

LOCAL RULES

1. The Merced County Spring Fair, Los Banos, commences Wednesday, May 3 at 10 a.m. and closes at midnight, Sunday, May 7, 2017.
2. The Fair Administration Building is located at the corner of 4th and F Streets, Los Banos.
3. **ENTRY CLOSING DATES** for Market Beef and Replacement Heifers is January 10th, All Other Market Animals and Breeding Animals is March 1st, All Still Exhibits, except Cut Flowers and Special Contests, is March 28. The closing date for Cut Flowers is May 1. However, the Management reserves the right to close a class entry before closing dates in the event that all available space has been allotted.
4. All entries (except floral walk-ins and special 'day of contests'), for the 2017 Merced County Spring Fair must be made online by accessing our web site at www.co.merced.ca.us/springfair. Entry fees are non-refundable.
5. All entries are at the exhibitor's risk. The Fair Management will in no case be responsible for any loss or damage that may occur.
6. Checks will be made payable to "Owner" listed on entry. All premium checks not cashed within 90 days of date issued will be revoked.
7. No passenger vehicles will be allowed to park in other than designated areas at any time. Vehicles parked in other areas may be towed away at the expense of the owner.
8. Exhibitors are urged to become familiar with all Local and State Rules, which will be strictly enforced.
9. NOTE TO EXHIBITORS: All rules contained in "State Rules for California Fairs" as established by the Division of Fairs & Expositions apply to the Spring Fair. A copy may be obtained from the Division of Fairs and Expositions (send a self-addressed, stamped envelope, 1010 Hurley Way, Sacramento, CA 95825) or maybe viewed from their web site at www.cdfa.ca.gov/fe.
10.
 - a. Protests will be considered only if there has been a violation of State or Local Rules. Decisions of Judges, Veterinarians, Weighmasters, Livestock Superintendent and Timers cannot be protested and are final.
 - b. All protests must be presented to the Management of the Fair in writing within 24 hours of the alleged violation, or 24 hours after the results are available to the public of exhibits judged pre-fair.
 - c. Protest must be accompanied by a \$100 deposit (cash, money order, or certified check) which will be returned only if the protest is determined valid.
 - d. Protest and appropriate action are decided by the Fair's Board of Directors or designees in a timely manner.
 - e. Violations of State Rules may be appealed to Fairs and Expositions.
11. Exhibitors in the Senior Departments will be limited to residents of Merced County. Exhibitors in the Junior Departments are open only to children who reside in

Merced County and/or attend a Merced County School. Directors, Fair Managers, and/or their spouses are not eligible to exhibit at their own county fair.

12. Complimentary entries will be welcome if space permits. No entry will be required for such exhibits.
13. Exhibitors who engage in foods or baking confections as a profession (including catering and teaching) are **not eligible** to enter in any foods or baking divisions.

JUDGING SYSTEMS

DANISH JUDGING: based upon established standards of quality for each type of product. In this system, each exhibit is judged according to how well it meets those standards, rather than how it compares with other exhibits.

Placing	Description	Score	Ribbon
Group 1	Superior	92-100	Blue
Group 2	Good	84-91	Red
Group 3	Average	70-83	White
Group 4	Poor	69-0	No ribbon

AMERICAN JUDGING: judging process to rank exhibits against one another and award one first placing, one second, one third, etc.

COUNTY OFFICIALS

Merced County Board of Supervisors:
Lee Lor, Lloyd Pareira, Daron McDaniel, Jerry O'Banion, and Rodrigo Espinoza

MERCED COUNTY SPRING FAIR STAFF



Ron Brandt, CEO/ Fair Manager
Patti Alberti, Fair Coordinator

SPECIAL "DAY OF" CONTESTS

These are "Day Of" Contests, no pre-entry required.

