

**Illinois State Beekeepers Association  
Summer Conference  
Honey Show Rules**

**HOST:** Illinois State Beekeepers Association and Mississippi Valley Beekeepers Association

**CHAIRPERSON:** Brutz English, 770-843-2110, brutzenglish@gmail.com

**ENTRY FEE:** Five Dollars (\$5.00) per exhibit

**ARRIVAL TIME:** Friday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, from 7:00 AM to 10:00 AM.

**LOCATION:** The Illinois State Beekeepers Summer Conference

**JUDGING:** Friday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, beginning 10:15 AM

**RELEASE TIME:** All entries will remain in the show area for public viewing after the judging. All entries will remain on display until 2:00 PM Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, after which exhibitors may pick up their entries.

**JUDGES:** Brutz English, Pamela Carter, Kelsey Gerhardt, et al.

**SECRETARY:** Kelly Kern

**GENERAL RULES**

1. The honey show is open to Paid Attendees of the Illinois State Beekeepers Summer Conference who wish to enter one or more exhibits, except as otherwise specifically provided for herein. The honey show is NOT open to individuals serving as judges, stewards, or show secretaries, nor to individuals who are immediate family members of those individuals serving as judges, stewards, or show secretaries. "Immediate Family Member" is defined as individuals who are spouses, siblings, parents, children, grandparents, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, first cousins, parents of common children, step-parents, step-children, or any individuals residing in the same residence.

2. Entries must be received between 7:00 AM to 10:00 AM on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023. **No entries will be accepted after this deadline.**

3. Each Exhibitor must sign an affidavit stating that each exhibit he or she submits was produced by the Exhibitor in conformity with the rules set forth herein.

4. Each Exhibitor may make only one exhibit per class. More than one individual from a family or household may submit exhibits across different categories; however, family members and individuals from common

households may not submit multiple exhibits in the same category.

5. Apart from Extracted Honey, in instances where the exhibit may qualify for consideration in multiple classes, the Exhibitor shall have the right to choose which class to enter their exhibit; the Exhibitor's selection will not be overturned by the Judge(s); and said exhibit will be judged based on the criteria set forth in the class selected by the Exhibitor. The Judge shall have discretion to make the final determination as to proper color designation regarding all exhibits of Extracted Honey.

6. Double Entries are strictly prohibited. A "Double Entry" is when an exhibitor has more than one exhibit placed in a single exhibition class. The Show Secretary shall not knowingly accept any subsequent exhibit which would create a Double Entry. Whenever a Double Entry is created by the decision of a judge in reclassifying an exhibit pursuant to the rules herein, the following procedure shall apply: Prior to the judging of any other exhibits in the affected class, the exhibits constituting the double entry shall be identified and examined by the head Judge; the head Judge shall make a determination as to which of the exhibits constituting the Double Entry is the best under the criteria listed for the affected class; the best

exhibit of those comprising the Double Entry will be returned to the show bench, and the other(s) will be disqualified. Whenever a Double Entry results in the disqualification of one or more exhibits, and after the results are publicly announced or posted, it shall be the responsibility of the head judge to personally inform the affected exhibitor of the determination of the Double Entry and subsequent disqualification of the exhibit(s).

7. Unless specifically otherwise provided for under an individual category's rules, ALL honey, beeswax, propolis, pollen, or royal jelly exhibited, or made part of any exhibit, must be produced by the exhibitor from honeybees owned and kept by the Exhibitor.

8. All beeswax items, unless otherwise specifically allowed herein, must be prepared from pure, unadulterated beeswax, free from any additives or enhancements. The use of synthetic, artificial, or adulterated beeswax or drawn honeycomb is strictly prohibited. *Exhibits (except for Artistic), found to be containing any of the above will be disqualified.*

9. Regarding the requirement of uniformity, items within or comprising any single exhibit should be alike and matching in every way: jars, containers, closures, contents, composition, orientation, placement, presentation, etc., should be identical across all individual items comprising any single exhibit.

10. Once exhibits have been accepted into the competition by the Show Secretary, they may not be altered in any way.

11. After submitting entries to the Show Secretary, exhibitors may not enter the area where the exhibits have been placed. The Secretary, Stewards or Judges are the only persons who may enter the honey judging area.

12. Judges will enter the honey show area after the close of exhibitor acceptance. This is to ensure as close to a blind judging as possible.

13. Copyright of any submitted recipe, artwork, literary work, or other media remains with the exhibitor, but the Illinois State Beekeepers Association & the Mississippi Valley Beekeepers Assoc., Inc. has the unrestricted right to publish images of submitted recipes, artwork, literary work, or other media in its newsletter, on its website, and via its social media outlets, plus unrestricted rights to use the same in any related material for PR purposes.

