



JUNE 19-JULY 12
PLEASANT  N 26

2026 ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIR BEEF IS KING COOKOUT & DUTCH OVEN CONTEST ENTRY GUIDE

Entry Fee: \$2.00 per entry!

Click [HERE](#) to enter!

Entry Deadlines:

Dutch Oven: Tuesday, June 23 @ 5:00 p.m.

Beef is King: Tuesday, July 7 @ 5:00 p.m.

For Questions, please contact:

entries@alamedacountyfair.com

or call 925-426-7611 to leave a message



BEEF IS KING COOKOUT CONTEST

Saturday, July 11
Judging begins at 12:00 p.m.

Location: Bernal Greens

Sponsored by the Alameda County CattleWomen

Entry Fee: \$2.00 Per Entry

Entry Limit: One Entry Per Exhibitor

Entry Deadline: Tuesday, July 7

Special Rules:

- Contest is limited to the first 20 entries. Any amateur or adult team may enter.
- Contestants will enter the fairgrounds between 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. through Gate 2 on Bernal Avenue.
- Upon check-in with the CattleWomen on site, each contestant will receive their parking pass and sign up for a time to present their finished dish.
- Contestants must bring their own BBQ equipment, fuel or charcoal, and all ingredients for their entry.
- Some preparation is allowed before coming to the competition. The meat may be marinated before the competition. However, all other dicing, slicing, chopping, mixing, etc. must be done on site during the competition, which includes garnishes.
- A legible copy of the recipe, naming the cut of beef, must be provided to the organizers at the time of judging. It must include all ingredients of the prepared dish as well as the contestant's name, email, and phone number. Recipes become property of the Alameda County fair and the Alameda County CattleWomen. Recipe may be used by media or for publication.
- Judging will be based on: Taste (45%), Appearance (20%), Tenderness/Texture (20%), & Originality (15%).
- Any ties in judging will be broken by the best decorated table or cook site.
- Prizes:
 - 1st Place: \$200.00
 - 2nd Place: \$100.00
 - 3rd Place: \$50.00



DUTCH OVEN COOKING CONTEST

Saturday, June 27

Judging begins at 12:30 p.m.

Location: Bernal Greens

Sponsored by the Alameda County CattleWomen

Entry Fee: \$2.00 Per Entry

Entry Limit: One Entry Per Exhibitor

Entry Deadline: Tuesday, June 23

Available Classes:

1. Dutch Oven Beef Main Dish

Special Rules:

- Contest is limited to the first 20 entries. Any amateur or adult team may enter.
- Contestants will enter the fairgrounds between 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. through Gate 2 on Bernal Avenue.
- Upon check-in, each contestant will receive 2 admission tickets and 1 parking pass.
- Contestants must provide all necessary ingredients, cooking utensils, charcoal, coolers, ash container, shade tent, etc.
- All cooking must be done in a factory-made Dutch oven. The use of battery operated or electric appliances, camp stoves, etc. to assist in cooking the food is not permitted.
- No preparation is allowed before coming to the competition. All dicing, slicing, chopping, mixing, etc. must be done on site during the competition. This includes garnishes and marinades.
- Please use good fire safety practices. One team member must be in the cooking area at all times. Keep yourself and the public safe.
- All foods submitted for judging should be displayed in the Dutch oven or on the lid.
- A legible copy of the recipe, naming the cut of beef, must be provided to the organizers at the time of judging. It must include all ingredients of the prepared dish as well as the contestant's name, email, and phone number. Recipes become property of the Alameda County fair and the Alameda County CattleWomen. Recipe may be used by media or for publication.
- Team members should be willing to share cooking techniques and tips with spectators.
- Judging will be based on: Appearance (40% visual appeal/wow factor), Quality (40% aroma, taste, uniformity of doneness, temperature appropriate for dish), and Difficulty of Recipe (20% preparation techniques, originality).
- Any ties in judging will be broken by the best decorated table or cook site.
- Prize Per Class:
 - 1st Place: \$100.00
 - 2nd Place: \$75.00
 - 3rd Place: \$50.00