



2026 HOMEMADE CHOCOLATE CAKE CONTEST

Sponsor: PA State Association of County Fairs

RULES:

1. Open to any individual **amateur** baker who is a Pennsylvania resident. One entry per person.
2. Entrants may **NOT** have won 1st place in this Homemade Chocolate Cake contest at any other fair in 2026.
3. The Cake and any Fillings and Frostings must be **made from scratch with edible ingredients**. No pre-packaged ingredients may be used (*ex: no pre-made mixes, cookie dough, pie crust, frosting, etc.*). Any decorations must just be edible.
4. Cake recipe **must feature chocolate or cocoa** as a main ingredient.
5. Entry must be a **layered chocolate cake** (composed of two or more individual cake layers that are stacked vertically, with each baked layer separated by a suitable edible filling). No internal supports permitted.
The finished overall size of the cake, including decorations, shall not exceed 12" high by 12" wide by 12" deep.
6. Entry **must be frosted** and frosting must also be made from "scratch" (*no pre-packaged frosting*).
7. The entire cake entry must be submitted for judging **on cardboard or other food safe disposable setting**. (*All pans, plates and dishes are considered to be disposable and will not be returned.*)
8. The Cake entry and its recipes will become the property of the Fair or PA Farm Show and will not be returned.
9. Recipe(s) must be submitted with the entry, printed on one side of 8-1/2" x 11" sheets of paper. Recipe must list all ingredients, quantities, and preparation instructions. Entrant's name, address and phone number must be printed on the back side of all pages.
10. Refrigeration is not available at the fair or PA Farm Show. Entries that require refrigeration after baking must indicate so in the recipe. Those entries will not be sold, auctioned or otherwise distributed for consumption after judging for food safety reasons.

11. Judging Criteria:

Flavor	35 points
<i>(aroma, taste, good balance of flavorings)</i>	
Inside Characteristics	25 points
<i>(texture, moist and tender crumb; not soggy or dry)</i>	
Frosting	20 points
<i>(taste, texture, even color)</i>	
Overall Appearance	15 points
<i>(surface, shape, finished size, color)</i>	
Creativity	5 points
TOTAL	100 points

First Place Winner is eligible for the 2027 PA Farm Show competition.

Premiums for the 2027 PA FARM SHOW competition

First Place - \$500.00 Second Place - \$250.00 Third Place - \$100.00
Fourth Place – Rosette Ribbon Fifth Place – Rosette Ribbon