

2018 GALVESTON COUNTY FAIR & RODEO, INC.
41st Annual BBQ Cook-off
Sponsored by: Miller Lite
Superintendent: Lew Benham - (713) 898-9743
Chairperson: Brad Dillon (409) 770-7493

LOCATION: Galveston County Fairgrounds, Jack Brooks Park, Hwy 6

ENTRY FEE: ALL EVENTS - \$310.00 per team, per spot NON-REFUNDABLE
Brisket is Mandatory with your choice of other entries. One entry each per spot
ENTRIES MUST BE PAID BY MARCH 7th, 2018 OR SPOT(S) WILL BE FORFIETED

CHECK-IN: Thursday, April 19th, 2018, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.
Friday, April 20th, 2018, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

JUDGING: 6:15 p.m. BBQ CHICKEN DIVISION --- Thursday, April 19th, 2018
1:00 p.m. "SPLIT THE POT" CHICKEN WING DIVISION --- Friday, April 20th, 2018
6:30 p.m. PULLED PORK DIVISION --- Friday, April 20th, 2018
11:15 a.m. PORK SPARE RIB DIVISION --- Saturday, April 21st, 2018
3:00 p.m. BEEF BRISKET DIVISION --- Saturday, April 21st, 2018

AWARDS: TROPHIES & PRIZE MONEY WILL BE AWARDED AS FOLLOWS:

All teams making second cut will receive a Top 10% Award Ribbon in each division

1st through 5th Place in the following divisions will receive Trophies & Prize Money

Pulled Pork Division, BBQ Chicken Division, and Pork Spare Rib Division

1st Place \$1,450.00
2nd Place \$850.00
3rd Place \$ 625.00
4th Place \$ 575.00
5th Place \$ 425.00

Beef Brisket Division – 1st through 10th Place – Trophies

1st through 5th Place – Prize Money
1st Place \$1,450.00
2nd Place \$850.00
3rd Place \$ 625.00
4th Place \$ 575.00
5th Place \$ 425.00

There will be an overall trophy and \$800.00 given to the best overall cooking team.

**TIEBREAKER RULES FOR THE OVERALL TROPHY AND POINTS FOR TRIPLE CROWN ARE ON
THE TIEBREAKER RULES PAGE ENCLOSED IN THIS PACKAGE.**

CHIEF COOK'S MEETING: SUNDAY, April 8th, 2018, 1:00 P.M.
ATTENDANCE MANDATORY

**THE SPOT YOU HAVE THIS YEAR WILL BE YOURS (CHIEF COOK) AS LONG AS YOU PAY FOR YOUR
SPOT(S) BY THE DEADLINE FOR THE COOK-OFF. SPOTS NOT PAID BY MARCH 7th, 2018, WILL BE GIVEN
TO PEOPLE ON THE WAITING LIST (CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS APPLY).**

