Preserved Foods (Junior)
COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS

FAIR CONTACT INFORMATION

MARIN COUNTY FAIR | FAIR OFFICE & EXHIBIT HALL	20 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael, CA 94903
WEBSITE	www.marinfair.org
EMAIL	FairExhibits@MarinCounty.Gov
REGULAR OFFICE HOURS	Monday to Friday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
FAIR OFFICE HOURS	July 1 (Wednesday) - July 5 (Sunday): 8:00 am - 8:00 pm
MARIN COUNTY FAIR HOURS	July 1 (Wednesday) - July 5 (Sunday): 11:00 am - 11:00 pm

COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS STAFF

PRESERVED FOODS (JUNIOR)

COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS MANAGER	Jennifer Olvera
ONLINE SUBMISSIONS COORDINATOR	Carole Sanders
DEPARTMENT COORDINATOR	TBD

For a list of Sponsors, visit www.marinfair.org after June 1, 2026.

COMPETITION CALENDAR

ONLINE ENTRY FORMS DUE	JUNE 26, 2026 - 11:59 pm
ENTRY RECEIVING & DROP OFF EXHIBIT HALL	JUNE 29, 2026 - 8:00 am – 1:00 pm
ENTRY RELEASED (POST FAIR)	JULY 6, 2026 - 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

The full Competitive Exhibits Calendar is available on www.marinfair.org .

REGISTRATION

To register for the 2026 Competitive Exhibits, please visit https://marin.fairwire.com/

ENTRY DELIVERY AND PICK UP

Please refer to the Competition Calendar for exact dates and times.

Drop off is located at the Marin County Fair Exhibit Hall, located at **20 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael, CA 94903**. Follow the signage at the Exhibit Hall for the exact location.

Claim checks will be provided when exhibits are delivered and are required to pick up your entry on entry pick up date.

DEPARTMENT RULES & REGULATIONS

Local and State Rules govern this competition.

1. **ELIGIBILITY** - Open to all Junior residents of Marin, Napa, San Francisco, and Sonoma Counties. Ages 5-18.
    a. All Entries **MUST** be home prepared and canned and/or packaged **BY** the Exhibitor within the past year. One year after the opening date of the Fair (July 2, 2025)
    b. Items which have been shown at any previous Marin County Fair are not eligible.

ENTRY INFORMATION

2. **ENTRY FEES -** $2.00 per Entry
    a. Fees are NON-refundable.
3. **ENTRY LIMIT -** 2 Entry **PER** Class.
    a. The same Entry may not be entered in more than one class.
4. **ENTRY REMOVAL -** Accepted Entries shall not be removed from exhibition until the Fair closes.
    a. Entries not collected on Release Day will be discarded.

5. **ENTRY RELEASE -** Entries must be picked up on release day. Entries will only be released by presenting your claim check, personal identification, or a signed letter of authorization from the exhibitor.

ENTRY RULES FOR JARS

6. **NUMBER OF JARS -** Each Entry is to consist of 2 standard jars of the same product.
    a. Each entry **MUST** have identical containers - one will be opened for judging and returned to the Exhibitor; the other, if meeting all qualifications, will be placed on display during the Fair.
    b. Please note that all Entries being considered for awards will be opened.
7. **DEFINING A "STANDARD JAR" -** All containers must be specifically or specially designed for canning purposes. Any other types of containers are not accepted.
    a. All canning must be in sealed jars with rings - **NO** paraffin seals. Use a new 2-piece vacuum-sealed lid (clear of rust).
        i. Please note that *Ball® Collection Elite® Platinum Wide Mouth Half Pint (8 oz) Glass Preserving Jars* **ARE** acceptable.
        ii. Use clear jars only; colored jars are not acceptable. Do not use colored lids or rings.
        iii. **Exception**- Dried Products. Please no containers over 32oz.
8. **USDA PRESERVATION GUIDELINES:**
    a. Exhibitors must follow USDA preservation guidelines available at **nchfp.uga.edu.**
    b. No Freezer-preserved foods will be allowed
    c. No open kettle or inversion canned items will be accepted.
    d. Steam canning is USDA approved and is allowed in the competition.
9. **DISQUALIFICATIONS:**
    a. Late deliveries, incorrect lids or jars, opened, leaking dirty jars or rusted lids.
    b. Contains bubbles, air pockets, foreign objects or is considered unsafe to taste by any judge.
10. **JAR LABELS -** Exhibitor's name, entry type, preserved date, preservation method, pounds of pressure (if applicable) Division, and Class **MUST** be plainly and securely labeled on the bottom of every container.
    a. There should be **NO** decorations on the jar lids (e.g. stickers, fabric, etc).

11. **NON-ACID FOODS -** All vegetables, meats, poultry and fish must be canned under pressure. Low-Acid fruits and vegetables should be made more acidic by adding lemon juice as directed in the University Agricultural Extension Service leaflet - *Home Canning of Fruits*.

PUBLICITY

12. The Marin County Fair reserves the right to photograph any work in the exhibition for educational, catalog, website, or publicity purposes.

LIABILITY

13. The County of Marin, Marin County Fair, and/or its contractors will not be responsible for loss or damage which may occur from any cause. Any entries received damaged will not be juried.

SCORECARD

APPEARANCE	The color and clearness of the entry in addition to the container. Containers should be practical and to the specified size. A container made of glass with a clean sealed lid (no paraffin seals). All Entries are to be neatly labeled.	**30%**
TEXTURE	The overall texture of the entry.	**30%**
FLAVOR	Characteristic, without excessive sweetness or overcooked flavor.	**40%**
TOTAL	**TOTAL:**	**100%**

DIVISION 376 | PRESERVED FOODS

Entry Fee - $2.00 per entry

Entries must follow the guidelines listed below:

- **Quantities:**
  - Dried Foods | Minimum 2 ounces of product
  - Soft Spreads | Glass Container, minimum ½ pint
  - Fruits, Vegetables, Pickled Foods | Glass Container, minimum 1 pint
- **Specify** kind of Entry (Example: Strawberry Jam, Pickled Beets, etc.)

CLASSES (Submission Categories)

1. **Dried Fruit** | 8 pieces in a plastic zip lock bag
2. **Dried Vegetables** | 8 pieces in a plastic zip lock bag
3. **Dried Herbs or Spices** | Spice-sized jar – one or one set
4. **Fruit - Canned**
5. **Butters, Conserves, Marmalades, & Preserves**
6. **Jams**
7. **Jellies**
8. **Pickles & Relishes**
9. **Sauces**
10. **Vegetables - Canned**
11. **Any Other - Preserved Food** | Specify
12. **Any Other - Homegrown Preserved Food** | Specify

AWARDS | DANISH SYSTEM | PRESERVED FOODS

Offered per Class at the Discretion of the Judges

FIRST PLACE	**$5 & RIBBON**
SECOND PLACE	**$4 & RIBBON**
THIRD PLACE	**$3 & RIBBON**
HONORABLE MENTION	**RIBBON**

SPECIAL AWARDS

BEST OF SHOW (JUNIORS)	**$20 & ROSETTE**