FORT BEND COUNTY FAIR

2017 GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP CULINARY & BBQ COOK-OFF

Mark Weber, Director in Charge
Kenneth Raska, Chairman

Contest:	October 6 & October 7, 2017
Team Entry Fee:	**$200.00 includes:** 40 x 40 space, port-a-can, & Entry into **8 Categories**
Insurance:	**$90.00 Covers all spaces**
Additional Space:	$200.00 40x40 space w/ port-a-can
Additional Port-a-can:	**$100.00 each**

The Fort Bend County Fair Association would like to welcome all BBQ Cook-off Teams to the Fort Bend County Championship BBQ Cook-Off. Cook-off teams must submit an application for entry into the contest. This application entitles the team to one cook-off space. Each unique team is *granted 8* contest categories. *It is the team's option to participate in each contest.* **One additional space** per team can be purchased and will be awarded if available. This additional space will not allow the team to enter additional cooking category *contest.* The entire entry fee is required when the application is submitted. No partial payments or deposits will be accepted. Make checks payable to the Fort Bend County Fair Association. Turn in your application and check to the Fair office or mail to P.O. Box 428, Rosenberg, Texas 77471. This contest will be limited to space availability. **Teams that cooked in the previous Cook-off ONLY, will be given first choice to have their same spot(s) for this year's event. Teams wishing to retain their spots from the previous year MUST acknowledge their intent to participate by paying a $50.00 deposit no later than March 31, 2017. After that day, your spot will be released to a first come, first serve basis.** If you would like *any* special considerations reviewed as part of your application, please write them on your application. They will be evaluated and applied if possible.

Team Insurance: The Fort Bend County Fair Association will not be responsible for accidents, theft, or damage to persons and/or equipment. A One Million Dollar Liability Insurance Policy will be required by all teams and must be purchased through the Fort Bend County Fair Association Insurance Carrier. The insurance policy will provide each team with the minimum insurance requirements for participation in this year's contest. The coverage provided is not an Accident, Group Medical or Workers Compensation policy for team members. Certificates of Insurance evidencing coverage for teams from any other source will not be accepted. Team must fill out and return the insurance policy application with contest entry form in order to be registered. Charges for the policy are listed on the insurance forms.

Note: We have negotiated with the insurance provider, and the single fee charged for this year will cover one or two spots regardless if cooking in one or both spots.

Note: Once monies are paid to the FBCFA for the BBQ contest. The monies will not be refunded under any condition. In the event of an Act of God and the contest cannot be held, your prepaid monies will be credited to entry into the next rescheduled/scheduled Fort Bend County Fair BBQ Contest.

Approved by Board 4-13-17

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Categories: Culinary: Pinto Beans, Beef Chili, Seafood Gumbo, and Beef Stew.
BBQ Sauce *(optional – requires additional $10.00 entry fee)*
BBQ: Beef Fajitas, Beef Brisket, Chicken, and Pork Ribs.

2. Deadline for Entry: Entry forms and payment in full must be received in the Fair office no later than the head cooks meeting to be held in August 2017.

3. Alcoholic Beverages: *Due to current Texas On-Premises Beer and Wine licensing of the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds. Beer and Wine* ***cannot*** *be brought into the fenced perimeter. Hard liquor is permitted and should be brought in during the setup times. Beer and Wine* ***MUST*** *be purchased from the Fort Bend County Fair Association. Contact the Fair office for more information. It is recommended that you place your preliminary orders in advance of the Fair so as sufficient stock is on hand.*

***4.* Cook-off Site Setup Times:**

Early Setup:
Wednesday: Tents, Pits and RV's may be brought in and set-up during the early set-up, **between 9:00am and 9:00pm.** **Note: Only the Cook-off area will be accessible from these gates. General Admission Tickets will be required to enter the rest of the Fairgrounds Areas on this day. Contestants may stay overnight with their equipment within their designated space(s).
****No Bands or other entertainment are allowed on Wednesday. *****

General Setup:

- **Thursday:** Cooking equipment and setup will be allowed on the contest site **between 8:00am - 5:00pm.** Vehicles outside of their associated area will be towed. From 5:00pm till 12:00am General Admission Ticket Booths will open at walk through gates into the cook-off area only.