NEW FOR 2018

1. ANY UNAUTHORIZED REPRODUCTION OF ANY OFFICIAL FORMS, PARKING PASSES, ENTRY FORMS, ATTACHMENTS, ETC. WILL BE GROUNDS FOR IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION AND PERMANENT DISBARMENT FROM ALL COOK-OFFS RUN BY THE TRIPLE CROWN COOK-OFF COMMITTEE.
2. There will be a \$100 fee PER SPOT assessed to you entry fee for next year for any NON-BIO DEGRADABLE MATERIAL LEFT BEHIND. This includes hay, wood, pallets, lumber, decorations, fences, etc. If you fail to pay this fee you will be DISQUALIFIED from this year's event and banned from all future Galveston County Fair & Rodeo Cook-offs.
3. DO NOT DUMP GRAY WATER ON THE GROUND. All Gray water must be collected in a holding tank, dumped into a storm drain or dumped outside the fence. Do not dump gray water into any open ditch.
4. Teams who win prize money MUST collect their prize money FROM THE FAIR OFFICE no more than 30 days after the close of the Fair. Any uncollected prize money will be forfeited back to the Galveston County Fair & Rodeo after that time. ALL PRIZE MONEY WILL BE DISTRIBUTED BY THE FAIR OFFICE.
5. Teams with multiple spots, who earn a second cut entry in ANY category, must declare which spot the entry is for. This will be done in writing at the time you receive your second cut container.
6. In the event of inclement weather, the Cook-Off Committee reserves the right to alter the drive-in rules at its own discretion.
7. If food distribution companies need to deliver to your spot, they must deliver between the hours of 8 AM and 9 AM on Thursday April 19th or Friday April 20th ONLY. Chief Cooks must be present for their deliveries. All trucks must be out of the cook-off area before 9:30 AM.
8. Chicken entries will now be ONE (1) FULLY JOINTED HALF-BIRD ONLY. UNDERCOOKED CHICKEN WILL BE DISQUALIFIED See Rule 42 for further details.
9. Port-o-cans must be placed so that they are easily VISIBLE AND ACCESSIBLE from a road / alley way. Port-o-cans that are inside tents must somehow be made visible for servicing. YOU MUST NOTIFY THE COOK-OFF COMMITTEE BY 8:00 AM EACH DAY IF YOUR PORT-O-CAN HAS NOT BEEN SERVICED.
10. DRONES ARE NOT ALLOWED ANYWHERE ON THE FAIRGROUNDS

GENERAL RULES

11. There will be a Chief Cooks meeting on Sunday, April 8th, 2018, 1:00 p.m. at the Galveston County Fairgrounds. Attendance by at least 1 team member is MANDATORY. **Failure to attend this meeting will result in a \$25 handling fee per SPOT.** The rules will be explained at the Chief Cooks meeting. Any questions that you may have will be addressed at this meeting. Armbands and vehicle passes will be distributed to the chief cooks at this time.
12. If a Cook-off Team does not occupy the paid Cook-off spot(s) for 2 consecutive years the team forfeits the spot(s) back to GCF&R; **YOU MAY ONLY LEASE YOUR SPOT(S) FOR ONE YEAR. THEN YOU MUST COOK IN YOUR SPOT(S) AGAIN THE FOLLOWING YEAR OR YOU FORFEIT THEM. IF YOU LEASE YOUR SPOT OUT YOU CANNOT LEASE IT AGAIN FOR THREE YEARS. YOU MUST COOK IN YOUR SPOT FOR 3 CONSECUTIVE YEARS BEFORE LEASING AGAIN. ANY AND ALL LEASE AGREEMENTS MUST BE AUTHORIZED IN WRITING AND SIGNED BY LEW OR BRAD BEFORE THEY WILL BE ALLOWED. IF YOU NO LONGER WISH TO COOK, YOU CANNOT GIVE YOUR SPOTS TO ANOTHER TEAM. THEY BECOME PROPERTY OF GCF&R. NO EXCEPTIONS.**
13. ONE ENTRY FORM IS REQUIRED FOR EACH SPOT OR EXTRA ENTRY
14. A team will consist of a Chief Cook and up to four (4) assistants.
15. All Team Members must be 21 or older. ALL participants will be required to sign and return an Indemnity Form. **All team members must sign the Indemnity Form before the Chief Cook's meeting on April 8th, 2018 or you will not be allowed to participate in the Cook-off.**
16. Team Names on the Entry Form at the time of payment will be the official name of the team and WILL NOT change for the 2018 BBQ Cook-off, NO EXCEPTIONS.

