

2026 BUFFALO COUNTY FAIR
DIVISION 55
OPEN CLASS: BEER, MEAD & WINE
Doug Kramer–Superintendent

BEER, MEAD & WINE AWARD SYSTEM – Award Percent of possible points

First – (38-50 Points-Blue Ribbon)

Second – (30-37 Points-Red Ribbon)

Third – (25-29 Points-White Ribbon)

(USING THE 2008 BJCP STYLE GUIDELINES for Beer & Mead)

Ship or deliver all entries to:

Buffalo County Agricultural Association
3807 Avenue N
Kearney, NE 68847

ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS: June 1, 2026

Entries accepted between **Wednesday, July 1 and Friday, July 17, 2026. ALL ENTRIES MUST BE IN THE HANDS OF THE SUPERINTENDENTS BY JULY 17, 2026.** No entries will be accepted after this time. **Judging will be at 2:00 PM, Sunday July 19, 2026 at The Buffalo County Fairgrounds in the Exhibit Building Harvest Room. ***THERE WILL ALSO BE A SPECIAL JUDGING BY KAB MEMBERS FOR ANY COMMERCIAL OR CRAFT BEERS. PLEASE USE THE SAME CLASSES BELOW. BOTTLES OR CANS MAY BE ENTERED****

****PLEASE EMAIL KEARNEY AREA BREWERS AT kabrewers@gmail.com WITH ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS.

SPECIAL AWARDS

Prizes will be awarded for the following:

Best of Show in Beer
Best of Show in Beer Runner-UP
Best of Show in Mead
Best of Show in Mead Runner-UP
Best of Show in Wine Division
Best of Show in Wine Runner-Up
Person with the Most Entries
Best Brewer (Most 1st Place Winners/Most Points)

Additional Awards:

Premiums for classes 760 – 875

Blue \$4; Red \$3; White \$2

RULES FOR BEER & MEAD ENTRIES

1. BEER entries must be in (2) bottles per entry that hold a minimum of 10 ounces in volume, and that will fit in a standard case box slot. The measurements of a standard case box slot are 2.75 inches long x 2.75 inches wide x 9 inches high (7 cm x 7 cm x 22.9 cm). Bottles may be of any color and must be free of ink, paint, or paper labeling other than competition entry labels. Obliterate any lettering or graphics on the cap with a permanent black marker. Bottles with Grölsch-type swing tops and 22 oz Bomber bottles are not allowed. Corked bottles and odd-shaped bottles are acceptable as long as they can fit in a standard case box slot (2.75 inches L x 2.75 in W x 9 in H; 7 cm x 7 cm x 22.9 cm). Bottles with raised lettering are acceptable if they fit in a standard case box slot. Mead and Cider must be submitted in two (2) bottles as defined for the Beer entries or one 750 ml wine bottle. Bottles not meeting the above requirements will be disqualified. There is no limit to the number of entries per exhibitor. ***** (THERE MUST BE TWO BOTTLES PER ENTRY FOR JUDGING ONE FOR THE INITIAL JUDGING AND THE SECOND FOR THE BEST OF SHOW JUDGING) *****
2. No bottles, caps or corks will be accepted that have markings on them, other than the OFFICIAL ENTRY LABEL. Entries bearing such will be refused.
3. Only the Superintendents, Judges, Stewards, and Scorekeepers will be allowed in the judging area.
4. Exhibitors and spectators are not allowed to converse with the judges during the competition. Violators will be disqualified or asked to leave the building.
5. Judges may enter the competition, but will not be allowed to judge in a class in which they have entered.
6. Decisions of the judges are final.
7. All entries must be homemade, according to Fair Rules by amateur home brewers. Commercial beers and brew makers may not enter.
8. All bottles will be disposed of after the fair.
9. Please list the type of beer you are entering, e.g. Cherry Wheat, Dry Stout, Trappiest Ale, etc. Do not list the name of beer, e.g.; Terminator Stout.

10. All beer will be judged according to their relative merits within the class. First, Second and Third places within each class will be awarded on point totals and will not be restricted to the top three beers only (for example, a number of beers may earn enough points to win First). The Best of Show and runner up awards are given to the top two overall beers and meads in the entire competition.

BEER entries must be in bottles that hold a minimum of 10 ounces in volume, and that will fit in a standard case box slot. The measurements of a standard case box slot are 2.75 inches long x 2.75 inches wide x 9 inches high (7 cm x 7 cm x 22.9 cm). Bottles may be of any color and must be free of ink, paint, or paper labeling other than competition entry labels. Obliterate any lettering or graphics on the cap with a permanent black marker.