- **Friday:** Cooking equipment and setup will be allowed on the contest site **between 8:00am - 12:00pm.** Vehicles outside of their associated area will be towed. From 5:00pm till 12:00am General Admission Ticket Booths will open at walk through gates into the cook-off area only.

a. Sites will be approximately 40' x 40' or as otherwise marked. Team's equipment and décor must fit within the assigned space. No parking outside of your designated area unless otherwise approved by the chairman or director in charge. Cook-off layout is subject to change from year to year as fairground improvement and cook-off enhancements proceed. Electricity is not supplied by the Fort Bend County Fair Association. One (1) port-a-can will be supplied per 40' x 40' site. Because they are ordered well in advance of the event, any additional port-a-can requests must be purchased through the Fair Association at the time of registration. (see "Extra Port-A-Can" section of Registration Form). *Port-A-cans cannot be purchased after the Fair has started.* Any vehicle parked outside your boundaries after designated setup times will be towed away at owner's expense. During listed set-up times, only cooking equipment and drop off will be allowed inside the gates. **These vehicles will be allotted 15 minutes to unload and will be time stamped on driver's side window upon entry. If this time stamp is erased or not readily visible on the vehicle, it will be removed immediately. No parking outside of your designated area will be allowed.** Convenient parking spaces will be available for other team members outside the cook-off area. No vehicles other than Cook-off RV's and travel trailers may be left inside your cooking area. Any other vehicle to be used in a site must have prior approval by committee director, or chairmen as cooking site decorations.

b. Tents, Pits and RV's may be brought in and set-up during any of the above stated times.

Note: All tents must be secured via **water barrels only. No stake style tents will be allowed on the grounds for safety reasons since the cook-off area contains underground water, wastewater and electrical conduits. Tents may not be taller than 15 feet in height.

c. Bands and team gathering/socializing will be allowed Thursday night, through the rest of the contest.
****ALL MUSIC AND OTHER LOUD NOISE MUST CEASE BY 12:00am on Thursday and Friday and 1:00 am on Saturday.****

d. Cookers will be allowed to spend the night starting Wednesday before the contest in their allocated spaces. Walking around the cook-off area or other parts of the grounds after gate hours or in others spaces is strictly prohibited *and will be monitored by grounds security*.

5. **Teams:** A Cook-Off Team consists of a Chief Cook and four (4) assistants with a unique team name. Team names may not be like Acme Team #1 and Acme Team #2. Team names may not be offensive and are subject to approval by the Fort Bend County Board of Directors. Chief Cook and Team Members may not cook on more than one team; disqualification is subject for doing so. Each team must have unique members. The Chief Cook of the team is responsible for the operation of the team space and all actions within or outside the assigned space(s) by the members or guests within the assigned space(s). The Chief Cook of the team must be physically present and available to the contest management if called upon. Teams will be provided with *ten (10) One*-Day Passes for team members to use when entering the admissions gate. Other parties attending your area are required to purchase Fort Bend County Fair gate entry tickets to enter the cook-off for Thursday, Friday & Saturday. Economically priced SEASON PASSES are available from the FORT BEND COUNTY FAIR OFFICE 281-342-6171 and from any of the Fort Bend County Fair Queen Candidates or online at www.fortbendcountyfair.com

EACH TEAM MEMBER MUST SIGN A RELEASE OF LIABILITY & INDEMNITY AGREEMENT PRIOR TO MOVE IN.

6. **Types of cooking devices restricted:** Open fires, fire holes, or dug pits will not be permitted. Fire Barrels should have restrictive covers to arrest flames and are only acceptable if sufficient space is available away from tents or other flammable objects. Fire Barrels must not cause damage to asphalt or ground surfaces.

7. **Equipment:** The Fair Association will provide a space ONLY. Contestants must supply ALL necessary equipment and supplies. Props, trailers, motor homes, vehicles, tents, generators, coverings and/or any other part of a team's equipment must not extend outside the boundaries of the assigned space unless approved by director or chairman. *Water is conveniently available to some sites and less conveniently available to other. If Fair water spicket's are to be used, RV type potable water hoses or other potable water type container must be used. Backflow preventers must be used at your connection.*

8. **Fire Extinguishers Minimum Requirements:**
One (2A10BC) type extinguisher is required in each 40x40 space and at least one 40BC type extinguisher is required in each cooking area within each space. Where teams plan to use deep fat frying equipment using vegetable or animal oils and fats, it is required that at least one 2.5 gallon (6L) type K portable fire extinguisher be present. All extinguishers must have a current date tag. Committee personnel will randomly inspect for extinguishers. A team found without minimum extinguishers will be stopped from further cooking for their protection.
Note: The Fire Marshal or Local Fire Department will be inspecting for adequate extinguishers.