Cheesecake Contest	Wednesday May 3rd at 5:00 pm
Cupcake - Muffin Wars	Wednesday May 3rd at 6:30 pm
Kids Best Ever Baking Contest	Thursday May 4th at 4:30 pm
Best Ever Cookie Contest	Thursday May 4th at 5:30 pm
Nuts About Almonds Contest	Friday May 5th at 5:30 pm
Bacon Bites Contest	Saturday May 6th at 4:00 pm
Homemade Pasta Sauce Contest	Saturday May 6th at 5:30 pm
Salsa Contest	Sunday May 7th at 1:00 pm
Homemade Sausage Contest	Sunday May 7th at 3:00 pm
Home Brew Contest	Sunday May 7th at 4:30 pm

These are "Day Of" Contests, no pre-entry required. Entry forms will be filled out on the day of the contest. Entries will be received 1 ½ to ½ hour prior to the contest. Your entry will admit you to the Fair **free** of charge through the Fifth Street entrance.

All contests are open to any Merced County **amateur cook**. All contests will be judged orally before an audience at the Skill Demonstration Stage in the Exhibit Building during the Fair.

Recipe must accompany entry upon delivery. Exhibitors' name may not appear on the recipe card.

Entries are limited to one per class in all Special Contests except Best Ever Cookie Contest, which is limited to two entries per class. All food entries become property of the fair. Disposable containers are recommended. Exhibitors may pick up their **empty containers** following the judging.

Depending on the amount of entries and time available the fair may do an advance judging to narrow down the live judging entries.

SPECIAL CHEESECAKE CONTEST

Sponsored By:
(NEED SPONSOR FOR 2017)

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD
\$25	\$15	\$10

American System of Judging

Contestants may not use packaged mix. Cheesecake must be homemade. **A 6"-12" traditional baked whole cheesecake in a spring form pan must be submitted for judging.** Recipe must be provided with entry. Persons not placing first, second or third may take their cheesecakes home immediately following the contest. Winners' cheesecakes shall be made available for tasting by contestants only, following judging.

Deliver cheesecakes to the fair Wednesday May 3rd, between 3:30-4:30pm.

Best of Show - Rosette

DIVISION 1: SPECIAL CHEESECAKE CONTEST

- Class:
1. Classic Plain Cheesecake, without fruit
 2. Plain Cheesecake, with fruit
 3. Chocolate Cheesecake
 4. Flavored Cheesecake (almond, mint, lemon, amaretto, etc.)
 5. Savory Cheesecake

NEW

CUPCAKE - MUFFIN WARS

Sponsored By:
(NEED SPONSOR FOR 2017)

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD
\$20	\$15	\$10

American System of Judging

Contest open to amateur baker only. Entry must be made from scratch recipe, no boxed mixes. Recipe must be provided with entry, please note any nut or dairy related ingredients so tasters can be aware. One half dozen cupcakes or muffins must be submitted for judging. Persons not placing first, second or third may take their baked goods home immediately following the contest. Winning entries shall be made available for tasting by contestants, following judging. Please use disposable containers.

Deliver Cupcakes/Muffins to the fair Wednesday May 3rd, between 5-6pm.

Best of Show - Rosette
Best Decorated Cupcake Award

DIVISION 2: CUPCAKE -MUFFIN WARS

- Class: 1. Any chocolate or vanilla cupcake

2. Any other flavored cupcake
3. Any sweet muffin
4. Any savory muffin

KIDS BEST EVER BAKING CONTEST

Sponsored By:

Biscotti by Auntie B.B.

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD
\$25	\$15	\$10

American System of Judging

Best of Show - Rosette

Contestants must be 6-14 years old. They must do their own mixing and baking. One half dozen cookies or one whole cake or pie must be submitted for judging. Recipe must be provided with entry.

Deliver baked goods to the fair Thursday May 4th, between 3-4pm.

DIVISION 3: KIDS BEST EVER BAKING CONTEST

- Class :
1. Any cookie or bar
 2. Any cake or pie

BEST EVER COOKIE CONTEST

Sponsored By:

EAC Engineering

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD
\$25	\$15	\$10

American System of Judging

Contestants may not use packaged mix. Cookies must be handmade. One half dozen cookies must be submitted for judging. Persons not placing first, second or third may take their cookies home immediately following the contest. Winners' cookies shall be made available for tasting by contestants only, following judging.