17. ENTRIES MUST BE PAID BY MARCH 7TH, 2018. If there are any entries available at the Chief Cooks Meeting on April 8th, 2018 they will be offered through a process determined by the Cook-Off Committee at that time. **No more than 285 ENTRIES** will be made available for the contest. All additional entries, up to a maximum of 285, must be paid for at the Chief Cooks Meeting. Certain Restrictions will apply. **NO EXCEPTIONS PER THE COOKOFF SUPERINTENDENT.**
18. **The cut-off time for reserving port-o-cans is Monday, April 9th, 2018. NO EXCEPTIONS.**
19. The Cook-off Committee will place the Cook-off Teams reserved port-a-cans in the teams spot within the space only. It is the Cook-off Teams responsibility to move the port-a-can to the desired area within your spot.
20. Arm Bands will be given to the Chief Cook and assistants (maximum of 5 arm bands) at the Chief Cooks meeting. These arm bands will be your ticket to enter on Wednesday, April 18th at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, April 19th at 10:00 a.m., Friday, April 20th at 10:00 a.m., and Saturday, April 21st at 10:00 a.m. If you are without your armband, you will be required to pay admission. Please do not try to pass the arm bands, as this will be grounds for immediate disqualification.
21. Extra cook-off arm-bands will be \$30.00 each. This will allow the wearer entry to the fair on Wednesday, April 18th through Saturday, April 21st, 2018.
22. All persons without **COOKER** armbands will be required to leave the fairgrounds at 2:00 a.m. All persons with **COOKER** armbands are to be in their own spots. All loud music will be turned off at this time.
23. The Cook-off Committee will provide one (1) approximate 30 x 30 foot space for each cook-off spot, area permitting, for the cook-off. Props, trailers, motor homes, tents (including stakes), coverings, or any other equipment must not exceed the boundaries of the space provided. Spaces are not always back to back or perfectly square. Map is not drawn to scale.
24. All Teams having Private Entertainment (i.e. D.J.'s, Bands, Karaoke, etc.) must read and complete Attachment "A" of the rules. **All bands must have their equipment within the gates before 6:00 PM the night they are scheduled to perform. ALL BAND MEMBERS MUST HAVE A PAID ENTRY INTO THE FAIRGROUNDS.**
25. All Teams having Private Security must read and complete Attachment "B" of the rules.
26. All teams renting a tent must read and complete Attachment "C" of the rules. No tents will be set in any cook-off spots without the Chief Cook or representative being physically onsite during the tent placement to assure proper location. Phone calls to the Chief Cook or representative to determine proper location will not be allowed. If a tent is improperly placed it is the team's responsibility to have the tent placed in the appropriate spot. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
27. Cook-off teams participating in both the Seafood and BBQ Cook-offs can remain setup in their BBQ spots for the entire span from check in on Thursday, April 12th at 12 pm through check-out on Sunday, April 22nd at 8 AM if entry is fully paid (all BBQ spots) for both events. Some restrictions apply. If you are going to leave items set-up in your spot all week, you are responsible to check (i.e. tie down, take down, secure) your items in the event of inclement weather so that it does not tear up yours or your neighbors stuff.
28. Participants may not enter the contest area before 10:00 am, Thursday, April 19th, 2018 unless the team has 4 or more spots (physical spots only).
29. Teams with 4 or more spots will be allowed to move onto the fairgrounds on Wednesday, April 18th, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. All vehicles must be removed by 3:00 p.m. as the gates will be locked. No further vehicle traffic will be allowed after 3:00 p.m.
30. Check-in for all teams will be from 10:00 am until 3:00 p.m. Thursday, April 19th, at the EAST Gate, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at the WEST Gate, and from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Friday, April 20th, 2018, EAST GATE ONLY. All participants must be set up before 12:00 p.m., Friday, April 20th, 2018.
31. Cook-off teams will be given 2 vehicle passes per spot. This pass must be displayed (hanging) from the rear view mirror of the vehicle. **Any vehicle without a pass will be towed from the cook-off area. If you lose your pass, you can obtain a replacement for \$50.00 and a signed affidavit for a replacement pass.**
32. All teams on the West side (spots 1-110) of the cook-off area will be required to enter the cook-off through the commercial exhibit gate (West gate). If you are in these spots please line up on the Concrete Road on the West side of the fairgrounds, follow the designated signs. Thursday morning April 19th, 2018 we will lead you on to the fairgrounds. On Thursday, April 19th after 12:00 p.m. and on Friday, April 20th, all teams on the West side (spots 1-110) must enter through the EAST gate, as the West gate will not be open.
33. No vehicles will be allowed to park in the designated Vendor/Sponsor and Committee Reserved parking areas at any time. This area is located directly outside the West Cook-off Gate. All vehicles parked in these areas are subject to tow without notice.

