

NORTHWEST NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

HONEY SHOW RULES

Revised 23 April 2025

by Laura Joiner

Rules that apply to all classes:

1. All Entrants must be a member in good standing of the NJBA New Jersey Beekeepers Association as the date of the Honey Show. There may be only one (1) entry per membership, unless that member is under 18. A member under 18 may enter any class as an entrant regardless if another family member is already entered. A member over 18 may only enter any class if there is no other family member over 18 already entered in the same class.
2. All items entered in the Honey Show must be the product of the entrant's own bees and be produced from the member's apiary. All products **MUST** have been produced after the previous year's Honey Show being entered.
3. **NO LABELS** shall appear on any product that is entered in the show. **AFTER** judging concludes, the Honey Show chairperson will display a name card on each entry along with any ribbon awarded.
4. Entries should be transported to the show well before the deadline time in a well packed sturdy box with your name, address, phone, email, apiary name along with one completed entry form indicating each class entered.
5. Entries may not be removed from the Honey Show display case before the last day of the fair without approval from the Honey Show chairperson. Entries must be picked up before end of fair or they become property of the club.
6. Volunteers are always welcome to help out at the fairs. **Entrants are encouraged to sign up for a volunteer time slot during the fair.**
7. Club website NWNJBA.COM shall be updated with all Honey Show rules no later than two weeks before the Honey Show begins.
8. Possible awards in each class: 1st Place ribbon and \$15, 2nd Place ribbon and \$12, 3rd Place ribbon and \$10, Best In Show \$20 (Judge determines best entry exhibited), Best Exhibitor \$20 (Judge determines based on most entries by an entrant).
9. Entries will be judged for each class as follows. Awards will be given at the judge's discretion. Judge will do their best to make educational notes on entrant's score sheet.
10. Please note especially the need for a small plain display base for all beeswax classes.
11. Honey class 1–4 color categories are at judge's discretion, based roughly on Jack's Scale Color Grader. This may sometimes result in duplicate entries in the same class. At the judge's discretion the duplicate might be moved to a different class or removed.

Class 1: Extracted Honey Light
Class 2: Extracted Honey Light Amber
Class 3: Extracted Honey Amber
Class 4: Extracted Honey Dark

Class 1–4 Rules:

Entry consists of three (3) jars with no labels.

Only Gamber Classic or Queenline 1-lb. Size glass honey jars are acceptable.

Plain metal lids of any color are acceptable.

20 points for Analytic Moisture content 15.0-17.0; 17.1 -18.0 or less than 15.0 will deduct 2 points. 18.1-18.5 will deduct 5 points. If greater than 18.5 deduct 20 points.

20 points: Absence of defects (wax, lint, foam, etc.)

20 points: Clarity (free of suspended particles like dirt, hair, pollen, air bubbles, etc.)

10 points: Flavor

10 points: Aroma

10 points: Container appearance and cleanliness

10 points: Container Uniform Fill

Class 5: Round Section or Cut Comb

Entry is three (3) Ross Round Sections with clear plastic lids or three (3) Cut Comb Sections in 4"-4.5" clear, square, plastic containers. NO CLAMSHELL BOXES.

30 points: Neatness and uniformity of cut, parallel cuts, no ragged edges, absence of liquid honey.

30 points: Cleanliness, Absence of travel stains (8), Crushed wax (8), Crystallization (7), Foreign matter (7).

20 points: Absence of watery cappings (7), Uncapped cells (7), Pollen (6).

20 Points: Uniformity of Appearance (5), Color of honey (5), Capping Structure (5), Thickness of Comb (5)

Class 6: Creamed Honey

Entry is three (3) straight sided round or hex clear glass jars weighing 12–16 oz.

Entry will be disqualified if flavor is fermented.

30 points: Fineness of crystals

25 points: Uniformity and firmness of product

20 points: Cleanliness and freedom of foam

15 points: Flavor. Points reduced for flavor adversely affected by processing.

10 points: Accuracy of filling and uniformity across samples.

Class 7: Chunk Honey

Entry is three (3) straight sided round clear glass jars weighing 12–16 oz. No Hex jars.

20 points: Neatness and uniformity of cut, Parallel and 4-sided cuts, no ragged edges.

20 points: Absence of watery cappings (7), Uncapped cells (7), Pollen (6).

20 points: Cleanliness, Absence of travel stains (4), Foreign matter (4), Wax Flakes (4), Foam (4), Crystallization (4).

20 points: Appearance, Uniformity (5), Color of honey (5), Capping Structure (5), Thickness of Comb (5)

10 points: Analytic Moisture content 15.0–17.0

- 17.1–18.0 or less than 15.0 will deduct 2 points
- 18.1-18.5 will deduct 5 points.
- If greater than 18.5 deduct 10 points.

10 points: Liquid flavor. Points reduced for flavor adversely affected by processing.