Deliver cookies to the fair Thursday May 4th, between 4-5pm.

Best of Show - Rosette

DIVISION 4: BEST EVER COOKIE CONTEST

- Class:
1. Chocolate Chip Cookies
 2. Oatmeal Cookies
 3. Bar Cookies
 4. Any Other Cookies (rolled or drop)

NUTS ABOUT ALMONDS CONTEST

Sponsored By:

RPAC, LLC

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD
\$25	\$15	\$10

American System of Judging

Entries must be delivered to the Exhibit Building by 5:00 p.m. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to keep their entry hot. Entries will be judged at 5:30 p.m. Entry must include almonds: whole, sliced, chopped, etc. Almond flavoring is allowed but nutmeats must be used in the entry.

Deliver items to fair Friday, May 5th, between 4:00-5:00pm.

Best of Show - Rosette

DIVISION 5: NUTS ABOUT ALMONDS CONTEST

- Class:
1. Main Dish
 2. Appetizer
 3. Cookie
 4. Cakes/Pies
 5. Candy/Confection

BACON BITES CONTEST

Sponsored by:

(NEED SPONSOR FOR 2017)

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD
\$25	\$15	\$10

American System of Judging

Best of Show - Rosette

Entry must be made from a non-published recipe. Recipe must be provided at time of entry. Recipe must contain BACON, whole, sliced or chopped. If tasting requires chips, crackers, etc. entrant must provide them. Items must be bite size. One half dozen must be submitted for judging.

Deliver items to fair Saturday, May 6th, between 2:30-3:30pm.

DIVISION 6: BACON BITES

- Class: 1. Savory
2. Sweet

SPECIAL HOMEMADE PASTA SAUCE CONTEST

Sponsored By:

Café Fina

Fisherman's Wharf Monterey

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD
\$75	\$50	\$30

American System of Judging

Entry must be made from a non-published recipe. Submit entry in a disposable quart size container. Sauce will be judged on pasta provided by the Fair.

Deliver sauce to fair Saturday, May 6th, between 4:00-5:00pm.

Best of Show - Rosette

DIVISION 7: SPECIAL HOMEMADE PASTA SAUCE CONTEST

- Class: 1. Pasta Sauce, tomato base
2. Other, non traditional

SPECIAL SALSA CONTEST

Sponsored By:

Espana's Southwest Bar & Grill

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS

1 ST	2 ND
\$20	\$10

American System of Judging

This contest is limited to freshly made, (unprocessed) Mexican/Southwest style salsa to be used for dipping. Ingredients may be fresh, frozen, and/or canned. Salsa will be judged on tortilla chips provided by Espana's.

One cup of salsa must be submitted for judging in a clear glass, one-pint canning jar, covered with a lid and ring. Entries containing extra hot peppers will not be accepted. (ie: ghost peppers, habanero, scotch bonnet, etc.)

Exhibitor's name may not be visible on the jar. Persons not placing first, second or third may take their salsa home immediately following the contest. Winners' salsa shall be made available for tasting by contestants only, following judging.

Deliver salsa to fair Sunday, May 7th, between 11:30-12:30pm.

Best of Show winner will receive \$25 plus an Espana's gift certificate valued at \$25.

DIVISION 8: SPECIAL SALSA CONTEST

- Class: 1. Salsa made with tomatoes, canned or Fresh tomatoes
2. Salsa made with fresh fruit

SPECIAL HOMEMADE SAUSAGE CONTEST

Sponsored By:

RON ALBERTI

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD
\$50	\$30	\$20

American System of Judging

Entry must be made from non-published recipe. Sausage must be homemade and accompanied by the contestant named on the entry.

Each entry must be a minimum of one pound (1 lb) of sausage. Entrant will be responsible for grilling/cooking their own sausage. Grills will be provided. Only contestant will be allowed in the grilling area.

Persons not placing 1st, 2nd, or 3rd may take their sausage home immediately following contest. Winners sausage shall be made available for tasting by contestants only following judging.

