

Middlesex County Fair – Home Arts – Baked Goods – Judging Standard 2024

2024 Baked Goods Competition will be judged on a new Point System that breaks down previously used judging criteria. 2024 entries will be judged against the Point System ONLY with the following breakdown:

4 Points – 1st place

3 Points - 2nd place

2 Points – 3rd Place

1 Point – Honorable Mention

0 Points – No Award

The Point System will be updated once we are able to taste entries again which will also allow for a ‘Best of Show’ Award in the tasting sections again.

Cake Judging Criteria
<p>Presentation – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cakes should be presented whole/uncut• Decoration (if used) – clean and properly applied <p>Outside Characteristics – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Color – uniform in color• Shape – even/level, free from cracks or peaks• Size/Volume – light in weight in proportion to size <p>Inside Characteristics – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grain – fine, round even cells/holes, free from tunnels• Texture – moist tender crumb, not soggy or dry• Blend – Well Blending of ingredients <p>Item Wellness – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No Spoilage – no off colors/smells that would indicate Spoilage

Pie Judging Criteria
<p>Presentation – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pies should be presented whole/uncut• Decoration (if used) – clean and properly applied <p>Outside Characteristics – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Color – crust evenly brown, well blended, not dry• Shape – pastry edge regular without bulges• Size – crust fits pan, filling fits crust <p>Inside Characteristics – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crust – tender & flaky, not crumbly & dry• Filling – properly cooked with appropriate consistency• Color – attractive, matching characteristic to filling base <p>Item Wellness – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No Spoilage – no off colors/smells that would indicate Spoilage

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Bread Judging Criteria – Quick Breads
<p>Presentation – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bread should be presented whole/uncut• Decoration (if used) – clean and properly applied <p>Outside Characteristics – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Top – Rough w/ slight sheen, may have shallow length-wise crack• Sides – Straight Sides• Color – Even browning distinctive of variety <p>Inside Characteristics – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crust – Thin• Interior – Distinctive of variety, moist & tender with medium cell walls evenly distributed <p>Item Wellness – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No Spoilage – no off colors/smells that would indicate Spoilage

Bread Judging Criteria – Yeasted Breads
<p>Presentation – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bread should be presented whole/uncut• Decoration (if used) – clean and properly applied <p>Outside Characteristics – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Top – Evenly round & smooth• Sides – Even ‘shred’ should be visible• Color – Top Golden Brown, Side Pale Brown <p>Inside Characteristics – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crust – Approx 1/8” thick, crisp & tender• Interior – Distinctive of variety, Light in weight, thin cell walls with medium gas holes evenly distributed creating a moist & resilient interior <p>Item Wellness – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No Spoilage – no off colors/smells that would indicate Spoilage

Biscuits Judging Criteria
<p>Presentation – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biscuits should be presented in group whole/uncut• Decoration (if used) – clean and properly applied <p>Outside Characteristics – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Top – Flat and slightly rounded• Sides – Straight Sides• Color – Pale Golden Brown Top, light sides <p>Inside Characteristics – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Color – Creamy White or even color distinctive of variety• Crust – Thin & crisp on top & bottom• Interior – Slightly moist crumb with thin cell walls with small gas holes <p>Item Wellness – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No Spoilage – no off colors/smells that would indicate Spoilage

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Muffins Judging Criteria
<p>Presentation – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Muffins should be presented in group whole/uncut• Decoration (if used) – clean and properly applied <p>Outside Characteristics – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Top – Cauliflower-like, rough & pebbled, thin, slightly rounded• Shape – Uniformed shape & size• Color – Even browning distinctive of variety <p>Inside Characteristics – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Color – Distinctive of ingredients• Interior – Tender with medium cell walls evenly distributed <p>Item Wellness – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No Spoilage – no off colors/smells that would indicate Spoilage

Cookies Judging Criteria
<p>Presentation – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cookies should be presented in group whole/uncut• Decoration (if used) – clean and properly applied <p>Outside Characteristics – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Top – Rough; rounded or smooth, depending on ingredients• Shape - Uniform size & shape• Color – Delicate brown top and bottom; no flour streaks <p>Inside Characteristics – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drop & Bar – Soft, chewy; interior tender• Rolled – Crisp exterior with tender moist interior• Refrigerator – Crisp, crunchy <p>Item Wellness – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No Spoilage – no off colors/smells that would indicate Spoilage

Cupcake Judging Criteria
<p>Presentation – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cupcakes should be presented in group whole/uncut• Decoration (if used) – clean and properly applied <p>Outside Characteristics – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Color – uniform in color• Shape – even/level, free from cracks or peaks• Size/Volume – light in weight in proportion to size <p>Inside Characteristics – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grain – fine, round even cells/holes, free from tunnels• Texture – moist tender crumb, not soggy or dry• Blend – Well Blending of ingredients <p>Item Wellness – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No Spoilage – no off colors/smells that would indicate Spoilage

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<p>Fried Dough Judging Criteria</p> <p>Presentation – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Item should be presented whole/uncut• Decoration (if used) – clean and properly applied <p>Outside Characteristics – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Color – uniform in color• Shape – Distinctive of variety• Size/Volume – light in weight in proportion to size <p>Inside Characteristics – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Texture – moist tender crumb, not soggy• Blend – Well Blending of ingredients <p>Item Wellness – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No Spoilage – no off colors/smells that would indicate Spoilage

<p>Candy Judging Criteria</p> <p>Presentation – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Item should be presented in group whole/uncut• Decoration (if used) – clean and properly applied <p>Outside Characteristics – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Color – Uniform in color• Shape – Distinctive of variety, uniform in shape & size <p>Inside Characteristics – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distinctive of variety <p>Item Wellness – 1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No Spoilage – no off colors/smells that would indicate Spoilage
