

DEPARTMENT-15 HOME ECONOMICS

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Individual sponsorships and fundraising activities fund premiums in the Home Economic Department. Individual sponsored classes will be paid as noted, and other premiums will be determined by the superintendent. Premium checks not cashed within 180 days of issuance will be voided and considered a donation to the Ionia Free Fair. Ribbons will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places. **Cash premiums will be awarded from the judge's record books and not the ribbons attached to the entry.**

Exhibitors may purchase an exhibitor season parking pass at a discounted rate, good for all 10 days of the Fair. You may purchase at the fair office or contact the department superintendent.

ENTRY FORMS TO BE MAILED OR EMAILED TO THE SUPERINTENDENT BY Wednesday, July 8, 2026. OR ENTERED ONLINE AT FAIRENTRY.COM

Entry Schedule: All sections other than pies, cakes, and special contests must be delivered on **Wednesday, July 15th between 5 PM and 7 PM.**

Pies and cakes must be delivered on Monday, July 20th, between **9 AM and 11:30 AM.** This includes all youth exhibitor pies and cakes. **NO LATE ENTRIES.** **Special contest** entry dates will be noted in their section of this book! Special contests do not need pre-entry.

Pick up is Sunday, July 26th, between NOON and 2 PM.


JUDGING: Judging will be on **Thursday, July 16, 2026,** beginning at 9 AM. **Judging for pies and cakes will begin on Monday, July 20, 2026, at 1 PM.** All entries in this department must be strictly homemade (*no commercial mixes*) and *the work of the person in whose name it is entered; no professional exhibitors, please.*

One entry per person, per class, and a **maximum of 25 exhibits per section, per exhibitor.** Only items listed in the premium book will be accepted for judging. Judges reserve the right to withhold premiums in cases where entry is not considered deserving.

PRESENTATION: All baked goods except for cakes and pies should be out of their tins and displayed on plain, sturdy, non-returnable paper plates or disposable trays and covered. Pies may be entered in glass or metal pie plates, securely identified on the bottom. All baked goods become the property of the Ionia Free Fair to be disposed of as they see fit.

Statement Concerning Open Judging: We are one of the few departments at any Fair that continues to have "Open Judging". We feel this is an opportunity for our exhibitors to learn more about what a judge looks for in a winning exhibit and to pick up tips from the judges and other exhibitors. We carefully select qualified individuals with expertise in the area they are asked to judge. Please remember that your comments and questions should be for acquiring knowledge. Please refrain from attacking the judge's decisions.

Ionia Free Fair is not responsible for articles lost, stolen, or damaged before, during, or after the Fair.

Happenings in Home Ec. 2026	Thank you to all of our bakers who keep this yearly tradition going.	7/15 Wednesday 5p -7p All Entries except pies and cakes	7/16 Thursday, 9 am All baked and canned goods delivered on Wednesday are judged	7/17 Friday 	7/18 Saturday Bacon Contest 5:00 PM See page 5 for the rules
7/20 Monday Pies & Cakes Delivery 9a-11:30a Judging 1 pm. Auction @7pm	7/21 Tuesday "Best Dairy Delight contest" See page 5 for rules	7/22 Wednesday Maple Syrup contest See page 5 for rules	7/23 Thursday Stop in and check out all of the winners	7/24 Friday Kids' Make and Take Demo @ 2pm	7/26 Sunday 12p-2p Pick up!

SECTION 1 - BAKED GOODS

Yeast Bread -(Large loaf)

Delivered Wednesday 5p-7p

Premiums 1st \$3.00, 2nd \$2.50, 3rd \$2.00

- 3300 White
- 3301 Wh. Wheat
- 3302 Raisin
- 3303 Oatmeal
- 3304 Cinnamon
- 3305 Special occasion
- 3306 Any other (specify variety)
- 3307 Sourdough
- 3308 Savory (specify variety)

Yeast Rolls ½ dozen

Delivered Wednesday 5p-7p

Premiums 1st \$3.00, 2nd \$2.50, 3rd \$2.00

- 3309 Clover Leaf
- 3310 Cinnamon
- 3311 Parker House
- 3312 Plain Yeast
- 3313 Wh. Wheat
- 3314 Any other (specify variety)
- 3315 Bagels (Specify variety)

CHAMPION YEAST EXHIBIT

Premium 1st \$5.00, 2nd \$3.50

ALICE SMITH MEMORIAL

Overall Yeast Section Champion will receive an additional \$50 in memory of Alice Smith, a great Champion.