34. Unattended vehicles that block the alley or roadway will be TOWED without notice.
35. Any Cook-off Team requiring assistance with unloading, moving, or placing equipment (i.e., air conditioners, generators, refrigeration units, trailers, etc.) must request assistance by signing up on the Equipment Movement list located at the Cook-off Committee Building. Equipment will be moved on a first come, first serve basis only per the placement on the list. Equipment will not be moved if this process is not followed.
36. All teams parking campers (travel trailers) outside of YOUR cook-off spot must park them in the designated camper parking area only. Contact the fair office to reserve your spot. If your camper is found to be parked in any area other than a designated spot it will be towed.
37. When the exit gates close on Thursday, April 19th at 5:00 p.m. there will be no further vehicle traffic until Friday, April 20th at 10:00 a.m. On Friday, April 20th at 12:00 p.m. the EAST in-bound gate will be closed to further traffic. At 1:00 p.m. Friday, April 20th all exit gates close and there will be no further vehicle traffic allowed in the contest area until Sunday morning, April 22nd at 8:00 a.m. Driving in the cook-off area after the gates close is prohibited and such action will result in disqualification from all events. All vehicles on the cook-off grounds after the gates close must be within their own cook-off spot and cannot be moved until gates open on Sunday morning, April 22nd.
38. Check out is Sunday morning, April 22nd, 2018. NO vehicles, pits, trailers, generators, tents, etc. will be moved from check in until check out on Sunday morning. There will be no movement of vehicles until that time.

COMPETITION

39. An official cook-off clock will be at the Cook-Off Committee Office.
 - a) **On Thursday, April 19th, 2018,**
 - i. All BBQ Chicken Division samples will be requested at 6:00 p.m. and shall be delivered to the designated Cook-off area by 6:15 p.m. Judging will begin at 6:15 p.m.
 - b) **On Friday, April 20th, 2018,**
 - i. All Pulled Pork Division samples will be requested at 6:15 p.m. and shall be delivered to the designated Cook-off area by 6:30 p.m. Judging will begin at 6:30 p.m.
 - c) **On Saturday, April 21st, 2018,**
 - i. All Pork Spare Rib Division samples will be requested at 11:00 a.m. and shall be delivered to the designated Cook-off area by 11:15 a.m. Judging will begin at 11:15 p.m.
 - ii. All Beef Brisket Division samples will be requested at 2:45 p.m. and shall be delivered to the designated cook-off area by 3:00 p.m. Judging will begin at 3:00 p.m.
 - d) Judging in all categories will be in two (2) phases.
 - i. **A minimum of 7 samples must be placed in the container for ALL preliminary divisions.**
 - ii. **A minimum of 12 samples must be placed in the container for ALL final divisions.**
 - e) Judging for ALL DIVISIONS will be on the following:
 - i. a) Appearance, b) Aroma, c) Taste, d) After Taste, and e) Tenderness.
40. FRYING OF ANY MEAT SAMPLE IS NOT ALLOWED.
41. **PULLED PORK DIVISION –**
 - a) Entry Optional: Pork Butt or Pork Shoulder ONLY.
 - b) **Pork MUST be PULLED or SHREDDED, NOT CHOPPED OR SLICED. A piece of the bark or medallions may be included WITH the pulled or shredded pork.**
 - c) Pulled Pork samples can be in Carolina Style, Memphis Style, Texas Style or any other flavor option. The Pulled Pork can be cooked with sauce or tossed in sauce after cooking. **Do NOT pour sauce on the Pulled Pork after it is placed in the sample container.**

