

Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Association

P.O. Box 1803

Bay City, Texas 77404-1803

2025 Barbecue Cook-off Entry Form



Thursday - Saturday, February 20-22, 2025

Entry Deadline is Friday – 21, 2025, at 12:00 noon.

Entry Fee: \$250 entry fee per spot

50% of Entry Fees go to Pay Outs

Jack Pot is \$30.00 per entry for Beans, Dutch Oven Dessert, Margarita

Check-in Location: Check in in front of the Multi-Purpose Building

Check-in Times: Thursday, February 20, 2025, from 3:00 pm – 6:00pm
Friday, February 21, 2025, from 9:00 am – Noon

Categories: Beef Brisket ▪ Chicken ▪ Ribs ▪ Beans ▪ Dutch oven Dessert ▪ Margarita

Team: _____

Head Cook: _____ Phone _____

Address: _____

City, Zip: _____

Assistant Cooks:

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

Jack Pot Entries: Please indicate how many entries in each category. Each entry is \$30.00

_____ Margarita _____ Beans _____ Dutch Oven Dessert

MANDATORY meetings will be held both Friday and Saturday for all cookers. Every team must be represented at these meeting. The release form on the reverse side of the entry form must be signed by all members of your cooking team to participate.

Meat Inspection will be Friday, February 21, 2025, Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Judging Times:

Dutch oven Dessert	Friday, February 21	6:00pm
Beans	Friday, February 21	7:00pm
Margarita	Friday, February 21	8:00pm
Chicken	Saturday, February 22	1:00pm
Ribs	Saturday, February 22	2:00pm
Beef Brisket	Saturday, February 22	4:00pm

Space # _____

Paid: _____

Ck#: _____/Cash

Date: _____

Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Association 2025 Barbecue Cook-off

RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____, participants in the Barbecue Cook-off Event of the

Matagorda County Fair, Livestock Show & Rodeo, do hereby knowingly and voluntarily release the above referenced event, the Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Exposition Association (Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Association), Board of Directors, members, judges, volunteers, and employees of the Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Association, and Matagorda County, and any other person, firm, or individuals charged and chargeable with responsibility or liability, their heirs, administrators, executors, successors, and assigns from and against any and all claims, lawsuits, demands, damages, loss of services, actions, and causes of action based upon, arising out of, or in any way related to any honors, awards, or rights sought by me as a participant in the Matagorda County Fair, Livestock Show & Rodeo, the conduct of business thereat, the ownership and possession of any honors, awards, or rights, thereby, any negligent act, act of misfeasance or nonfeasance by the Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Association with any honors, awards, and rights, bestowed at said events. Further, I do hereby agree to exonerate, hold harmless, and indemnify such event listed above from all claims that I or my representatives may have against such events(s) past, present or future in connection with such honors, awards and rights. Such indemnification to include all fees (including reasonable attorney fees), costs, and other expenses reasonable incurred by or on behalf of the above referenced event and investigation of or defense against any such claims, lawsuits, demands, actions, or causes or actions. I have read and understand the terms and conditions of this release and indemnity agreement by counsel of my own choosing. I do fully understand the terms of this agreement and do intentionally and voluntarily agree to the same.

Participant Signature	Witness	Date
Participant Signature	Witness	Date
Participant Signature	Witness	Date
Participant Signature	Witness	Date
Participant Signature	Witness	Date

Please note: Participants can witness each other's signatures.

Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Association
2025 Barbecue Cook-off
CBA Rules & Guidelines Will Be Followed
Friday February 20 & Saturday February 21

Prizes awarded as follows for Brisket, Chicken, Ribs:

1 st Place	25% Cash of Entries and Award
2 nd Place	15% Cash of Entries
3 rd place	10% Cash of Entries
Grand Champion	Free entry to 2026 cook-off (non-transferable)

Showmanship

Good Time Charlie Award

Award

The Good Time Charlie Award is given to encourage a fun, friendly, and overall welcoming experience. Teams will be given a bucket to set out in their area to collect “tips”. The monies will be collected at Midnight, Friday February 21 and at Noon on Saturday February 22. The team with the most “tips” collected will win so encourage you tent guests to “tip up”. All money collected will benefit the MCFLA Livestock Show and Scholarship Fund.