Quick Bread *Delivered Wednesday 5p-7p*

Premiums 1st \$3.00, 2nd \$2.50, 3rd \$2.00

Loaves must be 3x5 or larger

- 3322 Apple
- 3323 Banana
- 3324 Pumpkin
- 3325 Zucchini
- 3326 Coffee Cake
- 3327 Any other (specify variety)
- 3328 Baking Powder Biscuits (½ dzn)
- 3329 Blueberry Muffins(½ dzn)
- 3331 Any Other Muffin (½ dzn specify variety)

CHAMPION QUICK BREADS

Premiums 1st \$5.00 2nd \$3.50

COOKIES

Delivered Wednesday 5p-7p

Premiums 1st \$3.00, 2nd \$2.50, 3rd \$2.00

- 3360 Sugar
- 3361 Brownies (any variety)
- 3362 Chocolate cookies
- 3363 Butterscotch
- 3364 Chocolate chip
- 3365 Snickerdoodles
- 3366 Spritz
- 3367 Molasses
- 3368 Oatmeal (no add-ins)
- 3369 Peanut Butter
- 3370 Bar
- 3371 Filled
- 3372 Drop
- 3373 Unique & Unusual (include recipe)
- 3374 Lemon
- 3376 Any other (specify variety)

CHAMPION COOKIES

Premium 1st \$5.00 2nd \$3.50

CANDY -6 PIECES

Delivered Wednesday 5p-7p

Premiums 1st \$3.50, 2nd \$3.00, 3rd \$2.50

- 3401 Fudge (Peanut Butter)
- 3402 Fudge (chocolate)
- 3403 Fudge (any other)
- 3404 Caramels
- 3405 Brittle
- 3406 Any Other (specify variety)

LAYERED CAKES

Delivered Monday 9a-11:30a

Premiums 1st \$9.00 2nd \$8.00 3rd \$7.00

- 3334 Ribbon
- 3335 Chocolate
- 3336 Coconut
- 3338 White
- 3339 Spice
- 3340 Carrot
- 3341 Banana
- 3342 German Chocolate
- 3343 Any other Layer (specify variety)

SINGLE LAYER CAKES

Delivered Monday 9a-11:30a

Premiums 1st \$9.00 2nd \$8.00 3rd \$7.00

- 3344 Angel Food
- 3345 Applesauce
- 3346 Bundt
- 3348 Rolled Cake
- 3349 Upside down
- 3352 Pound Cake
- 3353 Any other single layer (specify variety)
- 3354 Cupcakes ½ dzn - all varieties

CHAMPION CAKES

Premium 1st \$20.00 2nd \$15.00

DECORATED CAKES

Delivered Monday 9a-11:30a

- 3358 Decorated by amateur
- 3359 Decorated by professional

PIES

Delivered Monday 9a-11:30a

Premiums 1st \$9.00 2nd \$8.00 3rd \$7.00

DOUBLE CRUST

- 3383 Rhubarb
- 3384 Apple
- 3385 Blueberry
- 3386 Cherry
- 3387 Peach
- 3388 Raspberry
- 3389 Combination fruit
- 3390 Any other (specify variety)

SINGLE CRUST

- 3391 Cream Pie (other than chocolate & coconut)
- 3392 Chocolate
- 3393 Custard
- 3394 Lemon
- 3395 Pecan
- 3396 Pumpkin
- 3397 Any other (specify variety)
- 3398 Coconut Cream

CHAMPION PIES

Premium 1st \$15.00 2nd \$10.00

GOURMET CUPCAKES
Delivered Monday 9a-11:30a
 Premium 1st \$10, 2nd \$5.00
 ½ dozen of any variety
 3380 Gourmet cupcake

Anna Meyers “Champion Cake Award”
 Prize: Gift Certificate
 Given in loving memory by her family.

Alma Barr Grand Champion Cake - \$25.00

YOUTH EXHIBITORS Delivered on the first Wednesday from 5p-7p. EXCEPT pies and cakes delivered Monday from 9a-11:30a.

KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

(ages 7-10 state age on entry form)

Premiums: 1st \$4.50, 2nd \$4, 3rd \$3.50

All classes except pie and cakes must be plated with ½ dozen. Quick bread is a 3x5 loaf or larger.

