

HONEY CONTEST RULES

These Rules were shared with us by the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association. These rules were adapted for our use at Beekeepers of SW Florida by Claudia Cowart.

Etiquette at Honey Contests

Once honey or other items have been accepted into the competition by the Steward, it is the responsibility of the Beekeepers Association of Southwest Florida to protect the entries from tampering. After submitting entries to the Steward, competitors may not enter the area where the entries have been placed. All entries must be blocked off from contact by anyone except the Steward.

When viewing entries in a honey contest, either before, during, or after the competition, do not touch any item.

General Rules

All entries must be produced by the contestant.

All entries of honey must be from bees belonging to paid members of the Beekeepers Association of Southwest Florida or members of their families, and from the current year's production.

Each member may make one entry only in each class.

The classes are:

Extracted Honey, All Forms

Extracted honey in one pound jars

Extracted honey is judged in three classes: light, medium, and dark. Members of Beekeepers Associations of Southwest Florida who are participating in the contest may submit one entry in each of these three categories.

An entry of extracted honey is three (3) one pound jars. These jars must be either one pound classic jars that have a 48mm diameter mouth, or one pound Queenline jars that have a 58mm diameter mouth. The jars may have either metal or plastic lids. Do not use tamper proof seals. There must not be any type of label on the jars.

When judging extracted honey, the judges consider the following characteristics of each entry:

- Cleanliness of the jar and lid
- Correct fill level (See photograph below)
- Uniformity of the three jars that comprise the entry
- Cleanliness and clarity of the honey
- Moisture content
- Aroma and flavor



This is a photograph of a one pound classic honey jar that has a 48mm diameter mouth. The purpose of the picture, however, is to show clearly the correct fill level. It also shows some things that are more difficult to see: The inside rim of the mouth of the jar above the honey has bits of 'stuff' adhering to it that should be wiped off before placing into the competition. The outside of the jar also shows numerous smears that must be removed. This jar is not competition ready!

Keep in mind that a wonderful honey can be eliminated if the technical details haven't been tended to. Information about preparing entries follows this section about the Rules.

Awards

Ribbons will be given in all classes as follows, even if there is only one entry in the class. That entry, however, must be deemed worthy of the award by the judge or judges:

- First Place: Blue
- Second Place: Red
- Third Place: White
- Best in Show: Purple

The decisions of the judge or judges are final.