42. **BBQ CHICKEN DIVISION –**
- a) Entry Optional:
 - b) BBQ Chicken samples CANNOT include hearts, livers, gizzards, necks, feet, etc. BBQ Chicken samples cannot include bacon wrapping, stuffing or condiments in the sample container. **ONE (1) FULLY JOINTED HALF BIRD ONLY IN THE CONTAINER. NO CHICKEN PIECES. SLITS OR CUTS OF ANY KIND ARE ALLOWED IN THE MEAT BUT DO NOT REMOVE THE MEAT FROM THE BONE. IF YOUR CHICKEN IS UNDERCOOKED IT WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.**
43. **PORK SPARE RIB DIVISION –**
- a) Entry Optional: Pork spare ribs only.
 - b) NO BABY BACK RIBS, COUNTRY STYLE RIBS, ETC. **NO Boneless Ribs, meat MUST be on the bone. Ribs MAY be cut in half.**
44. **BEEF BRISKET DIVISION –**
- a) ALL TEAMS MUST ENTER:
 - b) Beef brisket will be the only type of meat to be judged within this division. Participants must cook a minimum of ten (10) pounds of meat.
 - c) **BURNT ENDS ARE NOT ALLOWED. SLICED BRISKET ONLY.**
45. Marking the Container - Garnish will not be allowed in any division. Only meat is allowed in the containers in all divisions; no pickles, onions, coleslaw, and no sauces poured on top, (Pulled Pork can be tossed in sauce); no foil or plastic containers inside and no markings on the outside.
46. Meat for the Pork Spare Ribs and Beef Brisket Divisions shall be inspected anytime from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Friday, April 20th, 2018. There will be no inspections of the Pulled Pork or BBQ Chicken Divisions. Pork Spare Rib and Beef Brisket Division contest meat may be cooked any time after it has been inspected. Pre-cooked, salted, or marinated Pork Spare Ribs or Beef Brisket meat is not allowed. All entries must be cooked on the Cook-off grounds. All meat may be inspected by the Cook-off Committee at any time. If your inspection meat is not in your area when the committee-persons come by for the inspection, it will be the team's responsibility to bring the meat to the cook-off committee office no later than 8:00 p.m. on Friday, April 20th, 2018. No sample container for that particular contest will be distributed until the meat has been inspected.
47. A fire extinguisher will be required in each team area. Each team will be inspected for a fire extinguisher. If your team does not have a fire extinguisher by 8:00 p.m. Friday, you will be subject to disqualification.
48. No electric or gas fires will be allowed for **ANY** division. These fires must be of wood or wood substance. **Fires cannot be self-sustaining.** All pits may be inspected by the Cook-off Committee at any time.
49. Holes or dug pits are not permitted. **A GREASE PAN IS REQUIRED BENEATH ALL PITS.**

CONDUCT

50. The Chief Cook will be responsible for the conduct of the team and guests. Excessive use of alcoholic beverages will be considered grounds for disqualification.
51. All personal alcoholic beverages must remain in the cook-off area. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in disqualification! Alcoholic beverages and ice may be brought in until check-in closes on Friday, April 20th at 12:00 p.m. After that time, these items must be purchased from the Galveston County Fair & Rodeo, Inc. **NO GLASS CONTAINERS ARE ALLOWED IN THE PARK! ANYONE GIVING ALCOHOL TO MINORS (UNDER 21) WILL BE PROSECUTED TO THE FULLEST EXTENT ON THE LAW! YOU MAY BE HELD CRIMINALLY OR CIVILLY LIABLE FOR OVERSERVING ALCOHOL TO YOUR TEAM MEMBERS AND/OR GUESTS.**
52. No food or beverages may be given to the general public. Only individuals who are invited guests of a team may be served food prepared by that team. All personal alcoholic beverages must remain in the cook-off area.
53. Raffles for Alcohol of any kind is forbidden. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
54. It is the responsibility of each team to see that the contest area is kept clean and the area is cleaned and policed after the contest. Any space left in disarray or with loose or bundled trash (this includes hay) will disqualify the team from future participation. Trash receptacles will be placed throughout the cook-off area for each team's use.
55. Cook-off Teams are responsible for providing their own trash cans and bags.
56. Protests of any team, equipment, or sample (any division) must be turned into the Cook-off Committee no later than one (1) hour prior to judging of that division with the \$100.00 non-refundable fee.