Deliver sausage to fair Sunday, May 7th, between 1:30-2:30pm. Entrants must be registered no later than 2:30pm.

Best of Show - Rosette

DIVISION 9: SPECIAL HOMEMADE SAUSAGE CONTEST

- Class: 1 Italian
 2. Portuguese
 3. Other, must identify

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD
\$100	\$70	\$50

American System of Judging

SPECIAL HOME BREW CONTEST

Sponsored By:



PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD
\$50	\$30	\$20

American System of Judging

Limited to one entry per exhibitor per class. Entry to consist of two 10-13 fluid ounce beer bottles, either green or brown. Bottles may be sealed with spring fitted stoppers or standard brown caps. All bottles should be unlabeled and information including name, phone, and ingredients, placed on 3x5 cards. Exhibitor must be 21 years old or older to enter.

Deliver Home Brew to fair Sunday, May 7th, between 3:00-4:00pm. Entrants must be registered no later than 4:00pm.

Best of Show - Rosette

DIVISION 10: HOME BREW CONTEST

- Class: 1. Ale, Light, Pale, Blonde
 2. Ale, Dark
 3. Seasonal Fruit
 4. Any Other, (including hard ciders) identify on entry

ALFALFA HAY CONTEST

Sponsored By:

**J.L. ANALYTICAL
 SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY HAY GROWERS**

**WALK-IN ENTRY DUE: April 28, 10am-5:00pm
 No pre-entry required
 DELIVER EXHIBITS TO FAIR: April 28, 10am-5:00pm
 Exhibit Building**

1. This is a 'Walk In' contest, no pre-entry is needed.
2. Limited to ONE entry (1 bale) per grower.
3. Limited to alfalfa hay growers residing in Merced County. Hay must be grown in Merced County.
4. Entries must be from current 2017 crop.
5. Entry to be standard, commercial bale.
6. Lab test portion of the contest to include taking a sample of the hay and having it tested for specific nutrient content. Physical judging to consist of the hay being judged on physical characteristics.
7. Bale entry will be judged in both categories.
8. Bales become property of the Fair.

DIVISION 11: ALFALFA HAY

- Class: 1. Alfalfa Hay – Physical Judging
 2. Alfalfa Hay – Chemical Analysis

SPECIAL BARN QUILT CONTEST

A Barn Quilt is a 4'x4' piece of plywood painted with a colorful quilt block pattern. The block is framed and hung on a barn or out building. The Fair will provide the 4'x4' piece of plywood to the entrant. There will be a limited number of entries available, and will be on a first come first serve basis. The completed Barn Quilts will become the property of the fair and used at their discretion. There will be Barn Quilt samples available for viewing in the main office.

ONLINE ENTRIES DUE: March 28, 2017 11:59 p.m.

DELIVER EXHIBITS TO FAIR: April 8, Germino Building 10a.m. to 4p.m.

**JUDGING: April 10
 American System of Judging**

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS

SR CLASS

1 st	2 nd	3 rd
\$200	\$100	\$50

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS

JR CLASS

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD
\$25	\$20	\$10

DIVISION 12: SPECIAL BARN QUILT CONTEST

- Class:
1. Sr. Special Barn Quilt (18 yrs & over)
 2. Jr. Special Barn Quilt (17 yrs & younger)
 3. Jr. Groups Special Barn Quilt, class Projects or any group other than 4-H Or FFA (4-H/FFA see Division 401)

SMALL BARN QUILTS

24"x 24" Barn Quilts. Exhibitor will provide all their own materials, including 24" square plywood board. Boards should be ready for hanging, if not; fair will drill corner holes for hanging. Exhibitor has the option to donate the finished board to the fair for further use. Samples are available in the office.

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS

SR CLASS

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD
\$25	\$20	\$10

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS

JR CLASS

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD
\$15	\$10	\$5

DIVISION 13: SMALL BARN QUILT CONTEST

- Class:
1. Sr. Special Small Barn Quilt (18 yrs & Over)
 2. Jr. Special Small Barn Quilt (17 yrs & younger)

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