14. All exhibits submitted in classes containing the designation "Extracted Honey" are to be presented in one-pound, glass (no plastic), "Queen-line" or "Classic" style jars; any exhibits submitted in any other style of jar or container will be disqualified.

15. Allowances will be made for minor damage to cappings in entries in the comb honey categories, where such minor damage is clearly the result of previous judging in another show.

16. The Show Secretary will provide each exhibitor identifying labels to be affixed to each exhibit as provided in the rules for each exhibition class. The Exhibitor shall be responsible for placing the ID labels on each exhibit as directed for each exhibition class, unless otherwise specified herein.

17. Exhibits and other items not retrieved by the deadline posted for pick-up, shall be deemed abandoned, and shall be donated to the Honey Show Committee for future use or disposal. The sponsoring organization, nor the Honey Show Committee, are not responsible for any items left after the pick-up deadline.

## Prizes and Awards

It is the intention that ribbons will be given in all classes even if there is only one entry in the class. Entry into a class does not guarantee an award. In order to receive an award that entry must be worthy of placement. A Judge may, in his or her sole discretion, make or withhold the award of any given prize(s) or placement(s) in any class over which said Judge officiates. The decisions of the Judges are final.

Exhibitors found willfully cheating, or purposefully altering or disfiguring an entry for the purpose of influencing the validity of judging will be disqualified from the contest, as well as from any future honey shows sponsored by the association/conference for a period of not less than three (3) years.

### Ribbons, Prize Cards & Sweepstakes:

Ribbons will be awarded to winners in Best in Show and to First, Second, and Third place winners in each class. *\*In the Black Jar class, only a First-Place prize will be awarded.*

Prize cards with point values for participants in the AHSTC Honey Judging Program will be awarded to the Best in Show winner and all First through Sixth place winners in all classes as follows: Best in Show = 6 points; First Place = 6 points; Second Place = 5 points; Third Place = 4 points; Very Highly Commendable= 3 points; Highly Commendable = 2 points; and Commendable = 1 point.

## THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES WILL BE ACCEPTED & JUDGED AT THE HONEY SHOW

### EXTRACTED HONEY

H1A: Light  
H1b: Amber  
H1c: Dark

### CREAMED HONEY

H2a: Natural  
H2b: Flavored

### COMB HONEY

H3: Cut Comb Honey  
H4: Chunk Comb Honey  
H5: Full Frame Comb Honey  
H6: Black Jar

### BEESWAX

W1: Beeswax Block  
W2: Beeswax Bars  
W3: Beeswax Candles  
W4: Beeswax Artistic

## **RULES FOR INDIVIDUAL CLASSES:**

### **EXTRACTED & COMB HONEY**

#### **H1: Extracted Honey**

Extracted honey is judged in three subclasses: **(a)** light, **(b)** medium or amber, and **(c)** dark. Exhibitors may submit one exhibit in each of these three subclasses. One exhibit of extracted honey is defined as three (3) identical one-pound jars, as specified in rule #14 under the General Rules of the Honey Show. Closures may be of metal or plastic. Tamper-proof seals are strictly prohibited; any exhibits submitted with any tamper-proof seal(s) will be disqualified. Judges evaluate entries on the following: confirmation with the criteria set forth herein; cleanliness of the jar and lid; correct fill level; uniformity of the jars that comprise the exhibit; cleanliness and clarity of the honey; moisture content (only if needed); and aroma and flavor (for off aromas or flavors). \*See Appendix hereafter for notes on correct jars and fill level.

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on each of the jars comprising the exhibit. The labels should be affixed at the front, bottom, center of each jar, approximately ½ inch from the bottom of the jar.

#### **H2: Creamed Honey**

Creamed Honey is judged in two subclasses: **(a)** natural, and **(b)** flavored. Exhibitors may submit one exhibit in each of these two classes. An entry of creamed honey is three (3) identical wide-mouth jars, no less than eight ounces (8oz.), nor more than sixteen ounces (16oz.) in net weight. Creamed honey must be displayed in identical, clear, straight-sided, glass jars with one-piece lids. Judges evaluate entries on the following: confirmation with the criteria set forth herein; cleanliness of the jar and lid; correct fill level; uniformity of the jars that comprise the exhibit; cleanliness and clarity of the honey; moisture content (only if needed); and aroma and flavor (for off aromas or flavors); fineness of crystals; uniformity and firmness of product; cleanliness and freedom from foam or from added flavors, striation or colors.

