

Tips for Entering Honey in NWNJBA's Honey show

Your goal should be to present the best possible **package and product**. The best tasting honey does not always win. You will want to pay attention to every detail!

READ! Be sure to read the directions

- The rules will state the specifics for entering the show
- Without complying with the rules, you could be disqualified before the judging begins

Entering Honey:

1. Jars: (3 jars)

Honey should be presented in (1) pound **glass** jars (Classic Gamber or Queenline). DO NOT use plastic jars

- You will need to enter three (3) jars each of the same honey for any category you will enter. All three jars should look identical
 - Categories include - Light, Light Amber, Amber, Dark
 - Entrant will make a determination for the class they believe their honey belongs in and note it on the entry form
 - The judge will decide which category your honey will be entered in. He/she may use a Color Scale and match the colors to the charts
- Look for and choose the best jars in your inventory
- Wash your jars with **very** hot water
 - Soap will leave a smell in the jar (the honey will NOT overpower the smell of soap)
 - DO NOT DRY with a paper towel. You DO NOT want lint on or in your jar
 - You can dry the jars in the oven on low if you would like

2 Caps: Plastic vs. Metal:

- Plastic caps do not offer a clean/crisp sound when opening
- Metal has a nice, clean ring to it when opened and are recommended. Listen for the “ring” of the lid when it is removed
 - The judge will look at the top of your honey jar with a flashlight to check for hair and/or dirt
 - Be sure your lid is clean. Avoid any dust in the lid. (Details! Details! Details!)
- Placing a piece of plastic wrap between the jar and the cap prior to sealing the lid is no longer recommended. Removing the wrap may cause honey to drip on the bottle. A small amount of honey on the lid will not alter your score

3 Filling the Jars:

- Fill the jars to the top of the ring on the jar. The ring sits BELOW the thread and is NOT part of the thread that adheres the lid to the jar
- When the lid is on you do NOT want to see any air space
- It is better to overfill then under fill the jar
 - Remove any excess honey with a teaspoon
- Foam: honey coming from a cold bucket pulls air into it. Be sure to give yourself enough time to allow the foam to rise and be removed
- It is best to have honey warm when packing it
- Strain your honey well. A new, knee-high nylon stocking is a great filter for honey for a show
 - DO NOT strain through cheese cloth. There is too much lint
 - There should be no bits or particles of bees in the honey
 - Be sure nothing has adulterated your honey
 - NO dust, cat/dog hair, human hair

- All three jars should look consistent. Uniformity of fill is important. Line up your jars to be sure they are each filled to the same height
- Remove any honey that may have spilled on the jar. You do not want anything sticking to the jars
- Remove smudges or fingerprints from the jars as well!
 - Points will be lost for jars that are not clean
 - Shine a flashlight on your filled/capped jars. It will show you any fingerprints you may have missed or not noticed

4 Taste/Smell:

The judge is looking for a natural flavor. You want to avoid a burnt or caramelized flavor

5 Moisture:

Honey should be extracted in a dehumidified environment

- Extracting honey in times of high humidity will pull moisture into it
- A Refractometer tests the honey for moisture. This will tell the judge the number of points to add or subtract
 - (NWNJBA has a refractometer. Please contact the club if interested in borrowing it)
- Put a toothpick into the jar and take it out. If the honey comes off quickly there is too much moisture
 - Jars can be placed in a low temperature oven which will pull the moisture out. Honey can be heated to 100 degrees. It's O.K.!
- Allow all bubbles to rise to the surface of the jar
 - Remove any additional bubbles by using a toothpick to pop

6 Extracting:

- If a frame is 60 – 70% capped, you can extract honey from it. No need to wait until the frame is fully capped. To test, strongly shake the frame. If honey does not shake out, it can be removed
- DO NOT let your honey sit for 3-4 days before extracting. You want to extract it right away! (you want to avoid moisture, Small Hive Beetles, wax moths)
- NW has two extractors available to borrow. Contact the club if you would like to borrow an extractor

7 Transporting the Honey to the Show:

- If you have the box that your honey jars came in, this is a good way to transport your honey
 - Some like to place each individual jar in a clean sock to transport it
- Place your name, address, and phone number on the box
- Don't forget to pick up your honey at the end of the fair
 - Value your product!

8 Polariscope: (Light Box)

This item is used by the judge when evaluating your honey and will pick up any defect in the honey. It will enable the judge to see crystals, wax, pollen, etc. that may be in the honey.

(Continue for helpful hints for other items entered)

Other Items That May Be Entered

Be sure to **READ** the rules for these items as well.