Bottles with Grölsch-type swing tops and 22 oz Bomber bottles are not allowed.

Corked bottles and odd-shaped bottles are acceptable as long as they can fit in a standard case box slot (2.75 inches L x 2.75 in W x 9 in H; 7 cm x 7 cm x 22.9 cm). Bottles with raised lettering are acceptable if they fit in a standard case box slot. Bottles not meeting the above requirements will be disqualified.

***** (THERE MUST BE TWO BOTTLES PER ENTRY FOR JUDGING ONE FOR THE INITIAL JUDGING AND THE SECOND FOR THE BEST OF SHOW JUDGING) *****

BEER

LIGHT LAGER

Classes

- 760. Lite American Lager (1A)
- 761. Standard American Lager (1B)
- 762. Premium American Lager (1C)
- 763. Munich Hells (1D)
- 764. Dortmunder Export (1E)

PILSNER

Classes

- 765. German Pilsner (Pils) (2A)
- 766. Bohemian Pilsener (2B)
- 767. Classic American Pilsner (2C)

EUROPEAN AMBER LAGER

Classes

- 768 Vienna Lager (3A)
- 769. Oktobertest/Marzen (3B)

DARK LAGER

Classes

- 770. Dark American Lager (4A)
- 771. Munich Dunkel (4B)
- 772. Schwarzbier (Black Beer) (4C)

BOCK

Classes

- 773. Mailbock/Helles Bock (5A)
- 774. Traditional Bock (5B)
- 775. Doppelbock (5C)
- 776. Eisbock (5D)

LIGHT HYBRID BEER

Classes

- 777. Cream Ale (6A)
- 778. Blonde Ale (6B)
- 779. Kolsch (6C)
- 780. American Wheat or Rye Beer (6D)

AMBER HYBRID BEER

Classes

- 781. Northern German Altbier (7A)
- 782. California Common Beer (7B)
- 783. Dusseldorf Altbier (7C)

ENGLISH PALE ALE

Classes

- 784. Standard/Ordinary Bitter (8A)
- 785. Special/Best/Premium Bitter (8B)
- 786. Extra Special/Strong Bitter (English Pale Ale) (8C)

SCOTTISH AND IRISH ALE

Classes

- 787. Scottish Light 60/-(9A)

- 788. Scottish Heave 70/- (9B)
- 789. Scottish Export 80/-(9C)
- 790. Irish Red Ale (9D)
- 791. Strong Scotch Ale (9E)

AMERICAN ALE

Classes

- 792. American Pale Ale (10A)
- 793. American Amber Ale (10B)
- 794. American Brown Ale (10C)

ENGLISH BROWN ALE

Classes

- 795. Mild (11A)
- 796. Southern English Brown (11B)
- 797. Northern English Brown Ale (11C)

PORTER

Classes

- 798. Brown Porter (12A)
- 799. Robust Porter (12B)
- 800. Baltic Porter (12C)

STOUT

Classes

- 801. Dry Stout (13A)
- 802. Sweet Stout (13B)
- 803. Oatmeal Stout (13C)
- 804. Foreign Extra Stout (13D)
- 805. American Stout (13E)
- 806. Russian Imperial Stout (13F)

INDIA PALE ALE (IPA)

Classes

- 807. English IPA (14A)
- 808. American IPA (14B)
- 809. Imperial IPA (14C)

GERMAN WHEAT AND RYE BEER

Classes

- 810. Weizen/Weissbier (15A)
- 811. Dunkelweizen (15B)
- 812. Weizenbock (15C)
- 813. Roggenbier (German Rye Beer) (15D)

BELGIAN AND FRENCH ALE

Classes

- 814. Witbier (16A)
- 815. Belgian Pale Ale (16B)
- 816. Saison (16C)
- 817. Biere de Garde (16D)
- 818. Belgian Specialty Ale (16E)

SOUR ALE

Classes

- 819. Berliner Weisse (17A)
- 820. Flanders Red Ale (17B)
- 821. Flanders Brown Ale/oud Bruin (17C)
- 822. Straight (Unblended) Lambic (17D)
- 823. Gueuze (17E)
- 824. Fruit Lambic (17F)

BELGIAN STRONG ALE

Classes

- 825. Belgian Blonde Ale (18A)
- 826. Belgian Dubbel (18B)
- 827. Belgian Tripel (18C)
- 828. Belgian Golden Strong Ale (18D)
- 829. Belgian Dark Strong Ale (18E)

STRONG ALE

Classes

- 830. Old Ale (19A)