Class 8: Frame of Honey

Entry is one frame of honey in wooden, bee-proof, display case. Both sides of case need to be transparent glass or plastic. Bottom and top of frame must be secured.

Except for foundation, wax comb must be drawn by the bees, not synthetic.

30 points: Uniformity of Appearance

20 points: Uniformity of color

20 points: Cleanliness and absence of travel stains

10 points: Absence of uncapped cells

10 points: Absence of watery cappings

10 points Freedom from granulation and pollen

Class 9: Mead, Dry

Entry should be contained in one (1) single 750ML clear glass wine bottle with no labels.

Natural cork, plastic stoppers, swing top, or screw top closures are all acceptable.

Entry must have been produced by entrant using honey from the entrant's own bees by means of fermentation.

Frosted containers are NOT PERMITTED.

20 points: Clarity

20 points: Bouquet

20 points: Taste

10 points: Color

10 points: Body

10 points: Bottle appearance, closure

10 points: Bottle cleanliness

Class 10: Mead, Sweet

Entry should be contained in one (1) single 750ML clear glass wine bottle with no labels.

Natural cork, plastic stoppers, swing top, or screw top closures are all acceptable.

Entry must have been produced by entrant using honey from the entrant's own bees by means of fermentation.

Frosted containers are NOT PERMITTED.

20 points: Clarity

20 points: Bouquet

20 points: Taste

10 points: Color

10 points: Body

10 points: Bottle appearance, closure

10 points: Bottle cleanliness

Class 11: Mead, Made with Fruit Juices

Entry should be contained in one (1) single 750ML clear glass wine bottle with no labels.

Natural cork, plastic stoppers, swing top, or screw top closures are all acceptable.

Entry must have been produced by entrant using honey from the entrant's own bees by means of fermentation.

Frosted containers are NOT PERMITTED.

20 points: Clarity

20 points: Bouquet

20 points: Taste

10 points: Color

10 points: Body

10 points: Bottle appearance, closure

10 points: Bottle cleanliness

Class 12: Mead, Sparkling, with or without fruit juices

Entry should be contained in one (1) single 750ML clear glass champagne-type bottle with no labels.

Entry must have been produced by entrant using honey from the entrant's own bees by means of fermentation.

Natural cork, plastic stoppers, swing top, or screw top closures are all acceptable.

Frosted containers are NOT PERMITTED.

20 points: Clarity

20 points: Bouquet

20 points: Taste

10 points: Color

10 points: Body

10 points: Bottle appearance, closure

10 points: Bottle cleanliness

Class 13: Beeswax Block

Entry is one (1) single block, weighing at least one pound or slightly more, pure beeswax presented on plain solid wood or cardboard base. Base should be plain, not decorated. Base should enable the entry to be supported and no larger than necessary. Note that a base larger than 3 inches deep will not fit the display case at the Warren County Farmer's Fair Honey Show and space is also limited at the Hunterdon County 4-H Fair Honey Show.

35 points: Cleanliness

20 points: Uniformity of appearance and weight

15 points: Color

15 points: Aroma

15 points: Absence of cracks and shrinkage

Class 14: Beeswax Tapers

Entry is two (2) identical taper candles, either poured or dipped with a minimum length of eight (8) inches. Must be pure beeswax with wicks. NO additives, colorings, or fragrance.

35 points: Cleanliness

20 points: Uniformity of appearance

15 points: Color

15 points: Aroma

15 points: Absence of cracks and shrinkage

Class 15A: Novelty Beeswax

Entry is one (1) item made with pure beeswax with no wick, any size or shape.

May be colored, decorated, fragranced, and/or painted.

May contain non-beeswax components/decorations.

A larger item does not require a base, however a smaller item should be presented on plain solid wood or cardboard base. Base should be plain, not decorated. Base should enable the entry to be supported and no larger than necessary. Note that a base larger than 3 inches deep will not fit the display case at the Warren County Farmer's Fair Honey Show and space is also limited at the Hunterdon County 4-H Fair Honey Show.

20 points: Cleanliness

20 points: Appearance

15 points: Originality

15 points: Color

15 points: Aroma

15 points: Absence of cracks and shrinkage

Class 15B: Novelty Beeswax Set

Entry is three (3) identical items made with pure beeswax with no wick, any size or shape.

May be colored, decorated, fragranced, and/or painted.

May contain non-beeswax components/decorations.

Presented on plain solid wood or cardboard base. Base should be plain, not decorated. Base should enable the entry to be supported and no larger than necessary. Note that a base larger than 3 inches deep will not fit the display case at the Warren County Farmer's Fair Honey Show and space is also limited at the Hunterdon County 4-H Fair Honey Show.

20 points: Cleanliness

20 points: Uniformity of Appearance

15 points: Originality

15 points: Color

15 points: Aroma

15 points: Absence of cracks and shrinkage

Class 16A: Novelty Beeswax Candle

Entry is one (1) candle made with pure beeswax with wick, any size or shape.