The judging criteria for H5b is the same as that for H5a, with the exception that the use of flavoring agents is permitted. \*For flavored creamed honey, a white index card with a description of the flavoring(s) and ingredients added to the honey must accompany each exhibit.

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on each of the jars comprising the exhibit. The labels should be affixed at the front, bottom, center of each jar, approximately ½ inch from the bottom of the jar.

#### **H3: Cut Comb Honey**

An exhibit of cut comb honey is three (3) identical boxes. The boxes must be transparent on all sides made for displaying cut comb. Each box of cut comb should weigh a minimum of twelve (12) ounces. The chunk of comb must be in one piece, with a straight mid rib and of uniform thickness. Virgin comb with this year's wax is preferred. All foundation should be unwired, thin surplus. The cuts should be clean and uniform. There should be no leaking of honey from the comb into the box. Judges evaluate entries on the following: confirmation with the criteria set forth herein; uniformity of the items that comprise the entry; uniformity of appearance and color (including the honey in the comb); cleanliness of

the jar and lid; completeness of capping; cleanliness and clarity of the honey; absence of pollen, brood, uncapped cells, “wet” or “watery” cappings, or travel stains on the cappings; freedom from granulation, pollen, and brood; moisture content (only if needed); and aroma and flavor (for off aromas or flavors).

The Exhibitor shall place ID one label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on each of the containers comprising the exhibit. The labels should be affixed at the front, bottom, center of each container.

#### **H4: Chunk Comb Honey**

One entry of chunk honey is three (3) identical one-pound jars. Chunk honey must be displayed in straight sided, uncolored, glass, wide mouth, jars. The glass should not be embossed. Such jars are available from many commercial beekeeping suppliers. Only one chunk of comb should be in each jar for competition. The chunk of comb must be in one piece of uniform thickness, and with a straight mid rib. Virgin comb with this year’s wax is preferred. All foundation should be unwired, thin surplus. The cuts should be clean and uniform. The chunk comb should be cut and sized to appropriately fit the container. The honey should fill the rest of the jar to the correct fill line. The comb should be oriented in the container as found naturally in the hive. Comb with watery cappings should be avoided. The comb should extend the length of the jar. The chunk of comb should account for at least fifty percent (50%) of the internal volume of the jar. Judges evaluate entries on the following: confirmation with the criteria set forth herein; cleanliness of the jar and lid; correct fill level; uniformity of the jars that comprise the entry; cleanliness and clarity of the honey; absence of pollen, brood, uncapped cells, “wet” or “watery” cappings, or travel stains on the cappings; freedom from granulation; absence of floating wax debris in, or on the surface of, the honey; moisture content (only if needed); and aroma and flavor (for off aromas or flavors).

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on each of the jars comprising the exhibit. The labels should be affixed at the front, bottom, center of each jar, approximately ½ inch from the bottom of the jar.

#### **H5: Full Frame Comb Honey**

An exhibit of full frame comb honey is one (1) standard Langstroth style frame of capped honey. The use of plastic foundation is prohibited; exhibits with comb drawn on plastic foundation will be disqualified. Frames must be shown in protective casing without lacing or edging and both sides of the comb should be visible. There should be no leaking of honey from the comb into the case. The frame must be easily accessible for judging. Judges evaluate entries on the following: confirmation with the criteria set forth herein; completeness of capping; uniformity of appearance and color (including the honey in the comb); cleanliness of the comb and frame; absence of uncapped cells, “wet” or “watery” cappings, or travel stains on the cappings; freedom from granulation, pollen, and brood; cleanliness of the exposed portions of the frame, including freedom from propolis and bur comb; moisture content (only if needed); and aroma and flavor (for off aromas or flavors). Total weight of the exhibit may be used as a tiebreaker.

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the top, middle of the frame and on the right-hand corner of the window uppermost of the display case containing the exhibit.

#### **H6: Black Jar**

An entry consists of not less than two ounces, nor more than four ounces, of pure, unadulterated honey. Entries are to be submitted in black or colored jar which entirely obscures the contents of the jar. The required jar will be provided by the Show Secretary at the sign-in table, and the Exhibitor will transfer their entry into the jar and return the exhibit to the Show Secretary. Judges evaluate entries for flavor only.

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the exhibit. The label should be affixed at the front, bottom, center of the jar, approximately ½ inch from the bottom of the jar.