831. English Barleywine (19B)
832. American Barleywine (19C)

833. FRUIT BEER (20)

SPICE/HERB/VEGETABLE BEER

834. Spice, Herb, or Vegetable Beer (21A)
835. Christmas/Winter Speciality Spiced Beer (21B)

SMOKED-FLAVORED AND WOOD-AGED BEER

Classes

836. Classic Rauchbier (22A)
837. Other Smoked Beers (22B)
838. Wood-Aged Beer (22C)
839. SPECIALITY BEER (23)

MEAD

TRADITIONAL MEAD

Classes

840. Dry Mead (24A)
841. Semi-sweet Mead (24B)
842. Sweet Mead (24C)

MELOMEL (FRUIT MEAD)

Classes

843. Cyser (Apple Melomel) (25A)
844. Pymment (Grape Melomel) (25B)
845. Other Fruit Melomel (25C)

OTHER MEAD

846. Metheglin (26A)
847. Braggot (26B)
848. Open Category Mead (26C)

STANDARD CIDER AND PERRY

Classes

849. Common Cider (27A)
850. English Cider (27B)
851. French Cider (27C)
852. Common Perry (27D)
853. Traditional Perry (27E)

SPECIALITY CIDER AND PERRY

Classes

854. New England Cider (28A)
855. Fruit Cider (28B)
856. Applewine (28C)
857. Other Speciality Cider/Perry (28D)

RULES FOR WINE EXHIBITS

1. Open to any amateur wine maker. Wine must be homemade. Commercial wines and wine makers may not enter.
2. Entries must be submitted in a 750 ml wine bottle. Only one bottle per entry is needed in all classes. Still wines should be in cork finished bottles. Sparkling wines should be champagne corks as well as a wire closure for the safety of all involved.
3. Entries shall bear no labels, markings, or bottle decorations, other than Official Entry label. Entries bearing such will be refused.
4. There is no limit to the number of entries per exhibitor. All entries in the same class by an individual exhibitor must be different.
5. The judge's decision will be final.
6. Only the Superintendent, Judges, Stewards, and Scorekeeper will be allowed in the judging area.
7. Exhibitors & spectators are not allowed to converse with judges during the competition. Violators will be disqualified or asked to leave the building.
8. Judges and Superintendents will not be allowed to enter wines for competition in any class which they are judging.
9. All bottles will be disposed of after the Fair.
10. Wine kits and concentrate-based wines will compete side-by-side with fresh fruit and juice-based wines in all listed classes.
11. It is entirely up to the Exhibitor to decide which classes you should enter. You should enter each wine in the class in which you feel it will perform best. Wines must contain a minimum of 75% of designated type if entered as a varietal. Varietals of less than 75% must be entered as blends. To make sure all entries are judged fairly, the Judges may re-classify an entry that is obviously in the wrong class or has over 75% percentage of a specific varietal but is entered as a blend.
12. All wines will be judged according to their relative merits within the class. First, Second and Third places within each class will be awarded on point totals and will not be restricted to the top three wines only (for example, a number of wines may earn enough points to win First). The Best of Show and runner up awards are given to the top two overall wines in the entire competition.

WINES
Classes

- 865. Dry Red - Grape
- 866. Sweet Red - Grape
- 867. Dry White - Grape
- 868. Sweet White - Grape
- 869. Dry Sparkling - Grape and Non Grape
- 870. Sweet Sparkling - Grape and Non Grape
- 871. Stone Fruit - Peach, Cherry, Blends, etc.
- 872. Berry Fruit - Strawberry, Raspberry, Blends etc.
- 873. Other Fruit
- 874. Port/Fortified Wine
- 875. Open (wines that do not fit in any other category)

Wine Entry Only Label

(Attach to the bottle with a rubber band)

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone/Email:

Wine Class: (from the General Rules above)

Ingredients:

(Please enter all information and print legibly)

BOTTLE ID FORM . . .

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Name of Beer _____

Category Entered _____

Subcategory Entered _____

Homebrew Club _____

ATTACH ONE FORM TO EACH BOTTLE

BOTTLE ID FORM . . .

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Name of Beer _____

Category Entered _____

Subcategory Entered _____

Homebrew Club _____

ATTACH ONE FORM TO EACH BOTTLE



BOTTLE ID FORM . . .

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Name of Beer _____

Category Entered _____

Subcategory Entered _____

Homebrew Club _____

ATTACH ONE FORM TO EACH BOTTLE

BOTTLE ID FORM . . .

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Name of Beer _____

Category Entered _____

Subcategory Entered _____

Homebrew Club _____

ATTACH ONE FORM TO EACH BOTTLE