

2020 Galveston County Fair & Rodeo, Inc.
15th Annual Seafood Cook-off
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 - \$175.00 per team, per spot NON-REFUNDABLE
Entry in Gumbo Category is Mandatory. One entry in each division per spot.
ENTRIES MUST BE PAID BY MARCH 4, 2020

CHECK-IN: Thursday, April 16, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.
Friday, April 17, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

JUDGING:

6:30 p.m.	GRILLED SHRIMP DIVISION --- Friday, April 17, 2020
11:15 a.m.	FISH DIVISION --- Saturday, April 18, 2020
1:30 p.m.	CRAB CAKE DIVISION --- Saturday, April 18, 2020
3:45 p.m.	GUMBO DIVISION --- Saturday, April 18, 2020

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

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

1 st Place	\$ 600.00
2 nd Place	\$ 475.00
3 rd Place	\$ 350.00
4 th Place	\$ 275.00
5 th Place	\$ 175.00

There will be an overall trophy and \$500.00 given to the best overall cooking team.

CHIEF COOK'S MEETING: SUNDAY, April 5, 2020, 1:00 P.M. ATTENDANCE MANDATORY
ALL SEAFOOD ENTRIES MUST BE PAID BY MARCH 4, 2020 – NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE
CHIEF COOKS MEETING.

HIGH PRIORITY RULES FOR 2020

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 an 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. In the event of inclement weather, the Cook-Off Committee reserves the right to alter the drive-in rules at its own discretion.
6. If food distribution companies need to deliver to your spot, they must deliver between the hours of 8 AM and 9 AM on Friday April 17 ONLY. Chief Cook must be present for their deliveries. All trucks must be out of the cook-off area before 9:30 AM.
7. Port-o-cans must be placed so that they are easily VISIBLE AND ACCESIBLE 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.
8. DRONES ARE NOT ALLOWED ANYWHERE ON THE FAIRGROUNDS
9. Tents may be set up on Tuesday, April 14. Teams with 4 or more spots may enter on Wednesday April 15. See Rules 29-32 for more details.

10. There will be a Chief Cooks meeting on Sunday, April 5, 2020, 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.
11. 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 LONG WISH TO COOK, YOU CANNOT GIVE YOUR SPOTS TO ANOTHER TEAM. THEY BECOME PROPERTY OF GCF&R. NO EXCEPTIONS.**
12. ONE ENTRY FORM IS REQUIRED FOR EACH SPOT.
13. A team will consist of a Chief Cook and up to four (4) assistants.
14. 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 5, 2020 or you will not be allowed to participate in the Cook-off.**
15. 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 2020 BBQ Cook-off, NO EXCEPTIONS.
16. Cook-off spot(s) for both events will be the previously assigned 2019 BBQ Cook-off Spot(s).
17. Seafood only Cook-off Spot(s) may no longer be the previously assigned 2019 Seafood Cook-off Spot(s); based on availability.
18. If you cooked in just the Seafood Cook-off in 2019, this does not mean you automatically get a BBQ Cook-off spot. The BBQ cook-off still has a waiting list.
19. If a Seafood Cook-off Team normally purchases multiple spots and the same number of spots is no longer available a refund will be given.
20. Cook-off teams entered in both events that don't buy **AT LEAST 50% of their BBQ spots for the Seafood Event**, must tear down and move out on Sunday, April 19, 2020.
21. **The cut-off time for reserving port-o-cans is Monday, April 9th, 2020, NO EXCEPTIONS.**
22. 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 for your spot.
23. Arm Bands will be given to the Chief Cook and assistants (maximum of 5 arm bands) at the Chief Cooks meeting or at check-in. These arm bands will be your ticket to enter the Fairgrounds. The arm bands must be fastened to your wrist before entry will be allowed. Starting Thursday at 12 p.m. April 16, 2020, 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.
24. Extra Seafood cook-off arm-bands will be \$30.00 each. This will allow the wearer entry to the fair on Friday, April 17 and Saturday, April 18, 2020.
25. All persons without **COOKER** armbands will be required to leave the fairgrounds at 2:00 a.m. All persons with **COOKER** armbands MUST be in their own spots. All loud music will be turned off at this time.
26. 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.
27. All Teams having Private Entertainment (i.e. D.J.'s, Bands, Karaoke, etc.) must read and complete Attachment "A" of the rules. **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.**
28. All Teams having Private Security must read and complete Attachment "B" of the rules.
29. All teams renting a tent must read and complete Attachment "C" of the rules. **Tents may be set up on Tuesday April 14.** 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.
30. 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 16 at 10 AM through check-out on Sunday, April 26 at 8 AM **if at least 50% of the BBQ spots are used during Seafood. I.e. a team with 4 spots in BBQ must occupy at least 2 spots in Seafood.** Some restrictions may 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 your own or your neighbors property.

