2014
MERCED COUNTY SPRING FAIR
LOS BANOS

NEW FOR 2014:

Special Contests……	Small Barn Quilts
	Home Brew Contest
Sr Department……...	Machine Embroidery
	DIY Yard/Garden Décor
	Embellished Quilts
	Burlap Crafts
	Decorated Hat Contest
	Christmas in May
	Beer Label Contest
	Altered Art
Jr Department……	Milk Jug Planter
	Fairy Gardens
Sr Fine Art…….	Quilts on Canvas
4-H Department…….	Quilts of Valor
Livestock……...	Boer goat premiums
	Valley Lamb Show

LOCAL RULES

1. The Merced County Spring Fair, Los Banos, commences Wednesday, April 30, 2014 at 10 a.m. and closes at midnight, Sunday, May 4, 2014.
2. The Fair Administration Building is located at the corner of 4th and F Streets, Los Banos.
3. CLOSING DATE for all entries, except Cut Flowers, Special Contests, Market Animals and Replacement Heifers is April 1. The closing date for Cut Flowers is April 29. See Livestock Department for livestock closing dates. 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 contests), for the 2014 Merced County Spring Fair must be made online by accessing our web site at www.co.merced.ca.us/springfair by April 1, 2014 11:59 p.m.
5. Entry fees are non-refundable.
6. 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.
7. Checks will be made payable to "Owner" listed on entry. All premium checks not cashed within 90 days of date issued will be revoked.
8. 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.
9. Exhibitors are urged to become familiar with all Local and State Rules, which will be strictly enforced.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. Complimentary entries will be welcome if space permits. No entry will be required for such exhibits.
14. 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:
Hubert "Hub" Walsh, Diedre Kelsey, Linn E. Davis, Jerry O'Banion, and John Pedrozo

MERCED COUNTY SPRING FAIR STAFF

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

SPECIAL CONTESTS

Cheesecake Contest	April 30, 2014 at 5:30 pm
Kids Best Ever Baking Contest	May 1, 2014 at 4:30 pm
Best Ever Cookie Contest	May 1, 2014 at 5:30 pm
Nuts About Almonds Contest	May 2, 2014 at 5:30 pm
Homemade Pasta Sauce Contest	May 3, 2014 at 5:30 pm
Salsa Contest	May 4, 2014 at 1:00 pm
Homemade Sausage Contest	May 4, 2014 at 3:00 pm
Home Brew Contest	May 4, 2014 at 4:00 pm

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. Entry Forms may be filled out on the day of the contest or online entries will be accepted up until the day prior to 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. ***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:
Gloria & Ken Mendonca

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS

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

American System of Judging

Contestants may not use packaged mix. Cheesecake must be homemade. A 6"-12" whole cheesecake must be submitted for judging. 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 April 30th, between 4-5pm.***

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

KIDS BEST EVER BAKING CONTEST

Sponsored By:
Biscotti by Auntie B.B.

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS

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

American System of Judging

Best of Show - Rosette

Contestants must be 14 years and under. 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. ***Kids deliver baked items to the fair May 1st, between 3-4pm.***

DIVISION 2 : KIDS BEST EVER BAKING CONTEST

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

BEST EVER COOKIE CONTEST

Sponsored By:
Bella Luna Bakery
Vinnie DeAngelo

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS

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

American System of Judging

Contestants may not use packaged mix. Cookies must be handmade. ½ 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 May 1st, between 4-5pm.***

Best of Show - Rosette

DIVISION 3: 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

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

American System of Judging

Hot entries must be delivered to the Exhibit Building at 5:00 p.m. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to keep their entry hot. 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 May 2nd, between 4-5pm.***

Best of Show - Rosette

DIVISION 4: NUTS ABOUT ALMONDS CONTEST

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

SPECIAL HOMEMADE PASTA SAUCE CONTEST

Sponsored By:
Café Fina Fisherman's Wharf Monterey

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS

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

American System of Judging

Entry must be made from a non-published recipe. Tomato based sauces only. Submit entry in a disposable quart size container. Sauce will be judged on pasta provided by the Fair. ***Deliver sauce to fair May 3rd, between 4-5pm.***

Best of Show - Rosette

DIVISION 5: SPECIAL HOMEMADE PASTA SAUCE CONTEST

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

SPECIAL SALSA CONTEST

Sponsored By:
Espana's Southwest Bar & Grill

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS

1ST	2ND
$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 May 4th, between 11:30-12:30pm.***

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

DIVISION 6: 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

1ST	2ND	3RD
$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 May 4th, between 1:00-2:00pm. Entrants must be registered no later than 2:00pm.***

Best of Show - Rosette

DIVISION 7: SPECIAL HOMEMADE SAUSAGE CONTEST

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

NEW! SPECIAL HOME BREW CONTEST

Sponsored By:

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS

1ST	2ND	3RD
$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 May 4th, between 2:30-3:30pm. Entrants must be registered no later than 4:00pm.***

Best of Show - Rosette

DIVISION 8: HOME BREW CONTEST

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

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: APRIL 1, 2014 11:59 p.m.
DELIVER EXHIBITS TO FAIR: April 12, Germino Building 10a.m. to 4p.m.
JUDGING: April 14
American System of Judging

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS
SR CLASS

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

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS
JR CLASS

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

DIVISION 9: 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

NEW! 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

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

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS
JR CLASS

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

DIVISION 10: SMALL BARN QUILT CONTEST

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

ALFALFA HAY CONTEST

Sponsored By:
J.L. Analytical
San Joaquin Valley Hay Growers

ONLINE ENTRIES DUE: April 21, 2014 10:00 p.m.
WALK-IN ENTRY DUE: April 22, 2014 5:00 p.m.
DELIVER EXHIBITS TO FAIR: April 24,
Exhibit Building

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS

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

American System of Judging

1. Limited to ONE entry (1 bale) per grower.
2. Limited to alfalfa hay growers residing in Merced County. Hay must be grown in Merced County.
3. Entries must be from current 2014 crop.
4. Entry to be standard, commercial bale.
5. 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.
6. Bale entry will be judged in both categories.
7. Bales become property of the Fair.

DIVISION 11: ALFALFA HAY

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