



NEWS RELEASE

N.C. State Fair Press Office
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2018 N.C. State Fair general competition entries open *Livestock entries open Aug. 1*

RALEIGH – Looking to show off your hidden talents? At this year’s fair, you can compete in everything from wreath design to cookie decorating, or even try your hand at rubber-chicken flinging. With expanded contests and diverse categories, everyone can enter for a chance at a blue ribbon.

“We’re anticipating a really good turnout this year,” said John Buettner, competitive exhibits director. “We’ve already gotten over 50 entries after general entries went live July 1, and we’re expecting a lot more.”

Competition favorites are returning this year and some are expanding, including an even bigger Flower and Garden Show with more flower and wreath arrangement categories. The Decorated Cookies competition will feature a new theme that adds royal icing to the mix, and youth bakers from ages 4 to 12 can now enter the cupcake competitions in three age brackets. The weigh-off for the giant pumpkins and watermelons is moving to the grandstand, which will make it easier for fairgoers to watch.

“This move should allow more fairgoers to observe the competition,” said Buettner. “If you have never seen how a big pumpkin or watermelon is moved and weighed then you don’t want to miss this event.”

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While the wine competition entries closed July 9, the best of show live judging will take place at the fair on Oct. 15, making this year the first to show wine judging on the fairgrounds. Other highlights include the second annual Pre-Engineering Mobile Robotics Contest where middle and high school students can build robotic projects and develop programs, and the Great American Spam Championship with an island-inspired recipe theme.

The most recent addition doesn't require entries ahead of time – there will be new walk-up contests every day in the Education Building. Contests will range from sugar cube building to a milk mustache contest. All will award prizes and ribbons, and there will be age categories and team events.

The 2018 State Fair Premium Book is now available at www.ncstatefair.org. The premium book contains entry forms, deadlines, rules and judging criteria for every contest offered at this year's fair. Listings are broken into two categories, general and livestock entries. Those without Internet access can contact the entry department at 919-839-4515 for assistance.

Online and paper entry registration forms are now being accepted in most general entry categories. Livestock and graphic design entry will begin Aug. 1. Paper entry forms must be submitted by 5 p.m., and online registration forms must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on Sept. 15. Entries for the beer competition do not open until Sept. 1 and the Special Cooking Contests will accept entries until Oct. 1. These dates can be found in the 2018 State Fair Premium Book online.

For more information, visit www.ncstatefair.org.