31. Participants may not enter the contest area before 10:00 a.m., Thursday April 16, 2020.
32. Teams with 4 or more spots will be allowed to move onto the fairgrounds on Wednesday, April 15, 2020 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.
33. Check-in will be Thursday, April 16, 2020 from 10:00 am until 2:00 p.m. at the WEST Gate and 10:00 am until 5:00 p.m. at the EAST Gate. Then Friday, April 17 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., EAST GATE ONLY. All participants must be set up before 5:00 p.m., Friday, April 17, 2020.
34. 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.**
35. 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.
36. Unattended vehicles that block the alley or roadway will be towed without notice.
37. 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.
38. When the EXIT gates close on Friday, April 17, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. no further vehicle traffic will be allowed in the contest area until Sunday morning, April 19, 2020 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 19, 2020.
39. 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 served basis only per the placement on the list. Equipment will not be moved if this process is not followed.
40. 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.
41. Check out on Saturday evening after the awards is not allowed. Check out is Sunday morning, April 19, 2020. 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 ANY vehicles until that time.
42. Only the EAST Gate will be opened due to other traffic on Sunday morning, April 19, 2020. This will be for any team wishing to tenter the grounds on Sunday morning, April 19, 2020. The Cook-Off Committee reserves the right to alter this at its own discretion.

COMPETITION

43. An official cook-off clock will be at the Cook-Off Committee Office.
 - a. **On Friday, April 17, 2020**
 - i. All Grilled Shrimp 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 start at 6:30 p.m.
 - b. **On Saturday, April 18, 2020**
 - i. All Fish 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 start at 11:15 p.m.
 - ii. All Crab Cake Division samples will be requested at 1:15 p.m. and shall be delivered to the designated Cook-off area by 1:30 p.m. Judging will start at 1:30 p.m.
 - iii. All Gumbo Division samples will be requested at 3:30 p.m. and shall be delivered to the designated Cook-off area by 3:45 p.m. Judging will start at 3:45 p.m.
 - c. 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.**
 - d. Judging for All Divisions will be on the following:
 - a.) Appearance, b.) Aroma, c.) Taste, d.) After Taste, and e.) Tenderness
44. NO FRYING will be allowed for ANY Division. Electric, Gas, or Wood Burning grills may be used.
45. **GRILLED SHRIMP DIVISION –**
 - a. Entry Optional:
 - b. Headless, bacon wrapped, stuffing allowed, NO SKEWERS OR TOOTHPICKS in the container.
 - c. The shrimp is not the stuffing (i.e. no stuffed jalapenos with shrimp inside)
46. **FISH DIVISION –**
 - a. Entry Optional:
 - b. MUST BE Grilled, Baked, Broiled, etc. (NO FRYING)
 - c. MUST BE 75% OR MORE FISH. LIGHTLY SAUCED IS OK.
 - d. NO SHELLS (CLAM, MOLLUSK, OYSTER, ETC) NO SHRIMP BIGGER THAN 30ct. NO BACON ALLOWED.
47. **CRAB CAKE DIVISION –**
 - a. Entry Optional:
 - b. No sauce allowed.
 - c. Crab cake may be pan fried – NO DEEP FRYING.
 - d. NO STUFFED CRAB. NO SHELLS, CLAWS, LEGS, ETC. NO LUMP CRAB MEAT OR ANY KIND OF TOPPING ON CRAB CAKES.
 - e. CRAB CAKES MUST BE ROUND. NO COOKIE CUTTER SHAPES.
48. **GUMBO DIVISION –**
 - a. Entry Mandatory: 2 Gallons Recommended.
 - b. MUST BE 75% SEAFOOD, (NO RICE OR PASTA ALLOWED),
 - c. Each team must participate in the GUMBO division.
49. Garnish will not be allowed in any division. Do not put onions, peppers, etc. on top of the any sample. Sauce and stuffing permitted in the FISH Division. Bacon and stuffing permitted in the GRILLED SHRIMP Division. No tartar sauce, cocktail sauce, lemons or any other condiment etc. and nothing poured on top which was not cooked with the sample; no foil, paper towels, wax paper inside and no markings on the outside. **GREEN LEAF lettuce ONLY (no red tip or spinach) can be used to line the bottom of the container in the Grilled Shrimp, Fish and Crab Cake Divisions (NO lettuce allowed in the Gumbo cup). If using crab in any division only the crab meat can be used (NO whole bodies, legs, claws, etc. can be placed in the container). All contents must fit completely inside the container. No lettuce protruding around the edges of the container.**
50. There will be no inspections of any division. Pre-cooked, salted, or pre-marinated Fish or Shrimp is not allowed. Entries in ALL Divisions must be cooked on the Cook-off grounds.
51. A fire extinguisher will be required in each team area. Each team will be inspected for a fire extinguisher between 10 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Friday April 17. One 2.5LB Extinguisher (minimum) per pit is recommended. If your team does not have a fire extinguisher by 4:00 p.m. Friday, you will be subject to disqualification.
52. **FIRES CANNOT BE SELF SUSTAINING.** All pits may be inspected by the Cook-off Committee at any time.
53. Holes or dug pits are not permitted. **A GREASE PAN IS REQUIRED BENEATH ALL PITS**