Events -Jack Pot for Dutch oven Dessert, Beans, Margarita-\$30.00 per entry (can enter multiple times)

1 st Place	50% Cash (of total entries per division) and Trophy
2 nd Place	30% Cash (of total entries per division)

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1. Entry deadline is Friday, February 21, at 12:00 noon. Late entries can be accommodated with prior arrangement.
 2. **For reservation of contest space, contact the Fair Office at (979) 245-2454 no later than Thursday, February 13, 2025. All entry forms and fees for reserved spaces MUST be paid for by Thursday, February 13, 2025. After that date, spaces will be released and sold on a first come first serve basis.**
 3. **ALL CHAMPION BARBECUE ALLIANCE RULES WILL APPLY AND CAN BE FOUND AT <https://www.cbabbq.com/rules.pdf>. Should a discrepancy in the rules exist, CBA Rules will be controlling.**
 4. A team consists of one head cook and no more than four assistants. A team MAY consist of minors if the head cook is over 18 years of age.
 5. Wristbands will be issued to each team member listed on your entry form. Limit of five wristbands per team. If you lose a wristband none will be replaced. Your wristband must be on your wrist. These wristbands are for gate entry for the cook-off only.
 6. All teams must have their head cook present at the mandatory cooks meeting at 5:00pm on Friday evening, and 9:00am Saturday morning in the cook-off area.
 7. **Each team is responsible for their own trash. Boxes, foil pans, etc. shall be taken to the dumpster by the team provided by MCFLA.**
 8. Each team will receive their turn in containers and QR codes from the CBA representative.
 9. Cooks are to prepare and cook in as sanitary manner as possible. Cooking conditions are subject to inspection by the MCFLA. Conditions found to be unsanitary will be grounds for disqualification from this cook-off. Fire must be wood or wood substance. NO gas or electric fires are allowed for BBQ meat entries. Beans are exempt. No holes, open fires, or dug pits will be allowed. A fire box will be allowed and must have a safety barrier placed across the top and around the sides of the box. Precautions must be made to prevent fires and accidents.

10. No pyrotechnics or explosives are allowed.
11. The Head Cook for each team will be responsible for the conduct of this team, guests, or invitees. As well, the Head Cook will be responsible for his team's compliance with the rules and regulations herein set forth. Any offensive conduct, nudity, lewdness, or any form of vulgarity will **NOT** be allowed, and will be grounds for disqualification from the cook-off. This is a family event. Texas Alcohol Laws will be enforced after hours. **Glass bottles are prohibited on Fairgrounds. Everyone must be 21 to consume alcohol.**
12. Contestants may not sell any food or alcoholic beverages to the public.
13. The Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Association will not be responsible for theft, damage, or injury sustained during the cook-off.
14. **The Committee Chairman and CBA Representative reserves the right to make additional rules and regulations as the situations warrant. Decisions of the Barbecue Cook-off Chairman and CBA Representative are final.**
15. The release form must be signed by all members of your cooking team to participate.
16. **There will be limited drive thru traffic after 4:00 p.m. Thursday, February 20 - Friday, February 21 and Saturday, February 22, 2025.** Vehicle parking in barbecue cook-off area is prohibited. Once you have set up camp, you must move your vehicle to designated areas. Any vehicle left inside the barbecue area will be cause for team disqualification. This includes golf carts, motor vehicles, motorcycles, 3 or 4-wheelers, bicycles, or any type of transportation into the cook-off area, except wheelchairs or apparatus for the handicapped. Please notify in advance if you plan to use a handicap apparatus.
17. **THERE WILL BE NO VEHICLES ALLOWED IN THE COOKOFF AREA! ALL VEHICLES WILL BE MOVED OUTSIDE THE GATE BY 4:00 pm on Friday!**
18. **Animals of any kind are not permitted in any contestant's contest space, nor will any animal be permitted on the Barbecue Cook-off Grounds, except for service animals with proper paperwork. The team will be disqualified if an animal is on the Matagorda County Fairgrounds Barbecue Cook-off premises.**
19. Ice will be made available for sale to the cook-off teams at \$4.00 per bag.
20. Music Bands, and / or sound equipment within your team area is allowed. **HOWEVER**, excessive loud music and / or sounds which interfere with announcements, scheduled live bands and entertainment on stage, or which intrudes upon or interferes with the comfort of fellow contestants will **NOT BE ALLOWED NOR TOLERATED**. Offenders will receive **ONLY ONE (1) warning** from either the Barbecue Chairman, Director, Vice-Chairman, CBA Representative or Security Officer and non-compliance will be grounds for disqualification from the Cook-off and immediate removal from the Barbecue Cook-off Grounds.
21. **QUIET TIME is 12:00 A.M. and will be strictly enforced.** All bands, DJ's, etc. must be out of the gate by **11:45pm** or will be locked inside until 6:00a.m. Saturday morning, no exceptions. Gate opens at 6:00 a.m. till 8:00 a.m. to bring in supplies.
22. All protests concerning Matagorda County Fair Entries must be submitted prior to judging, or at the time the offense is noticed and be accompanied by a \$150.00 cash deposit. The deposit will be returned **ONLY**

if the protest is upheld. Once judging has commenced, NO protests will be accepted. The judge's decision is final and not subject for protest. Judging procedures will not be interrupted for protest investigation. The protest will be reviewed by at least five members of the Fair Board and CBA Representative. The ruling of the Fair Board Directors and CBA Representative will be final. Both sides of the protest must be present at the time of the protest. There will be no anonymous protests accepted. Every contestant, in consideration of his/her entry being accepted by the Matagorda County Fair and Livestock Association, agrees that the conclusion reached by the Fair Board Directors shall be final, without any recourse against the Matagorda County Fair and Livestock Association, Board of Directors, Division Chairman, Superintendent, or Committeeman.