57. No dogs are allowed on the fairgrounds except those aiding the Handicapped.
58. **Firearms**, Open or Concealed, are prohibited on the Galveston County Fairgrounds by cook-off team members during the Cook-off Event. Anyone found possessing Firearms, Open or Concealed will be DISQUALIFIED from this year's event and banned from all future Galveston County Fair & Rodeo Cook-offs.
59. Participants will not be permitted to bring any wheeled transportation, i.e. Golf Carts, Three Wheelers, Four Wheelers, Motorcycles, Bicycles, etc. into the contest area at any time.
60. All generators and sound systems must be turned OFF during announcements of rules, at judging time, and while winners are being announced.
61. All sound system speakers must be turned into your cook-off spot and not turned outward. All loud music must be turned off at 2:00 a.m. each night.
62. Any Cook-off Team who has had previous incidents involving personal injury or inappropriate behavior will not be invited to participate in future events.
63. Galveston County Fair & Rodeo, Inc. is not responsible for theft, damage, or accidents.
64. The Cook-off Superintendent and/or Cook-off Committee Members can inspect any cook-off area at any time, with or without cause, to determine rule compliance.
65. The Cook-off Committee reserves the right to make additional rules as the situations warrant.
66. **ALL DECISIONS OF THE COOK-OFF COMMITTEE AND THE JUDGES ARE FINAL.**

**2018 GCF&R BBQ COOK-OFF
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Sunday, April 8th, 2018

1:00 p.m. Chief Cooks Meeting to review rules

Wednesday, April 18th, 2018

10:00 a.m. Gates OPEN (Teams with 4 or more spots only)
3:00 p.m. ALL Gates CLOSED (no further traffic)

Thursday, April 19th, 2018

10:00 a.m. IN Gates OPEN for early cooker check-in and set-up
12:00 p.m. WEST IN Gate CLOSED
3:00 p.m. EAST IN Gate CLOSED
4:30 p.m. Chief Cooks Meeting - Sample Container Pick-up Pulled Pork & Chicken
5:00 p.m. EXIT Gates CLOSED (no further traffic)
6:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. BBQ Chicken Division Turn-in
7:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. BBQ Chicken Division Second Cut Numbers Called
8:15 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. BBQ Chicken Division Second Cut Turn-in

Friday, April 20th, 2018

2:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. All Persons without armbands must leave the park.
10:00 a.m. EAST IN Gate OPEN for cooker check-in and set-up
11:00 a.m. Chicken Wing Entry Cut-off
12:00 p.m. EAST IN Gate CLOSED, Check-in CLOSED
12:00 p.m. Chief Cooks Meeting – Chicken Wing Sample Container Pick-up
1:00 p.m. EXIT Gates CLOSED, no further traffic in Cook-off area
12:45 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Chicken Wings Division Turn-In
2:00 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. Chicken Wings Division Second Cut Numbers Called
2:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Chicken Wings Division Second Cut Turn-in
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Pork Spare Rib and Beef Brisket Inspection
6:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Pulled Pork Division Turn-in
7:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Pulled Pork Division Second Cut Numbers Called
8:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Pulled Pork Division Second Cut Turn-in

Saturday, April 21st, 2018

2:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. All Persons without armbands must leave the park.
9:30 a.m. Chief Cooks Meeting (Ribs, and Brisket) Container Pick-up
11:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. Pork Rib Division Turn-in
12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Pork Rib Division Second Cut Numbers Called
1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Pork Rib Division Second Cut Turn-in
2:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Brisket Division Cut Turn-in
4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Brisket Division Second Cut Numbers Called
4:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Brisket Division Second Cut Turn-in
6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. AWARDS PRESENTATION

Sunday, April 22nd, 2018

2:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. All Persons without armbands must leave the park
8:00 a.m. Gates Open for check-out & clean-up