CONDUCT

54. 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.
55. 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 17, 2020 at 4:00 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.**
56. 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.
57. Raffles for Alcohol of any kind is forbidden. **NO EXCEPTIONS**
58. 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. If any oil product is used do not dispose of the substance within the cook-off area. Trash receptacles may be placed throughout the cook-off area for each team's use.
59. Cook-off Teams are responsible for providing their own trash cans and bags.
60. 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.
61. No dogs are allowed on the fairgrounds except those aiding the Handicapped.
62. **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 during the Cook-off will be **DISQUALIFIED** from this year's event and banned from all future Galveston County Fair & Rodeo Cook-offs.
63. 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.
64. All generators and sound systems must be turned OFF during announcements of rules, at judging time, and while winners are being announced.
65. All sound system speakers must be turned into your cook-off spot and not turned outward.
66. Any Cook-off Team who has had previous incidents involving personal injury or inappropriate behavior will not be invited to participate in future events.
67. Galveston County Fair & Rodeo, Inc. will not be responsible for theft, damage, or accidents.
68. 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.
69. The Cook-off Committee reserves the right to make additional rules as the situations warrant.
70. **ALL DECISIONS OF THE COOK-OFF COMMITTEE AND THE JUDGES ARE FINAL.**

2020 GCF&R SEAFOOD COOK-OFF SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, April 5, 2020

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

Wednesday, April 15, 2020

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 16, 2020

10:00 a.m. EAST and WEST Gates OPEN for cooker check-in and set-up
2:00 p.m. WEST IN Gate CLOSED
5:00 p.m. EAST IN Gate CLOSED
6:00 p.m. EXIT Gate CLOSED, no further traffic in Cook-Off area

Friday, April 17, 2020

10:00 a.m. EAST Gate OPEN for cooker check-in and set-up
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. FIRE EXTINGUISHER INSPECTION
4:00 p.m. Chief Cooks meeting and Container Pick-up
4:00 p.m. EAST Gate CLOSED, Check-in CLOSED
5:00 p.m. EXIT Gate CLOSED, no further traffic in Cook-Off area
6:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Grilled Shrimp Division Turn-in
7:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Grilled Shrimp Division Second Cut Numbers Called
7:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Grilled Shrimp Division Second Cut Turn-in

Saturday, April 18, 2020

2:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. All Persons without armbands must leave the park.
10:00 a.m. Chief Cooks meeting and Container Pick-up
11:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. FISH Division Turn-in
12:00 p.m. to 12:15 p.m. FISH Division Second Cut Numbers Called
12:15 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. FISH Division Second Cut Turn-in
1:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. CRAB CAKE Division Turn-in
2:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. CRAB CAKE Second Cut Numbers Called
2:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. CRAB CAKE Second Cut Turn-in
3:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. GUMBO Division Turn-in
4:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. GUMBO Second Cut Numbers Called
4:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. GUMBO Second Cut Turn-in
6:30 p.m. **AWARDS PRESENTATION**

Sunday, April 19, 2020

2:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. All Persons without armbands must leave the park
8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. EAST Gate Open for check-out & clean-up
12:00 p.m. EAST Gate CLOSED, Exit Gates CLOSED