



Fair looking for ‘blue ribbon’ contestants

Rules for entering the blue ribbon competitions and contests available

For Immediate Release

Monday, June 01, 2026

Allentown, Pa.— The Great Allentown Fair is inviting everyone to showcase their talents by entering its celebrated blue ribbon competitions. The official Premium List, guide to Competitive Exhibits, featuring all entry categories, rules, and guidelines, is now available at www.AllentownFair.com/competitive-exhibits/.

Now is the perfect time to begin preparing entries, whether your passion is baking, gardening, photography, crafting, or collecting. Participants have the opportunity to compete for placement ribbons and cash prizes, with judging taking place both before and during Fair week. With competitions designed for nearly every interest and skill level, there is truly something for everyone.

In honor of America250, more than 50 new patriotic-themed contests have been added this year. Winners of these special categories will receive an additional commemorative red, white, and blue ribbon.

The 2026 Premium List cover features original artwork by Natalya Zahn created to commemorate America250. The patriotic design captures the spirit of community, tradition, and agriculture that has been at the heart of The Great Allentown Fair for 174 years and reflects this year’s expanded patriotic competition offerings.

The Agri-Plex Premium List is available now, while the livestock entry book will be posted online in July. This year, competitors will vie for more than \$36,000 in total prize money, with approximately 7,000 entries and 700 farm animals expected to participate. The Agri-Plex, known as the “heart of the Fair,” will display award-winning exhibits submitted by thousands of talented individuals, all competing for the coveted blue ribbon.

Fair competitions remain one of the event’s most cherished traditions, dating back to the 1852. From homemade baked goods and floral displays to photography, needlework, antiques, and livestock exhibitions, the competitions continue to celebrate creativity, agriculture, and community spirit.

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As part of this year's highlights, 12 live culinary contests will be held throughout Fair week. These sponsored competitions recognize outstanding creativity and flavor while offering additional prizes for top recipes. Although listed within the Agri-Plex Premium List, each culinary contest requires its own separate entry form outlining specific rules and requirements.

The Agri-Plex Premium List and all entry applications can be downloaded from www.AllentownFair.com. Printed copies are also available at the Fair Office, located behind Ritz Barbecue, on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All Agri-Plex entries must be submitted by mail no later than Monday, July 20. Onsite registration will not be available. For additional information, contact the Fair Office at 610-433-7541.

Allentown Fair Special Culinary Contests sponsored by PenTeleData

Extra-incentive prize contests are described in the Fair Premium List but require the completion of separate applications available online at AllentownFair.com/culinarycontests.

1. **PA Preferred Junior Baking Cookies, Brownies and Bars** *sponsored by Newburg Deli & Catering*
2. **Traditional Two-Crusted Fruit Pie (no apple)** *sponsored by The Buttered Crumb*
3. **250th Theme "Cupcake Wars"** *sponsored by Sweet Girlz Bakery*
4. **250th Themed "Great American Cake"** *sponsored by Kyms Creation Bakery*
5. King Arthur Flour **Fruited Crumb Cakes**
6. King Arthur Flour **Youth 250th Themed "Cupcake Extravaganza"**
7. Clover Hill Vineyard & Winery's **America's Heritage Comfort Foods**
8. The Pampered Chef **Pumpkin Dessert**
9. Bechdolts Orchard **Fresh Peach Dessert**
10. **Best "No Bake" 250th Themed Dessert** *sponsored by Sparkle with Jeanine and Park Lane Jewelry*
11. **Homemade Chocolate Cake Contest** *sponsored by Vynecrest Winery and PA Association of County Fairs*
12. **Blue Ribbon Apple Pie Contest** *sponsored by Grim's Orchard & Family Farms*

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Photo Caption: The official Premium Book cover artwork, illustrated by Natalya Zahn, beautifully captures the spirit of America250 while honoring the long-standing tradition and agricultural heritage showcased at The Great Allentown Fair for 174 years.