*\*In the Black Jar class, only a First-Place prize will be awarded.*

### **BEESWAX, CANDLES, & ARTISTIC**

#### **W1: Beeswax Block**

An exhibit consists of one (1) block of pure beeswax. The block must weigh between one to two pounds, no more, and should have thickness no greater than 1.5 inches. The wax should be clean, and free of impurities. The block should be smooth-surfaced and free of blemishes, decorations, or embellishments. Beeswax wax should be of a vibrant, natural beeswax color, and should have a pleasant, natural beeswax fragrance. The block should be submitted on a plain, white plate or board (which may be made of paper, foam, cardboard, or any similar material), in a zip-top bag. Alternatively, at the Exhibitor's option, the block may be presented in a protective display case. If a show- case is used, it must not exceed 12"(length) x 12"(width) x 4"(depth), and the wax block must be readily accessible for judging. The showcase will not be judged, aside for cleanliness. Judges evaluate entries on the following: confirmation with the criteria set forth herein; cleanliness; color; finish; absence of pouring or casting defects including cracks, raised edges, unevenness, rippled or wavy surfaces, etc.; and aroma (for off aromas).

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the underside of the wax block, and the second label on the top right-hand corner of the display case lid or plastic bag.

#### **W2: Beeswax Bars**

An exhibit is defined as six (6) identical one (1) ounce beeswax bars. Beeswax wax should be of a vibrant, natural beeswax color, and should have a pleasant, natural beeswax fragrance. The wax should be clean, and free of impurities. The bars should be smooth-surfaced, free of blemishes, and identical in every way. The bars should be submitted on a plain, white plate or board (which may be made of paper, foam, cardboard, or any similar material), in a zip-top bag. Alternatively, at the Exhibitor's option, the bars may be presented in a protective display case. If a showcase is used, it must not exceed 12"(length) x 12"(width) x 4"(depth), and the wax bars must be readily accessible for judging. The showcase will not be judged, aside for cleanliness. Judges evaluate entries on the following: confirmation with the criteria set forth herein; cleanliness; color; aroma (for off aromas); uniformity; casting flaws; and sharpness of detail.

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the bottom center of the paper plate the wax blocks were submitted on, and the second label on the top right-hand corner of the display case lid or plastic bag.

### **W3: Beeswax Candles**

An exhibit is defined as three (3) candles. The wax should be clean, and free of impurities. Beeswax wax should be of a vibrant, natural beeswax color, and should have a pleasant, natural beeswax fragrance. Candles must have flat finished bases with wicks well centered. Wicks must be waxed and trimmed to one-half inch in length. One of the candles in each exhibit will be lit by the judge and allowed to burn. All candles must be presented in a free-standing, fire-proof base, or candleholder. Items comprising the exhibit should be uniform in every aspect, including height, thickness, weight, appearance, and performance (where appropriate). Judges evaluate entries on the following: confirmation with the criteria set forth in herein; cleanliness; color; aroma (for off aromas); proper wicking; performance; uniformity; casting flaws; and sharpness of detail.

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary, on the bottom of each of the candleholders the candles were submitted with, and another label on the bottom, or at the base, of each of the candles.

### **W4: Beeswax Artistic**

An exhibit is defined as any handmade artistic dimensional creation, such as sculptural, or encaustic painting made of/or with beeswax and formed into a freestanding or decorative object. The object should be original and unique in design. The entry may have other medium incorporated within, but the primary desire is for the use of beeswax to be obvious. Entries will be judged on originality and creativity as well as aesthetic appeal. Each entry should have its own base to sit on and should be submitted on a plain, white plate or board (which may be made of paper, foam, cardboard, or any similar material. Alternatively, at the Exhibitor's choice, the Sculpture or Artwork may be presented in a protective display case readily accessible to the judges.

The Exhibitor shall place one ID label, as provided by the honey show Secretary on the bottom of each entry as well as on the base or display case.

## Appendix

*\*The correct jars for extracted honey entries.*

### CLASSIC



### QUEENLINE



**\*Notes on correct fill level:** The correct fill level on a “Queen-line” or “Classic” style honey jar is at the top of the fill ring of each jar. The fill ring is the raised ridge or ring of glass immediately above the shoulder of the jar, and below the threads. It can be distinguished from the threads in two ways: a) the fill ring forms a complete circle, without ends; and b) the fill ring will be completely parallel with the bottom and top of the jar. There should be enough honey in the jar to reach the top of the fill ring, without going over. Liquid honey in a circular shape forms a concave surface sometimes referred to as a meniscus. **For purposes of filling honey jars for exhibition, the edge of the meniscus should meet the top of the fill ring.** A jar of honey being overfilled is preferable to one being under-filled.