- 3407 Quick Bread
- 3408 Snickerdoodles
- 3409 Single-layer cake - Monday Delivery
- 3410 Sugar Cookies
- 3411 Layer Cake - Monday Delivery
- 3412 Chocolate Chip Cookies
- 3413 Decorated cake - judged on decorations only
- 3414 Molasses Cookies
- 3415 Peanut Butter Cookies
- 3416 No-Bake Cookies
- 3417 Bar Cookie - any variety
- 3418 Brownies - any variety
- 3419 Any other cookie - specify variety
- 3420 Cupcakes ½ dozen - Deliver Monday
- 3421 Candy - ½ dozen - specify variety
- 3422 Blueberry Muffins - ½ dozen
- 3423 Any other muffin - ½ dozen - specify variety

KIDS IN THE KITCHEN CHAMPION

1st - \$7.00 and Rosette

2nd - \$5.00 and Rosette

JUNIOR BAKERS

(ages 11-14 state age on entry form)

Premiums: 1st \$4.50, 2nd \$4, 3rd \$3.50

Pies and Cakes 1st \$7, 2nd \$6, 3rd \$5

- 3430 Yeast Bread or Rolls (rolls 1/2 dzn)
- 3432 Quick Bread - specify variety
- 3433 Layer Cake - Deliver Monday
- 3435 Single Layer Cake - Deliver Monday
- 3436 Sugar Cookies
- 3437 Snickerdoodles
- 3438 Chocolate chip cookies
- 3439 Molasses cookies
- 3440 Peanut Butter cookies
- 3441 Brownies - any variety

- 3442 Bar Cookie - specify variety
- 3443 Any other cookie - specify variety
- 3444 Cupcakes ½ dzn - deliver Monday
- 3446 Pie - Specify Variety - deliver Monday
- 3447 Candy -½ dzn specify variety
- 3449 Muffins ½ dzn - specify variety
- 3450 Decorated Cake (may use dummy)

JUNIOR BAKER CHAMPION

1st - \$7.00 and Rosette

2nd - \$5.00 and Rosette

OUTSTANDING DECORATED CAKE

Premium \$10

Awarded to the best entry in class #3450

In Memory of Rose Hale

OUTSTANDING YOUTH BAKER

Premium \$20

Awarded to the best overall baker from Kids in the Kitchen and Junior Bakers.

In Memory of Julia Reams and Jackie Kammers

MARION GREGORY YOUTH AWARD

Outstanding Entry by 18 years or younger.

Premium \$20

In Memory of Marion Gregory former Superintendent.

THE PROMISE AWARD

Prize: Cookbook & Rosette

Awarded by the Superintendent to a youth under 18 who shows great baking potential!

YOUTH COOKIE MONSTER AWARD

Champion Youth (7-10 years) Cookie Maker

Champion Youth (11-14 years) Cookie Maker

Premium: \$5 and Rosette

The "Faithful Baker Award"

Prize: Special Prize

Awarded by the Superintendent to an overall achiever who has consistently participated in the Home Economics Department for over 10 years.

SPECIAL AWARDS AND CONTEST

Eleanor and Stanley M Powell “Best Pie Award”

The Grand Champion Pie Maker.
Premium: \$25

The “Bessie G.” Award

Premium: \$5
In memory of Madeleine York’s grandmother
Award to 1st Place (class #3305)

O’Bieme Memorial Award

Overall Best Exhibit by an individual in Baked Goods and Canned Goods.
Premium: \$5.
In honor of Mrs. Nelson O’Beirne, first Superintendent of the IFF Home Economics Department (1923-1966)

“Cookie Monster Award”

Champion Cookie Maker based on total points awarded in COOKIES
Premium: \$10 and Rosette

Best Dairy Delight Contest - Tuesday, at 7 PM

All entries must be in the Department between 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm, Judging begins @ 7:00 pm
Rules:
The recipe must be included
The recipe must contain **3 dairy ingredients, each of a 1/4 cup or more.**
One entry per person per class
3590 - Appetizers and Dips
3591 - Quiche and Casseroles
3592– Desserts
Premiums: 1st, \$25.00, 2nd, \$15.00, 3rd, \$10.00
Grand Champion
Premium: \$100.00 and Rosette

Everything is Better with Bacon

This Contest is sponsored by Jones Meat Market and held on the **first Saturday of the Fair at 5:00 PM**

All entries must be in the Department between 3:00 PM and 4:30 PM

Judging will begin at 5:00 PM

Premiums: 1st \$25.00, 2nd \$15.00, 3rd \$10.00

3318 - Appetizers and dips

3319 - Main Dish

3320 - Dessert

- Everything is better with Bacon Grand Champion

Premium: \$100.00

Rules:

The recipe must be included.

The recipe must include 4 strips or more of real bacon.

Only one entry per class per person.

Maple Syrup Contest

Wednesday at 7 pm

Sponsored by Swanson Farm
Swanson Sugar Shack LLC
7068 Wingeier Ave., S.E.
Alto, MI 49302
(616) 868-0046

All entries must be in the department between 4:30 and 6:30 pm. Judging begins @ 7:00pm

Premiums: 1st, \$25; 2nd, \$15; 3rd, \$10

3466 Appetizers and Dips

3467 Main Dish

3468 Dessert

MAPLE SYRUP CHAMPION

Premium: \$100

Rules:

The recipe must be included.