9. **Preparations:** Precooked and/or pre-seasoned meat and entries will not be allowed. All entries will and must be inspected by a member of the Cook-off committee *prior to preparing.* A FOOD SOURCE SHEET listing the store where perishable foods were purchased is required by the City of Rosenberg Health Department and Fort Bend County Health Department for products cooked during the contest. These will be collected by Cook-off committee members.

10. Judging: will be divided into 8 categories plus one optional category:

Culinary Judging: PINTO BEANS, BEEF CHILI, SEAFOOD GUMBO, BEEF STEW
BBQ Sauce Jackpot Judging (*Optional* $10.00 Additional Jackpot fee per entry category)
BBQ Judging: BEEF FAJITAS, BEEF BRISKET, CHICKEN, and PORK RIBS

All measures will be taken to insure that judges will not know whose entry is being judged.
Judging Fairness is our utmost concern.

Judging of Pinto Beans, Chili, Gumbo and Stew will take place on Friday night. Final judging for these same categories will immediately follow preliminary judging. Culinary Awards will be distributed on Friday night at the Texas Stage after final scores are determined. **An optional Culinary Jackpot is available for EACH culinary category. Cost is $10 per category. Participation in the Jackpot is voluntary. The Culinary Jackpot Prizes will also be awarded immediately following the trophy presentation.**

Optional Culinary Jackpots are determined by team with the highest placing in that category that has entered the Jackpot contest. Jackpots are 100% payout and winner takes all. Teams wishing to enter the Jackpots must pay for their entries at the head cooks meeting the morning of the event.

Judging of BBQ Sauce will be held at 11:00am Saturday at BBQ Committee Headquarters. Judges will consist of one member from each team that enters this optional contest. BBQ Sauce **Cash Jackpot will be awarded prior to final trophy / prize presentation.**

Judging of Beef Fajitas, Beef Brisket, Chicken, and Pork Ribs will take place on Saturday afternoon. Final judging for these same categories will immediately follow preliminary judging. BBQ Awards will be distributed on Saturday at the Texas Stage after final scores are determined.

Contest Entries:
No garnishes or condiments within containers will be accepted. No markings, tin foil, competition tags, or other identifiable devices will be accepted inside or outside containers submitted for judging. Only containers supplied by the Fort Bend County Cook-off Committee will be accepted for judging. If your container becomes damaged, another can be obtained as long as the container ticket and container are returned to the cook-off committee. **A representative from each team is REQUIRED to attend the MANDATORY cooks meeting at 10:00am both Friday and Saturday morning at the Texas Stage. There will be short announcements, comments and the passing out of the containers during this time.**

Culinary Cook Off Friday Night and Turn in Times:

Pinto Beans (4:30 - 4:45pm) *– No rice, noodles, or any other garnishes. Nothing larger than the bean itself.*
Beef Chili (4:30 - 4:45pm) *– No beans, rice, noodle or other garnishes.*
Seafood Gumbo (5:15 - 5:30pm) *– No rice or other garnishes.*
Beef Stew (5:15 - 5:30pm) *– No garnishes*

Awards begin at approximately 7:30pm with the awarding of the Jackpot prizes immediately following

- **Barbeque Cook Off Saturday and Turn in Times:** All entry meat, with the exception of fajitas, for Saturday's contest will be tagged **prior** to seasoning or cooking by a committee cook off supervisor. Contestants may cook separate pieces of the same type of meat (e.g., three slabs of ribs, two whole chickens, or two briskets). If a contestant elects to cook two briskets, two chickens, and three slabs of ribs, all pieces **must** be tagged by the cook off supervisor. All entries must be cut from the tagged meat in the presence of the cook off supervisor. Contestants may trim tagged meat after inspection. **Meat tagging will begin Thursday and must be completed no later than 12:00pm Friday.**
  It has been suggested to wrap meat tags in foil PRIOR to cooking which helps make the tags easier after cooking

- **Barbeque Sauce Contest:** This is an optional contest. It will require a $10.00 additional entry fee and will be judged by one member of each participating team. Cash jackpot prize only, no trophy!

