

**2020
MERCED COUNTY SPRING FAIR
LOS BANOS**

April 29 – May 3, 2020



“Going Nuts for May Day”

ENTRY DEADLINES:

CLUB STEERS & REPLACEMENT HEIFERS

MARCH 1, 2020

CLUB SWINE, SHEEP, GOATS, ALL BREEDING ANIMALS, & SHOWMANSHIP

MARCH 1, 2020

STILL EXHIBITS

MARCH 27, 2020

EXHIBITORS MAY ENTER A TOTAL OF TWENTY-FIVE (25) EXHIBITS. EXHIBITS ARE LIVESTOCK, STILL EXHIBITS OR A COMBINATION NOT TO EXCEED TWENTY-FIVE (25).

NEW FOR 2020:

1. Youth Industrial Arts Auction:
 - Eligible Projects will derive from FFA Agricultural Mechanics Department as well as 4H Mechanical Science Department
 - Sale items will be determined by Sale Committee and at Judges discretion.
 - Limited number of top projects will be chosen.
 - Youth industrial arts auction date and time to be determined.
2. Ag Mechanics two categories
3. Merced County Spring Fair Beautification Project
4. Decorated Wreath Divisions
5. New Quilt Challenge
6. Barn Quilts are Back
7. Fabric Panel division
8. Sr Photography - Travel

New for Livestock:

Scrapie tags are required for sheep and goats

Attention livestock exhibitors, the USDA believes the quarantine on Poultry/Avian New Castle Disease should be lifted end of January , this is just a heads up the Official statement should be unveiled in January of 2020 providing there are no more flare ups, we will keep you posted .

SPECIAL "DAY OF" CONTESTS

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

Cheesecake Contest	Wednesday April 29th at 5:30 pm
Cupcake - Muffin Wars	Wednesday April 29th at 6:30 pm
Kids Best Ever Baking Contest	Thursday April 30th at 4:30 pm
Best Ever Cookie Contest	Thursday April 30th at 5:30 pm
Nuts About Almonds Contest	Friday May 1st at 5:30 pm
Bacon Bites Contest	Saturday May 2nd at 4:00 pm
Homemade Pasta Sauce Contest	Saturday May 2nd at 5:30 pm
Salsa Contest	Sunday May 3rd at 12:00 pm
Homemade Sausage Contest	Sunday May 3rd at 2:00 pm
Home Brew Contest	Sunday May 3rd 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. Completed 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. No late entries will be accepted.

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.

A separate recipe must accompany each 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, recipes will not be returned.

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 2020)

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, and becomes property of Merced Spring Fair. 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 April 29th, between 4:00 pm-5:00pm.

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

CUPCAKE - MUFFIN WARS

Sponsored By:
(NEED SPONSOR FOR 2020)

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 April 29th , 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:
(NEED NEW SPONSOR FOR 2020)

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 April 30th, 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

1ST 2ND 3RD

\$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 April 30th, 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

1ST 2ND 3RD

\$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 1st, 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:



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 2nd, 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 2nd, 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 3rd, between 10:30-11:30am.

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
Salsa made with fresh fruit

SPECIAL HOMEMADE SAUSAGE CONTEST

Sponsored By:
Ron Alberti
Pat Palazzo

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD
\$75	\$50	\$25

American System of Judging

Entry must be made from non-published recipe. Sausage must be homemade BY ENTRANT and accompanied by the ENTRANT 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 contestants 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 3rd, between 12:30-1:30pm.
Entrants must be registered no later than 1:30pm.

Best of Show - Rosette

DIVISION 9: SPECIAL HOMEMADE SAUSAGE CONTEST

Class: 1 Italian --- MUST BE COOKED, BOXED AND TURNED IN NO LATER THAT 1:45
2. Portuguese MUST BE COOKED, BOXED AND TURNED IN NO LATER THAN 1:55
3. Dry Sausage, any " "
4. Other, must identify " "

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 two entries per exhibitor per class, must be 2 different recipes. 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 3rd, 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. Any Other, (including Seasonal Fruit and hard ciders) identify on entry

ALFALFA HAY CONTEST

Sponsored By:

J.L. Analytical

San Joaquin Valley Hay Growers

WALK-IN ENTRY DUE: April 24, 10am-5:00pm - **No pre-entry**

DELIVER EXHIBITS TO FAIR: April 24, 10am-5:00pm - Exhibit Building

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS

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

American System of Judging

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 2020 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 27th, 2020 1:59 p.m.

DELIVER EXHIBITS TO FAIR GERMINO BUILDING: April 9, 10am - 4pm 10, April 10, 9am - 12pm

JUDGING: April 13, 2020

American System of Judging

It's Back

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS

SR CLASS

\$200 \$100 \$50

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS

JR CLASS

1ST 2ND 3RD
\$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 QUILT CONTEST

ONLINE ENTRIES DUE: March 27th, 2020 11:59

DELIVER EXHIBITS TO FAIR GERMINO BUILDING:

April 9, 10am - 4pm, April 10, 9am-12pm,

Judging: April 13,2020

EXHIBIT CLAIMING: May 4, 10am-6pm

American System of Judging

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

JR CLASS

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

DIVISION 13: SMALL BARN QUILT CONTEST

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

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.

A 3x5 card with the club name, a contact person and a phone number must be attached to the back of each barn quilt entered.

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. **Up to 100 points for clean barn may be given for Barn Quilts.**

LIMIT 4 BOARDS PER CLUB / GROUP

ONLINE ENTRIES DUE: March 27, 2020 11:59 p.m.

DELIVER EXHIBITS TO FAIR: April 22-23, 10a.m. to 4p.m. to the Exhibit Building
American System of Judging

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS

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

DIVISION 401: 4-H & FFA SPECIAL BARN QUILT CONTEST

- Class: 1. 4-H Special Barn Quilt
2. FFA Special Barn Quilt