



SAVE THE DATE!!

OCTOBER 2nd & 3rd, 2026

AUSTIN COUNTY FAIR'S 27TH ANNUAL BAR-B-Q COOK-OFF!!

Calling ALL Bar-B-Q Cookers!!

This year's Annual Austin County Fair Bar-B-Q Cook-off will be held on Saturday, October 3rd, 2026. On Friday, October 2, 2026, we will have the Chef's Choice and Margarita Jackpot competitions. These are optional competitions. However, you must have a Cook-off team entered to compete in either of the Jackpot competitions. Margaritas will be judged at 7:00 p.m. and Chef's Choice at 8:00 p.m. Prize money is based on the number of entries. Winners will be announced Saturday October 3rd, 2026. **ABSOLUTELY NO ENTRIES FOR CHEF'S CHOICE OR MARGARITA JACKPOT COMPETITIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 12:00 NOON ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2026.**

On Saturday, the pageants will be in the Expo Building starting with the Lil' Pageants at 9:00 a.m., concluding with the Queen's Contest starting at 5:30 p.m. Saturday afternoon, there will be Mutton Bustin' in the arena.

Attached, you will find the Entry Form and Rules and Regulations for the 2026 Austin County Fair Bar-B-Q Cook-Off. **ALL ENTRIES MUST BE IN THE FAIR OFFICE NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026, AT 5:00 P.M.** The Registration Form (which requires all team members' signatures) may be turned in at check-in. Teams that competed last year will have the choice of their same space but the deadline to reserve that space is Friday, September 11, 2026. After that date, all spaces will be released on a first come basis. Spaces with electricity are limited, so please get your entry in ASAP!!

Questions? Call:

Kathy Ignasiak
979-877-5153

Rachel Schubert
979-885-8372

Bar-B-Q Cook-Off Co-Chairs



AUSTIN COUNTY FAIR'S 27TH ANNUAL BAR-B-Q COOK-OFF RULES & REGULATIONS

GENERAL RULES

- 1) The Austin County Fair Association and the Bar-B-Que Committee has the right to modify or expand these rules and regulations. Decisions of the Committee and Judges of the Contest are final.
- 2) Last years' entries will have first choice to reserve their same space as last year. **DEADLINE TO RESERVE YOUR SAME SPACE AS LAST YEAR IS SEPT. 11, 2026.** After this date, all spaces will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. All entries must be in the fair office no later than **Friday, September 25, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.**
- 3) The Austin County Fair Association is not responsible for theft or damage to equipment or property of contestants.
- 4) The Team Coordinator of each team will be held responsible for the conduct of its members and any persons who are or have been in his/her space.
- 5) Excessively loud (in the discretion of the Chairman) amplified music, horns or public-address systems are prohibited.
- 6) Due to insurance regulations, no ATV's, golf carts, etc. may be brought onto the Fairgrounds by participants or guests.
- 7) Excessive use of alcoholic beverages or consumption of alcoholic beverages in violation of Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code by a member of a team or person in the contestant's space could be grounds for disqualification and eviction from the Contest/Grounds.
- 8) Each contestant must comply with all pertinent laws and ordinances, including without limitation, City of Bellville and Austin County rules and the provisions of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code.
- 9) **NO DOGS/PETS WILL BE ALLOWED ON FAIRGROUNDS OR AT CAMPSITE!!!**

CHECK-IN

- 1) Please check in at the Cook-Off Headquarters in the Cook-Off Area. Teams may set up between 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. on Friday, October 2, 2026, and 6:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 3, 2026. Meat will be inspected at check-in.
- 2) Chief Cook meeting will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 3, 2026, at the Cook-Off Headquarters. Teams will receive their containers at the Chef's meeting.
- 3) Each team will have a space of approximately 40x40. There are limited spaces for electricity. Generators will be allowed.
- 4) Only one service vehicle will be allowed in the cook-off area. There will be absolutely no in and out traffic after 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 3, 2026.

Beverages

- 1) No alcoholic beverages are to be served to anyone under 21.
- 2) Liquor in bottles must be kept out of sight.
- 3) No glass containers allowed

COOKING AND JUDGING

- 1) Meat may not be pre-seasoned, marinated, or pre-cooked. Meat will be inspected at check-in. Each team can check-in up to two (2) briskets.
- 2) Fires must be wood or wood substance. No electric or gas fires are allowed.
- 3) Holes or dug pits are not permitted. Heat shields must be provided for cookers capable of damaging the surface of contest area. No open flames of any kind are permitted (e.g. tiki torches or campfires). Each team must bring a fire extinguisher.
- 4) Contestants must supply all needed equipment and supplies. Show provides space ONLY!
- 5) **NO GARNISH IS ALLOWED IN THE TRAY OR ON THE MEAT AT TURN IN TIME.**
- 6) Judging will be as follows:

Beans (Pinto)	10:00 a.m.
Chicken	11:00 a.m.
Ribs (Pork)	1:00 p.m.
Brisket	3:00 p.m.
- 7) Results will be announced at approximately 5:00 p.m.

OPTIONAL – JACKPOT COMPETITIONS

1. Jackpot competition will be held on Friday, October 2, 2026. This competition is optional.
2. Entry fee is \$ 15.00 per category. Teams may enter one entry per category.
3. Margarita Contest – 7:00 p.m.