23. Cook-off camps may tear-down and exit the premises following the awards presentation Saturday afternoon. No vehicles will be allowed in till then. **All sites MUST be torn down by NOON on Sunday, February 23, 2025, including rented tents. If not, you will be subject to towing fees/tear down fees.**
24. There will be law enforcement officers on duty for the duration of the cook-off to ensure the safety of all participants and visitors to the event. Any violators of the rules set forth by the MATAGORDA COUNTY FAIR AND LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION COOK- OFF COMMITTEE will be given one fair warning to abide by the rules. If this behavior continues you will be asked to leave or if necessary, escorted off the grounds by our officers! If you are asked to leave the grounds or are escorted off the grounds, you will be issued a Criminal Trespassing Warning. Please remember, head cooks and team members are responsible for the behavior of your team and visitors to your team area! **Misbehavior by members of your team or any visitors to your team area could result in disqualification from the cook-off for your team!** This event is to raise money for the youth of Matagorda County and we as a committee want everyone to have a safe and fun time here at the cook-off!
25. No refunds.

Meat Inspection will be Friday, February 21, 2024, Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Judging Times:

Dutch oven Dessert	Friday, February 21	6:00pm
Beans	Friday, February 21	7:00pm
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Awards

GOOD TIME CHARLIE AWARD

The Good Time Charlie Award is given to encourage a fun, friendly, and overall welcoming experience. Teams will be given a bucket to set out in their area to collect "tips". The monies will be collected at Midnight, Friday February 21 and at Noon on Saturday February 22. The team with the most "tips" collected will win so encourage you tent guests to "tip up". All money collected will benefit the MCFLA Livestock Show and Scholarship Fund.

BRISKET Enough for 6 judges is required. Slices and or burnt ends allowed. The fat cap can be trimmed before slicing. No garnish allowed. Foil provided by CBA must be placed unfolded at the bottom of the tray.

CHICKEN Enough for 6 judges required, no pulled or shredded allowed. Each tray must contain one half of a fully cooked chicken, with the skin on and wingtips optional. No garnish allowed. Foil provided by CBA must be placed unfolded at the bottom of the tray.

PORK RIBS Only St. Louis Cut or Baby Back Ribs are permitted. A tray of pork ribs should have enough for at least six judges, but the CBA recommends seven or more ribs. Ribs must be bone-in and individually cut. No garnish is allowed. The CBA will provide foil to place unfolded at the bottom of the tray. Each head cook can only enter one entry per pit. Disqualification: A tray may be disqualified for violating CBA rules, such as containing foreign items or not meeting USDA safe minimum internal temperatures. The CBA Event Representative has the final say on disqualifications

Garnish is defined as anything other than the designated category protein.

BEANS

Beans must be cooked in a large pot over an LPG, controlled fire. Any kind and only dry beans may be used, no pre-cooked or canned beans. No pressure cookers or other automatic cooking devices may be used. Ingredients must be cooked from scratch on-site. No meat may be used as a major ingredient. Salt pork or bacon may be used for flavoring. When dishing up your beans for the judges, please be sure no meat is in the cup, or it be Disqualified. For judging purposes, send full container.

DUTCH OVEN DESSERTS

All food must be prepared on-site and cooked over a wood fire. Dutch oven fires will have a heat barrier between fire and ground. A firebox surrounding the fire must guard the fire. Dessert-bread, dessert-biscuits, cakes, or pastry can be sourdough or baking powder. All entries must be made from scratch, no prepared mixes. Any fruit ingredient must be dried or fresh; no canned. For judging purposes, send enough for 6 judges.

MARGARITA

Participants must be at least 21 years of age and must have proper identification available at check-in.

Teams can use the tequila of their choice.

Beverage entries may not be pre-mixed. All ingredients will be inspected by the committee prior to competition.

All recipes must be original.

Fire is **Not** allowed as a special effect during the making of the margarita.

Any type of glassware is allowed for final presentation, but no logos or distinguishable markings are permitted.

Send enough for 6 judges.

Frozen margaritas are not allowed.