The recipe must include 1/3 cup or more of pure maple syrup, maple cream, or maple sugar.

Only one entry per class.

SECTION 2 - CANNED GOODS

All canned goods must be delivered on Wednesday, between 5 PM and 7 PM.

Judging will Thursday, beginning at 9 AM

Entries must be of good quality and displayed in clean, clear glass canning jars. (All jars must meet USDA standards). Canned goods must be the work of the person in whose name they are entered and must have been canned since the fair week of the previous year. Each exhibitor may enter a maximum of 25 items, with one item per class. The judge reserves the right to disqualify an entry deemed unacceptable or failing to meet the above rules. Placing ribbons awarded.

PICK-UP IS SUNDAY, JULY 21st, BETWEEN Noon AND 2 PM

PICKLES

Premiums: 1st, \$3; 2nd, \$2.50; 3rd, \$2.

- 3485 Beet Pickles
- 3486 Cucumber, Sweet (whole or chunk)
- 3487 Bread & Butter
- 3488 Dill
- 3489 Jalapenos
- 3490 Any Bean
- 3491 Mixed Pickles
- 3492 Any other pickle - specify variety

MISCELLANEOUS

Premiums: 1st, \$3; 2nd, \$2.50; 3rd, \$2

- 3495 Chili sauce
- 3496 Chopped pickle or relish
- 3497 Soup - specify variety
- 3498 Corn Relish
- 3499 Grape Juice
- 3500 Tomato Juice
- 3501 Juice - any other
- 3502 Salsa
- 3503 Spaghetti Sauce
- 3504 Sauce - Any other - specify variety
- 3506 Any other (salad dressing, mincemeat, etc)
- 3507 Fruit Salsa - any

MEATS

Premiums: 1st, \$3; 2nd, \$2.50; 3rd, \$2.

- 3510 Beef
- 3511 Chicken
- 3512 Pork
- 3513 Venison
- 3514 Any other - specify variety

CHAMPION of Classes 3485 - 3514

Premium 1st \$5.00, 2nd \$3.50

FRUITS

Premiums: 1st, \$3; 2nd, \$2.50; 3rd, \$2.

- 3520 Applesauce
- 3521 Blueberries
- 3522 Cherries (black)
- 3523 Cherries (red, sweet or sour)
- 3524 Peaches
- 3525 Pears
- 3526 Plums
- 3527 Black Raspberries
- 3528 Red Raspberries
- 3529 Pie Filling
- 3530 Any Other - Specify variety

VEGETABLES

Premiums: 1st, \$3; 2nd, \$2.50; 3rd, \$2.

- 3535 Peas
- 3536 Beans (string green)
- 3537 Potatoes
- 3538 Beets
- 3539 Carrots
- 3540 Corn
- 3542 Sauerkraut
- 3543 Tomatoes, whole
- 3544 Tomatoes stewed(plain or veggies)
- 3545 Any other - specify variety

CHAMPION OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Premium 1st \$5.00, 2nd \$3.50

JELLIES

Premiums: 1st, \$3; 2nd, \$2.50; 3rd, \$2.

- 3550 Apple
- 3551 Cherry
- 3552 Grape
- 3553 Mixed Fruit - specify variety
- 3554 Peach
- 3555 Strawberry
- 3556 Any other - specify variety
- 3557 Raspberry
- 3558 Black Raspberry

LOIS HARWOOD AWARD
 Premium \$20
In memory of former superintendent Lois Harwood, an award for the outstanding overall exhibit in Canned Goods.

CONSERVES, MARMALADES, PRESERVES

Premiums: 1st, \$3; 2nd, \$2.50; 3rd, \$2.

- 3565 Cherry
- 3566 Peach
- 3567 Any other - specify variety
- 3568 Black Raspberry

ANN CHAMBERS AWARD
 Premium \$10
In memory of Ann Chambers, an award-winning exhibitor for many years.
 Best exhibit for first-year exhibitor.

JAM

Premiums: 1st, \$3; 2nd, \$2.50; 3rd, \$2.

- 3569 Fruit Butter
- 3570 Cherry
- 3571 Freezer
- 3572 Peach
- 3574 Red Raspberry
- 3575 Strawberry
- 3576 Blueberry
- 3577 Any other - specify variety
- 3578 Mixed Fruit - name combination

CHAMPION OF JELLIES AND JAMS

Premium 1st \$5.00, 2nd \$3.50

YOUTH CANNING

Premiums: 1st, \$3; 2nd, \$2.50; 3rd, \$2.

- 3580 Any Pickle
- 3581 Any other jar - specify variety
- 3582 Fruit
- 3583 Vegetable
- 3584 Jam or Jelly

Youth Canning Award
Best Overall Youth Canner
Premium \$10