Creamed Honey: - 3 jars

- Jars must be round or hex, clear glass
- Must contain at least 12 but no more than 16 ounces of honey
- Graded on fineness of crystals, uniformity and firmness, cleanliness, fill, flavor, and freedom from foam

Cut Comb – 3 containers

- Total weight of entry shall be at least 1 pound but no more than 1 ½ pounds
- Three 4 – 4 ½ inch clear, square, plastic containers (Do NOT use clam shell, plastic boxes)
- Graded on cut, cleanliness, dryness of cappings, and uniformity
- Uniformity includes color of honey, thickness of comb, capping structure, and weight
- You want to avoid uncapped cells, pollen, crushed wax, crystallization
- Cut comb should have a cookie cutter uniformity

Chunk Honey – 3 jars

- Jars must be round, clear, glass (No Hex jars)
- Use a wide mouth jar. You want the comb in the center of the jar
- Must contain at least 12 but no more than 16 ounces of honey by weight
- Graded on neatness of cut. You want clean cuts that are all the same size. Judge is looking for parallel cuts with NO ragged edges
- Cleanliness, dryness of cappings, uniformity of appearance, and density are taken into consideration

Frame of Honey

- Must be displayed in wooden or plastic display case, which has both sides made of transparent glass or plastic
- All **four** corners of frame need to be secured within the display case
- Frame will be judged on uniformity, absence of uncapped cells and/or watery cappings
- Frame of honey should be cleaned of wax and/or propolis
- You want the following:
 - White Caps
 - All cells filled and capped
 - No Honey dripping down
 - A uniform frame of similar color honey
 - No pollen or granulation
 - Display container that shows the entire frame

Mead:

- All entries must have been produced by member using honey from the member's own bees, by means of fermentation
- Dry, Sweet, and Made with Fruit Juice entries should be contained in a single, non-frosted, clear wine bottle, containing 750 ml or 25.4 fl. oz.
- Natural cork, plastic stoppers or screw top closures are all acceptable
- Sparkling Mead entries must be in a champagne-type, clear, glass bottle

Bees Wax

- 1 pound block
- Pure beeswax
- Optimum color is lemon yellow
- Should be cleaned properly
- Presented on solid base (wood or cardboard) with no larger than a 1-inch margin
- Suggested that entries be covered with clear plastic wrap
- Entries judged by cleanliness, uniformity of appearance, color, aroma, and absence of cracks and shrinkage (Be sure bottom of wax is clean)

Novelty Beeswax

- A single or coordinated set of any size, any shape, pure beeswax item
- Coordinated set consists of 3 IDENTICAL items
- No wicks
- May be colored, decorated, fragranced, and/or painted

Novelty Beeswax Candles

- A single or coordinated set, any size, any shape, pure beeswax
- Coordinated set consists of 3 IDENTICAL items
- May be colored, decorated, dyed, and/or painted.

Beeswax tapers

- One pair, poured or dipped, taper candles
- Minimum height of 8 inches
- Must consist of pure beeswax with NO additives or colorings except wicks

Creams/Lotions – 3 jars

- Jars may be either glass, plastic, or tin
- Containers must be uniform in weight
- Minimum weight of 1.5 ounces by weight of product
- Made by member from “scratch”
- Must contain member’s own beeswax and/or honey
- Scent may be added to the product or may be left in its natural state
- Use of ready-made cream and lotion bases is NOT permitted
- Judged on consistency and texture of product, cleanliness, uniformity of filling, container appearance, and fragrance
- Judge is looking for uniformity of size/fill from container to container

Soaps – 3 bars

- Bars must weigh at least 3 ounces each
- Made from “scratch” by member using member’s own beeswax and/or honey
- No labels placed around/on bars
- Soap will be judged on appearance, uniformity of bars, fragrance, hardness, and quality of curing (You want to avoid a greasy product)

Lip Balms – 3 containers

- Tins, tubs, or tubes must contain at least 0.15 ounces of product by weight
- Made from “scratch” by member using member’s own beeswax and/or honey
- Practicality of packaging along with ease of opening is taken into consideration
- Judged on consistency and texture of product, cleanliness, uniformity of filling, container appearance, and fragrance

Photography – With person and without

- Photos should measure no smaller than 5" X 7" with a maximum size of 8"x 10"
- Each photo must be mounted or matted
 - Mat or mounting board should extend at least **1 inch** beyond the print on all sides
- **NO** frames are permitted
- Only one photo from each category, per membership may be entered (one photo with person/one photo without)
- Photo must be taken by the person entering
- Photo must include a honeybee
- Photographs will be judged on composition, treatment of subject matter, quality of photography, and presentation

Enjoy, Have Fun, and Good Luck!

Best in Show: Judge determines best item exhibited

Best Exhibitor – the exhibitor who enters the most items

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