Margaritas will be judged on taste and appeal. The BBQ Committee will deliver a container to your booth prior to turn-in. Please turn your entry in at the American Legion Hall. Entries may be turned in beginning at 6:50 p.m. and no later than 7:00 p.m.
4. Open Chef's Choice Contest – 8:00 p.m.

The Chef's Choice entry must be a open dish that is cooked on the pit. Chef's Choice will be judged on presentation, taste, and smell. The BBQ Committee will deliver a container to your booth prior to turn-in. Please turn your entry in at the American Hall. Entries may be turned in beginning at 7:50 p.m. and no later than 8:00 p.m.
5. Prize money will be based on the number of entries and paid as follows:

1 st – 40% of entry fees
2 nd – 20% of entry fees
3 rd – 10% of entry fees

MOVE OUT

1. Contest area must be cleared out by 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 4, 2026.
 2. The Cleaning Service will pick up all trash at the campsite Sunday morning. Please have trash bags in front of your campsite. You will be required to put all trash in the dumpster once the cook-off area has been cleaned. Any team that leaves trash on the grounds after the area has been cleaned will be assessed a fee the following year.
- All cook sites must be cleaned before moving out. Absolutely No Ashes, Beans, Meat or Trash left on cook sites.

27th Annual Austin County Fair Bar-B Que Cook-Off
Entry Form
Saturday, October 3, 2026

ENTRY FEE: \$200.00 per team. Each team will receive 3 Day tickets to the Austin County Fair. This form and all fees are due in the Austin County Fair Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 25, 2026.

AWARDS: Overall Champion - \$ 200.00 & Trophy

Prizes will be awarded for each category – Brisket, Chicken, Ribs & Beans

1st Place - \$ 150.00

2nd Place - \$ 100.00

3rd Place - \$ 75.00

RIB SHOOT-OUT!!!

1 WINNER = \$1000.00!!!!

1st Place Showmanship - \$ 100.00

2nd Place Showmanship - \$ 75.00

3rd Place Showmanship - \$50.00

Team Name: _____

Team Coordinator: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Business Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Fax Phone: _____ Email: _____

Chief Cook: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Business Phone: _____ Home Phone _____

Entry Fee: \$ 200.00 per team _____

Electricity (RV): \$ 50.00 _____

Electricity: \$ 25.00 _____

OPTIONAL – Friday Night Jackpot Competition:

Chef's Choice: \$ 15.00 _____

Margarita Contest: \$ 15.00 _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \$ _____

Checks payable to ACFA. WE DO ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS (with a 3.5% convenience fee)

MAIL ENTRY FORM & ENTRY FEE TO: Austin County Fair Association, P.O. Box 141, Bellville, Texas 77418

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Paid: _____ Amount: _____ Check Number/Cash _____

AUSTIN COUNTY FAIR
27th ANNUAL Bar-B-Q COOK-OFF
October 3, 2026

TEAM REGISTRATION FORM A
Forms A & B Must be Complete - See Reverse Side

MUST BE TURNED IN AT CHECK-IN TO THE BBQ COMMITTEE

TEAM NAME: _____

TEAM COORDINATOR: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

BUSINESS PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

FAX: _____ EMAIL: _____

CHIEF COOK: _____

BUSINESS PHONE: _____ HOME PHONE: _____

ALL TEAM MEMBERS: 1) _____
Please Print

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

6) _____

TEAM REGISTRATION FORM (B)

TEAM NAME: _____

Our team has read and understands the rules and regulations of the 2025 Austin County Fair Bar-B-Q Cook-off and agrees to abide by the terms and conditions thereof.

We agree to hold harmless the Austin County Fair Association, the County of Austin, the City of Bellville, the Mewis Trust, et. al., for any and all loss of property and/or person and from all accidents that may result from our participation in the Austin County Fair Bar-B-Q Cook-off or said activities surrounding the Austin County Fair in Bellville, Texas.

We further agree that by signing this agreement, do hereby grant the Austin County Fair Association and its legal representatives and assignees the irrevocable and unrestricted right to use and publish photographs of us, or in which we may be included, for editorial trade, advertising and any other purpose and in any manner or medium. We hereby release the Austin County Fair Association and its' representatives and assignees from all claims and liability relating to said photography.

Participant's Signature

Print Name



AUSTIN COUNTY FAIR'S 27TH ANNUAL BAR-B-Q COOK-OFF!!

DETAILS

Friday, September 11, 2026, 5:00 PM Deadline to Reserve Spot for Previous Cookers

Friday, September 25, 2026, 5:00 PM Cook-Off Entries Due in Fair Office

Friday, October 2, 2026, Move In & Jackpot Contests

8:00 AM - 10:00 pm Teams Set-Up (#1 Possible Time)

12:00 PM Deadline to Turn in Jackpot Entries

7:00 PM Margrita Contest

8:00 PM Chef's Choice Contest

9:30 PM Winners Announced

Saturday, October 3, 2026, BBQ Cook-Off & Rib Shoot-Out

6:00 AM - 8:00 am Teams Set-Up (#2 Possible Time)

8:00 AM Chief Cooks Meeting

9:00 AM No More In & Out Traffic

9:00 AM Lil' Pageants Begin

10:00 AM Beans Judging

11:00 AM Chicken Judging

1:00 PM Ribs (Pork) Judging

3:00 PM Brisket Judging

3:00 PM Mutton Bustin'

5:00 PM Results Announced

5:30 PM Queen's Contest

Sunday, October 4, 2026 Move Out

10:00 AM Teams Must Be Moved Out & Area Clean