

The Lewis County Beekeepers' Association

is sponsoring two honey judging contests at the 2013 Southwest Washington Fair:

Honey Contest #1 - Official SW WA Fair Contest:

How to submit your honey:

Bring a one-pint glass jar of your bees' honey to the Floral Building at the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds in Centralia on Monday, August 12, between noon and 7 p.m.

Please note: this contest is for raw, unprocessed honey only.

Judging will take place on Tuesday, August 13, between 8:30 and 10 a.m.

Honey can be picked up at the Floral Building on Saturday, August 17, after 2 p.m., or Sunday, August 18, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For directions to the Fairgrounds and other general Fair information, visit the Fair's webpage at:

<http://southwestwashingtonfair.net/2013-fair-preview>

Judging criteria for Contest #1: *N.b.: guidelines below apply only to the 2013 Southwest Washington Fair and may not be how other fairs conduct honey judging.*

*** Color:** classified based on Jack's Scale. There are no points for color; color sets judging classes only, and judging takes place within each color class: for this competition, colors to be judged will be light, amber, and dark.

*** Moisture:** honey over 18.6% moisture is disqualified;

*** Flavor:** Because how individuals evaluate the taste of honey is subjective, honey will be tasted only for scorched flavor that would indicate excessive heating.

*** Filtering:** micron filtering no less than 400. (Those who filtered their honey at LCBA's honey spinning last September will fit this category; if you have questions, please contact Susanne.)

*** Obvious crystallization will mean points off.**

***Please submit 2 jars:** a 1 pint glass jar for official judging; optional, & an additional half pint for "People's Choice" tasting contest on Saturday, August 17 – details below.

Comb Honey will also be judged. Criteria for this category are less focused: the desideratum is clean, white, fresh comb without obvious tracking.

Honey Contest #2 ~ LCBA People's Choice Honey Tasting

When & where to submit: Please bring your honey to the Floral Building at the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds in Centralia on Monday, August 12, between noon and 7 p.m. You may also drop it off at LCBA's exhibit in the Floral Building between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Tuesday, August 13 through Friday, August 16, or between 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 17.

What to submit: one half-pint glass jar of your bees' honey. This contest is for raw, unprocessed honey only.

Judging will take place on Saturday, August 17, at 1 p.m. The tasting will be prefaced by a short overview of how honey is made, spun, and filtered, as well as some of the differences between commercial and raw honey. Tasters will be asked to focus on flavor, aroma, and texture. If you enter your honey in this contest, don't expect to get it back ;)

Once tasters have sampled, they will write the number of their preferred honey on a piece of paper and put it in a jar. Votes will be counted when the tasting is concluded, and the winner announced: the winner will be LCBA's first People's Choice Honey Tasting Champion. There will also be 2nd and 3rd place winners.

Since honey is a non-hazardous food, County health regulations permit us to have a honey tasting station at our exhibit, provided we have one-time-use tasters and a disposal jar. We will also have a hand cleaning station. To avoid that "woody flavor" affecting the tasting, we will use small plastic toothpicks.

Don't bee shy ~ enter your honey ~ go for bragging rights for your girls!

Questions? Contact LCBA Secretary Susanne Weil:

Susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com; 360 880 8130