Barbeque Cook Off Saturday and Turn in Times:

Head Cook's meeting – 10:00am
BBQ Sauce Turn In 11:00am (after Head Cook's meeting) *– no garnishes.*
Chicken (3:15 – 3:30) *– Shall contain an **un-sliced half chicken** for presentation and 12 slices of cook's choice for sampling with no other garnishes.*
Beef Fajitas (3:15 – 3:30) *– Shall have twelve slices for judges. No other garnishes.*
Pork Ribs (3:45 – 4:30pm) *– Twelve Ribs shall be sliced and placed in the container with no other garnishes.*
Beef Brisket (3:45 – 4:30pm) *– Shall have twelve slices for judges and show smoke ring and skill of the team. No other garnishes.*

Awards begin at approximately 6:15pm

11. Trophies and Awards: Trophies will be awarded to the Top Ten (10) Places in each category after final judging each day.

A. Culinary trophies will be awarded on Friday **with the presentation of the Jackpot Prize to follow.**

B. BBQ Sauce cash jackpot *(optional)* will be awarded Saturday prior to the final awards presentation. Amount of cash prize will be based on number of entries *(each entry is $10).*

C. BBQ Grand Champion and BBQ Reserve Champion teams are chosen from highest overall score in the BBQ categories: Beef Fajitas, Beef Brisket, Chicken, and Pork Ribs. In case of a tie in the BBQ Grand and Reserve Champion winners, places earned in the culinary categories will be used to break the tie. If a tie still exists, highest score in the Beef Brisket category will be used as a tie breaker, then Chicken, then fajitas, then ribs.
Cash prizes will be awarded as follows:

First Place Fajitas	**$200**
First Place Chicken	**$400**
First Place Ribs	**$400**
First Place Brisket	**$1000**

D. The Fort Bend County Grand Champion BBQ Team will be automatically awarded one space and one set of contest entries into the next years Fort Bend County Fair BBQ Cook-off contest. Said space and contest entries are non-transferable and may only be used by the Grand Champion Team.

E. Trophies will be awarded for Showmanship to three (3) teams selected by a committee created by the Director and Chairman. Awards will be presented on Saturday evening during the final judging.

12. **Conduct:** Chief Cooks are responsible for the conduct of their team members and guests.

- **a.** Teams may **not** charge door admission to their spaces during or before the contest. Teams wishing to operate their spaces as "Invitation Only" must secure their spaces with an appropriate number of uniformed officers/agents licensed by the State of Texas. Fair Directors, Cook off Chairmen, and BBQ Committee personnel (with committee-related business) are always permitted in all spaces with proper identification. Please advise your security personnel. Teams are **NOT** required to provide general access (non-business access) or food/other refreshments to committee members or staff.
- **b.** Animals are NOT permitted on the cook-off grounds except for certified Seeing Eye or human assistance dogs.
- **c.** At No Time may a person under the age of 21 be served or consume alcohol. The Fair prohibits minor consuming alcohol, even in the presence of a legal guardian.
- **d.** If a team member(s) is involved in any altercation that requires law enforcement to be called, the team will be disqualified from the competition

13. **House Keeping:** Each team will be responsible for cleanup within their assigned space in a timely manner.

14. Personal Entertainment: Bands do not get into the cook-off area for free. They must purchase a ticket or be supplied a ticket by the purchasing team. If the Cook-off committee receives complaints that music gets too loud, you will be asked to turn it down and you must comply. Excessive noise will be determined by Security Deputies, Safety Committee and/or the Committee Chairman or Co-Chairman of the event. Pyrotechnics of any kind are strictly prohibited.

15. Mobility: No public or private golf carts, ATV's, UTV or other motorized vehicles will be allowed inside the Fort Bend County Fair areas with the exception of authorized fair vehicles. Motorized Wheel Chairs and Mobility Scooters are allowed. Assistance with moving materials in or outside the cook-off area between vehicle entry intervals can be arranged by contacting committee personnel.

16. Executive Decisions: Cook-off Contest Director and Chairman reserve the right to make additional rules, regulations, and amendments as situations warrant**. Decisions of the FBCFA Board of Directors are final.**

17. COOKOFF SITE TEAR DOWN: Teams will not be allowed to start dismantling before 6:00am on Sunday, and no vehicles will be allowed in or out of the cook-off area before *gates are unlocked* Sunday morning.

18. HAVE FUN!!! Your participation helps support the FORT BEND COUNTY FAIR SCHOLARSHIP FUND.