NORTHWEST NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
2026 HONEY SHOW RULES

Revised 13 March 2026
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New Changes since 4/23/2025 version:

- General Rules added drop off and pick up dates/times.
- Added helpful descriptions of various requirements.
- Classes 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7, changed scoring for Moisture Content.
- Class 7 Chunk Honey rules clarified.
- Class 8 Frame of Honey rule currently allows plastic foundation. This rule clarified to prefer unwired wax foundation.
- Class 13 Beeswax Block note added indicating ideal color of wax is Lemon Yellow.
- Classes 13 – 16, in an effort to reduce dirt and dust contamination on beeswax entries, should be wrapped in plastic film (ie. Saran Wrap) or plastic bag. Plastic cover to be unwrapped only by Judge or by Honey Show Steward upon presentation to judge. Requirements for a base are removed.
- Class 14 Beeswax Tapers requirement added for dipped taper pairs to have a connected wick. Note that after judging, tapers will be displayed upright in a holder. Note added to distinguish Taper candles from Pillar type candles (Class 16A & 16B).
- Classes 13, 15A, 15B, 16A, 16B, 17, 18, and 19, removed requirements for a Base.
- Class 17 Hand Cream, Lotion, Lotion Bars entry should be wrapped in plastic film (ie. Saran Wrap) or plastic bag. Plastic cover to be unwrapped only by Judge or by Honey Show Steward upon presentation to judge.
- Class 18 Soap, in an effort to reduce strong odors in the Honey Show cabinet, entry should be wrapped in plastic film (ie. Saran Wrap) or plastic bag. Plastic cover to be unwrapped only by Judge or by Honey Show Steward upon presentation to judge.
- Class 19 Lip Balm As an improved judging process, added a note that judges will indicate to entrant with Sharpie which container was tested. Entry should be wrapped in plastic film (ie. Saran Wrap) or plastic bag. Plastic cover to be unwrapped only by Judge or by Honey Show Steward upon presentation to judge.
- Class 20A and 20B, Photographs made using Artificial Intelligence (AI) are not permitted. All photos to be mounted and beneath a photo mat.
- Questions? Please contact the Honey Show Chairperson!

General 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. Warren County Farmer's Fair drop offs are Saturday 7/25/2026 12-9pm and Sunday 7/26/2026 12-9pm. Pick up time is Saturday 8/1/2026 12-9pm.
7. Hunterdon County 4-H Fair drop off is Wednesday 8/19/2026 12-9pm. Pick up is on last day of the fair Sunday 8/23/2026 10am-4pm.
8. Volunteers are always welcome to help out at the fairs. **Entrants are encouraged to sign up for a volunteer time slot during the fair.**
9. Club website NWNJBA.COM shall be updated with all Honey Show rules no later than two weeks before the Honey Show begins.
10. 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).
11. 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.
12. Please note especially the need for a small plain display base for all beeswax classes.
13. 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 disqualified.

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. Plastic lids will be disqualified.
Analytic Moisture content if lower than 15.0, or if 18.5 or higher entry will be disqualified.
30 points - Absence of defects (wax, lint, foam, hair, dirt, etc.)
20 points - Clarity (free of suspended particles like crystals, pollen, air bubbles, etc.)
15 points - Flavor
15 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.
Note that best presentation is in a jar without shoulders.
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.
Note the preferred is a Chunk Honey Jar GCI 1 lb Gamber Container Round Jar.
Comb should fit jar height and width.
Analytic Moisture content if lower than 15.0, or if 18.5 or higher entry will be disqualified.
25 points - Neatness and uniformity of cut, Parallel and 4-sided cuts, no ragged edges.
25 points - Cleanliness, Absence of travel stains (5), Foreign matter (5), Wax Flakes (5), Foam (5), Crystallization (5).
20 points - Absence of watery cappings (7), Uncapped cells (7), Pollen (6).
20 points - Appearance, Uniformity (5), Color of honey (5), Capping Structure (5), Thickness of Comb (5)
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.
While plastic foundation is still permitted, unwired wax foundation or foundationless is preferred for light transparancy. A superior entry will also have a wooden frame free of propolis.
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. Entry should be wrapped in plastic film (ie. Saran Wrap) or plastic bag. Plastic cover to be unwrapped only by Judge or by Honey Show Steward upon presentation to judge. Note: ideal wax color is Lemon Yellow.
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. Note that taper base is about 7/8” but no more than 1”. Must be pure beeswax with wicks. NO additives, colorings, or fragrance. Dipped taper pairs should still have the wick connected for judging. Entry should be wrapped in plastic film (ie. Saran Wrap) or plastic bag. Plastic cover to be unwrapped only by Judge or by Honey Show Steward upon presentation to judge. Note: If a candlestick holder is provided (please), tapers will be displayed in the holder after judging is complete.
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.
Entry should be wrapped in plastic film (ie. Saran Wrap) or plastic bag. Plastic cover to be unwrapped only by Judge or by Honey Show Steward upon presentation to judge.
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.
Entry should be wrapped in plastic film (ie. Saran Wrap) or plastic bag. Plastic cover to be unwrapped only by Judge or by Honey Show Steward or upon presentation to judge.
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.
Entry should be wrapped in plastic film (ie. Saran Wrap) or plastic bag. Plastic cover to be unwrapped only by Judge or by Honey Show Steward upon presentation to judge.
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.
Entry should be wrapped in plastic film (ie. Saran Wrap) or plastic bag. Plastic cover to be unwrapped only by Judge or by Honey Show Steward upon presentation to judge.
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.
Entry should be wrapped in plastic film (ie. Saran Wrap) or plastic bag. Plastic cover to be unwrapped only by Judge or by Honey Show Steward upon presentation to judge.
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
Entry should be wrapped in plastic film (ie. Saran Wrap) or plastic bag. Plastic cover to be unwrapped only by Judge or by Honey Show Steward or upon presentation to judge.
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.
Note: Judges will mark with Sharpie which container was tested for benefit of entrant.
Entry should be wrapped in plastic film (ie. Saran Wrap) or plastic bag. Plastic cover to be unwrapped only by Judge or by Honey Show Steward upon presentation to judge.
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
Subject is honey bees in a beekeeping related activity without a person. For example, bees on a frame, bees in a swarm, bees at the hive entrance.
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. No A.I. photos please.
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
Subject(s) is(are) a person(s) engaged in a beekeeping related activity where honey bees are also in the composition. For example, beekeeper applying a bee beard, beekeeper showing child a frame of bees, people loading hives with bees on a truck.
Entry is one(1) print.
Entrant may submit an entry in both Class 20A and Class 20B.
Print must show 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. No A.I. photos please.
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