo contest is open to all photographers.
2. Prints must be 5" x 7" inches or larger. Class P1, P2, P3 are to be mounted and beneath a photo mat that extends at least one inch beyond the print on each side. **No glass frames or picture framing glass is permitted.** Class P4, Essay prints may be mounted on one mounting board and not matted. Prints may be black & white or colored.
3. Photographs can be entered only once in any EAS show.
4. Each photograph, including the Essay as a set, may be accompanied by the photo title, in the center of the base of the mount. A 3" X 5" card giving the entrants name, address, city, state, zip code and telephone number along with the class entered must be attached to the rear side of the exhibit.
5. Brief captions must accompany the Essay photographs. The order of Essay photographs must be indicated clearly.
6. Winners must agree to have their photos published by EAS in any/all appropriate publications.
7. No photographs made using Artificial Intelligence (AI) permitted.

Photography Judging Criteria

Classes P1-P4, MAX. POINTS

Subject (30): Relationship to beekeeping (no points for non-Apis) (10); Interesting choice of subject (15); Story-telling quality (5)

Composition (25): Placement of subject to draw the eye to the most important point

Technique (30): Exposure & Contrast: full tonal range, light to dark (10), Sharpness: focus, and graininess or pixilation (10), Color & Tones: Attractiveness of colors or B&W tones (10)

Presentation (15): Matting: Quality and appropriateness (15)

Silver Awards

To stimulate competition and in order to encourage more people to participate in the EAS Honey Show, the Honey Show Committee is pleased to give the following awards. Each will receive an engraved silver plate.

Extracted Honey

Black Jar

Beeswax

Comb Honey

Mead and Honey Beer

Honey Cookery

Arts & Crafts

Photography

Gadgets

Sweepstakes Award

The Engraved Silver Plate Sweepstakes Award will be given to the entrant who amasses the most total points in the show. More entries...more possible points! Class H10 Black Jar is not counted towards the Sweepstakes Award.

Sweepstakes Prize Ribbon Points

1st Blue 10

3rd White 4

5th Green 2

2nd Red 6

4th Yellow 3

6th Pink 1

Best of Show

An engraved silver bowl given to a blue-ribbon class winning entry deemed by the judges to be the best entry in the EAS Competitive Show. Classes H10 Black Jar is not eligible for the Best of Show Award.

Gamber Awards

The Gamber Award is pending confirmation *The Gamber Award:* If you use a Gamber Classic jar when entering the light or amber liquid honey class and win 1st place you will receive a \$100 Gamber Container gift certificate, if you win 2nd place you'll receive a \$50 Gamber Container gift certificate, and third place will receive a \$25 Gamber Container gift certificate. *By entering in a Gamber jar you give your permission for EAS to share your contact information with Gamber if you win a Gamber certificate.*

EAS Auction

To help defray the cost of the EAS Competitive Show, the Honey Show Committee likes to include blue ribbon honey in the Thursday night auction. Blue ribbon winners in the Honey Show are asked to donate one jar or comb of their winning entry to the auction. Blue ribbon winners in the other classes are encouraged to donate their entry if they so desire. The Blue Ribbon first place winning Black Jar entry is reserved for the EAS auction (if the entrant agrees to voluntarily donate it).

PLEASE SEE GUIDANCE ON ENTRY JARS ON THE NEXT PAGES

Eastern Apicultural Society Honey Show Rules Addendum

Entry Jars

What are the appropriate containers for my extracted honey, chunk honey and/or creamed honey entries?

Refer to the Eastern Apicultural Society (EAS) show rules for required jars and containers for each class. Many beekeeping supply companies carry these.

Classic and Queenline glass jars are both 1 lb extracted honey



**Chunk Comb Honey
Creamed Honey
(1 lb.) option 1**



**Creamed Honey (1 lb.)
Option 2**



PROPER FILL LEVEL



Fill jar to above the top of the fill ring or bead with barely enough honey that no air space is visible below the lid when viewed from the side