

Official Chili Cook-off Rules

Open for setup at 7:30 am (The night before needs to be approved. Contact Amy for this at amy@bridgewoodfarms.org or 936-856-6460 Ext 104)

Cooking begins at 8AM

Turn-in for judging at 12:45 pm

Open to the public for tasting at 11 AM

Winners announced at 2:00 pm

General Rules and Regulations

- Registration the day of the contest is permitted.
- A \$50.00 ENTRY FEE IS REQUIRED PER TEAM. ONE CHILI RECIPE PER TEAM MAY BE ENTERED FOR JUDGING. Registration can be completed online or by completing the registration form attached along with your entry fee check. Please mail to:

Bridgewood Farms
Attn: Amy Loggins
11680 Rose Rd
Conroe, TX 77303

- Competition chili must be cooked from scratch on site the day of the cook-off.
- Teams are responsible for supplying all cooking utensils and supplies needed, as well as furnishing their own propane cooker. **No wood or coal burning allowed.** We encourage you to have your own fire extinguisher for safety reasons. **There will be no electrical hook-ups.**
- **SANITATION:**
 - a) Teams must have the following at their tables for use while preparing, cooking and serving:
 - b) Disinfectant spray for preparation surfaces
 - c) You must have 3 sanitation buckets containing soap/water, Clorox, clean water
 - d) Everything must be prepared in a sanitary manner.
 - e) Hats and gloves must be worn when handling, cooking and serving.
- Plastic gloves (for serving)
- A panel of judges will determine the top 3 entries. The decision of the judges will be final.
- Teams are encouraged, not required, to name their chili and decorate their cooking area to reflect that name.
- This chili cook-off is for cooks who just want to have fun and be recognized for their superb culinary skills. Let your hair down (but wear a hat!!!) Dress up, wear a costume, just have fun!

- **Serving/Cooking Station Rules**
 - a. You must be respectful to others, no offensive displays, excessive noise or music.
 - b. Lewdness, nudity is prohibited.
 - c. Do not throw cigarette butts on the ground
 - d. The use of firearms, explosives, or pyrotechnics is prohibited.
 - e. Interfering with other cooking teams is prohibited.

- **Chili Cooking Rules**
 - Quantities required for **distribution** to the public:
 - Red, Green/White Chili: Minimum of 2 gallons. Bridgewood Farms will charge \$5 for tasting cups for the public.

- Quantity for **judging**: Two 16 ounce cups made on site is required to submit for judging.

- Competition Chili must be cooked from scratch **on site** the day of the cook-off.
 - COOKED FROM SCRATCH - "Scratch" is defined as starting with raw meat. No marinating is allowed. Commercial chili powder is permissible, but complete commercial chili mixes ("just add meat" mixes that contain premeasured spices) are not permitted.

- Use your own favorite recipe, with or without meat, with or without beans. Meat may be beef, pork, lamb, bison, chicken or turkey (no wild meats). Veggie (meatless) chili is okay. Beans are encouraged, but not mandatory. Ingredients may be cut, shredded or ground to any size. No rice or macaroni. No MSG. ***If peanuts or peanut oil is used, a warning sign must be displayed.***

- No ingredient may be pre-cooked in any way prior to the beginning of the official cook-off.

- All competition chili must be prepared onsite.

- Cooks ARE allowed to pre-chop and premeasure all ingredients.

- You must be willing to taste your own chili.

- Chili must be covered with a lid when not serving.

- Teams are **allowed** to give samples of their chili **to other teams**. Teams are **NOT allowed** to give samples to the **public prior to 11AM**. Teams are **NOT allowed** to give samples **to judges** prior to turn in. Any deviation from this rule will result in disqualification.

- Trophies will be awarded by judges'.

Cooks Judging Cups

- A **COOKS MEETING** will be held at 8:30 am on the day of the cook-off. One member of each team **MUST** attend. At this meeting, each Team will be given 1 official judging cup. Each Team is responsible for delivering their cups with the chili/bean sample to the judging area at the official turn in time for judging – **12:45 pm**.

- **PROTECT THE JUDGING CUP** - Once judging cups have been issued, each head cook is responsible for his or her judging cup. Cooks must not remove or tamper

with the tickets on the bottom of the cups. Any **marked or altered** cup must be replaced prior to turn-in or it will be disqualified.

- **FILLING CUPS** - Cups should be filled $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
- **CHILI TURN-IN** - Chili will be turned in at the place and time designated at the cooks' meeting.
- **PENALTIES** - Failure to comply with the rules set forth herein may result in disqualification of an individual cook or team for the cook-off. Decisions of the official(s) are final.

Judging

- Chili judging will be done using preliminary and final judges.
- Judges must abstain from inspecting or tasting chili prior to judging. Judges must not be associated with any cook at the cook-off (e.g., one spouse cooking and the other spouse judging).
- Judging criteria and scoring - A single score takes into consideration the five criteria for scoring chili/beans:
 - Aroma
 - Consistency
 - Color
 - Taste
 - Aftertaste
- Scoring - Each cup of chili will be scored on its own merits with a whole number from 0 to 10, 10 being the highest.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who do I contact for information about the cook-off or to enter a team?

Registration forms and rules can be found at www.bridgewoodfarms.org/events You can also contact Amy at 936-856-6460 EXT 104 or by email at amy@bridgewoodfarms.org

What is the cost and what do we need to bring?

Entry fee is \$50.00 per team entry. Teams are responsible for their own ingredients, tables, chairs, tents, cooking and serving utensils, decorations, covering, cook stove/propane cooker and propane. Remember – There is no electricity and no wood or charcoal fires, and competition chili must be cooked on site.

What is the set-up time, cooking time, when is the judging?

- You may begin setting up at 7:30 am and cooking at 8 AM. There will be a team on-site to assist you in moving your gear to your assigned space.
- Chili will be turned in for judging at 12:45 PM.
- Winners announced at 2PM

What are the award categories?

- A panel of judges will determine 1st through 3rd place. The decision of the judges will be final.