May be colored, decorated, and/or painted.

May not contain added fragrance.

May contain non-beeswax components/decorations.

A larger item does not require a base, however a smaller item should be presented on plain solid wood or cardboard base. Base should be plain, not decorated. Base should enable the entry to be supported and no larger than necessary. Note that a base larger than 3 inches deep will not fit the display case at the Warren County Farmer's Fair Honey Show and space is also limited at the Hunterdon County 4-H Fair Honey Show.

20 points: Cleanliness

20 points: Appearance

15 points: Originality

15 points: Color

15 points: Aroma

15 points: Absence of cracks and shrinkage

Class 16B: Novelty Beeswax Candle Set

Entry is three (3) identical candles made with pure beeswax with wick, any size or shape.

May be colored, decorated, and/or painted.

May not contain added fragrance.

May contain non-beeswax components/decorations.

Presented on plain solid wood or cardboard base. Base should be plain, not decorated. Base should enable the entry to be supported and no larger than necessary. Note that a base larger than

3 inches deep will not fit the display case at the Warren County Farmer's Fair Honey Show and space is also limited at the Hunterdon County 4-H Fair Honey Show.

20 points: Cleanliness

20 points: Uniformity of Appearance

15 points: Originality

15 points: Color

15 points: Aroma

15 points: Absence of cracks and shrinkage

Class 17: Hand Cream, Lotion, Lotion Bars

Entry is three (3) uniform tin, plastic, or glass containers minimum 1 oz. Each.

Must be made by entrant from scratch.

Must contain entrant's own beeswax and/or honey.

Premade cream, lotion, bar bases are NOT PERMITTED.

NO LABELS

Fragrance may be added to the product or may be left in its natural state.

Presented on plain solid wood or cardboard base. Base should be plain, not decorated. Base should enable the entry to be supported and no larger than necessary. Note that a base larger than 3 inches deep will not fit the display case at the Warren County Farmer's Fair Honey Show and space is also limited at the Hunterdon County 4-H Fair Honey Show.

25 points: Packaging attractiveness, practicality, ease of opening

25 points: Appearance pleasing to the eye, uniformity of size from container to container

25 points: Texture creaminess, uniformity of application

25 points: Absorption with least amount of time to absorb into the skin and without residual stickiness or greasiness

Class 18: Soap

Entry is three (3) bars either cut or molded minimum 1 oz. each.

Must contain entrant's own beeswax and/or honey.

Premade melt and pour soap bases are NOT PERMITTED.

No labels or packaging

Presented on plain solid wood or cardboard base. Base should be plain, not decorated. Base should enable the entry to be supported and no larger than necessary. Note that a base larger than 3 inches deep will not fit the display case at the Warren County Farmer's Fair Honey Show and space is also limited at the Hunterdon County 4-H Fair Honey Show.

25 points: Scent appropriate for item

25 points: Appearance pleasing to the eye, uniformity of bars, consistency of shapes

25 points: Color attractiveness, color combinations, uniformity in color from bar to bar

25 points: Quality properly cured, not greasy, mildness, hardness

Class 19: Lip Balm

Entry is three (3) tins, tubes, or plastic pots of lip balm minimum .15 oz each.

Must contain entrant's own beeswax and/or honey.

Premade lip balm bases are NOT PERMITTED.

20 points: Scent appropriate for item.

20 points: Packaging uniformity, practicality, ease of opening, attractiveness.

20 points: Appearance

20 points: Texture

20 points: Absorbency/protection

Class 20A: Photography Honey Bee Without a Person

Entry is one (1) print.

Entrant may submit an entry in both Class 20A and Class 20B.

Print must include a honey bee without a person.

Print should be 5"x7" but no larger than 8"x10".

Print should be mounted on a mounting board and beneath a photo mat that extends at least one inch beyond the print on all sides.

FRAMES ARE NOT PERMITTED, except for the photo mat. NO GLASS.

Photo must be taken by the person entering the print.

30 points: Composition: artistic balance of elements, photographic skill

30 points: Treatment of subject matter: content as related to beekeeping

20 points: Quality of presentation: correct and appealing mounting

20 points: General appeal

Class 20B: Photography Honey Bee With Person

Entry is one (1) print.

Entrant may submit an entry in both Class 20A and Class 20B.

Print must include a honey bee and a person.

Print should be 5"x7" but no larger than 8"x10".

Print should be mounted on a mounting board and beneath a photo mat that extends at least one inch beyond the print on all sides.

FRAMES ARE NOT PERMITTED, except for the photo mat. NO GLASS.

Photo must be taken by the person entering the print.

30 points: Composition: artistic balance of elements, photographic skill

30 points: Treatment of subject matter: content as related to beekeeping

20 points: Quality of presentation: correct and appealing mounting

20 points: General appeal