

DEPARTMENT 34 – BEE CULTURE

To be shown in the Illinois Building
Superintendent: Jeremy Margaron (#217-855-9034)
Premiums Offered: \$3,067.00

INFORMATION

Entries

An entry fee of \$2.00 per exhibit is required for all classes except for the professional division, which requires a \$42.00 per exhibitor fee covering all classes within the division. A \$3.00 Office Fee is also required for each exhibitor. Entries in all classes shall be made through the online fair entry system at the Illinois State Fair website. Payment must be made via credit card at the time of entry. No other type of entry will be accepted. Assistance with entries is available at the Competitive Events Office, Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All entries must be submitted online on or before July 15, 2026. Fees will not be refunded. Exhibitors are highly encouraged to bring a copy of their entry receipt to check-in.

Deadlines and Check-in

Entry Deadline	Tuesday, July 15
Late Entry Deadline	Friday, July 31
Entry check-in	Wednesday, August 12, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Exhibit Pick-up	Sunday, August 23, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. (unless prior arrangements have been made)

General Requirements & Criteria for Competition

1. General rules apply to all divisions in this department. Please read carefully.
2. The professional division will be limited to four exhibitors.
3. Only one entry will be allowed each exhibitor/apiary in each class.
4. All articles in this department must have been produced in Illinois by the exhibitor.
5. Frames of cut-comb must have been produced on foundation other than brood foundation, containing no vertical crimp wire and suitable for cutting.
6. Entries must be dropped off at the Illinois Building before the end of the check-in period.
7. Entry tags are prepared for each class entered and will be available at the time of check-in.
8. There are to be no labels on any jar entries.
9. Judging will be conducted Thursday, August 13, 2026, starting at 8:00 a.m. and going through Friday, August 14, 2026, until complete.
10. The judges in this department will be governed by the code of rules adopted by the American Beekeeping Federation.
11. The general display of apiary products will be judged for educational value and advertising value (normally for products in general, not a brand) with attractive arrangement, originality and appearance.
12. Judges will use score card in judging. Points will be deducted for entries displaying less than specified amounts.
13. Only 12 sections will receive full score for quantity in display of comb honey and not less than 50 lbs. for extracted; only 15 lbs. will receive full score for quantity in display of molded or commercial forms of beeswax; 10 lbs. only will receive full score for quantity in art designs in beeswax. In molded wax, a beeswax color between straw and canary yellow is preferred. Beeswax bleached with chemicals will receive a lower score.

14. Moisture points will be awarded based on the following table. (High moisture causes fermentation.)

Range	Points	Range	Points	Range	Points
0 – 16.0	20	16.9 – 17.0	15	17.9 – 18.0	10
16.1 – 16.2	19	17.1 – 17.2	14	18.1 – 18.2	9
16.3 – 16.4	18	17.3 – 17.4	13	18.3 – 18.4	8
16.5 – 16.6	17	17.5 – 17.6	12	18.5 – 18.6	6
16.7 – 16.8	16	17.7 – 17.8	11	18.7+	0

15. Ribbons will only be awarded for first through sixth places.
16. On Wednesday, August 19, 2026, the Illinois State Fair Commodities Auction will be held. The Champion Chunk Honey in Glass (Division 3401, Class 06) will be sold at the auction with all proceeds going to the exhibitor.
17. Exhibits not picked up at the conclusion of the show will be given to charity unless prior arrangements have been made with the Superintendent.

Special Awards

Best Display Booth: An award will be given to the first-place winner for the Best Display Booth in the Professional Division.

Sweepstakes: An award will be given to the exhibitor with the largest number of points accumulated for each division. Governor’s Award for Professional Division and Killion’s Award for Open Division

Judging Standards for Apiary Products

Liquid Honey

Appearance, suitability and uniformity of containers	5
Uniform and accurate volume of honey	5
Freedom from crystals	10
Freedom from impurities, including froth	20
Uniform honey in all containers of the entry	5
Color	10
Brightness.	10
Flavor and aroma	15
Density (No additional points below 16% water)	20
	100

Granulated (Creamed) Honey

Appearance, suitability and uniformity of containers	5
Uniform and accurate volume of honey	5
Firmness of set (not runny but spreadable)	20
Texture of granulation (smooth and fine)	20
Absence of impurities, including froth	15
Uniform honey in all containers of the entry	10
Color	10
Flavor and aroma (Natural flavors present and undamaged by heat, etc.)	15
	100

Comb Honey in Wooden Sections

Suitability, uniformity and cleanliness of sections (wood)	15
Completeness, uniformity and cleanliness of capping.	30
Uniform and completely filled honey cells	30
Quality and uniformity of honey	15
Weight and completeness of attachment of comb to section	10

100

Frame of Honey for Cut Comb (Light or Amber)

Quality of honey	20
Capping, completeness, evenness, freedom from stain	20
Uniformity of color of honey throughout comb.	20
General appearance	20
Freedom from pollen	20
	100

Cut Comb Honey in Plastic Boxes

Accuracy and neatness of the cut edges of the comb	20
Uniform depth and filling of the honey cells	20
Complete, uniform and clean cuppings	20
Quality, quantity and uniformity of honey	20
Freedom from leakage and general appearance of pack	20
	100

Round Sections

Suitability, uniformity and cleanliness of sections	10
Completeness, uniformity and cleanliness of capping's	30
Uniform and completely filled honey cells	30
Quality and uniformity of honey	20
Weight and completeness of attachment of comb	10
	100

Chunk Honey

Uniformity, cleanliness and general appearance of the entry	30
Freedom from impurities and granulation	20
Quality of the liquid honey	25
Quality and neatness of the comb honey	20
Uniform and accurate volume of honey.	5
	100

Frame of Honey for Extracting (either shallow or full depth Langstroth)

Quality of honey	25
cuppings - completeness, evenness.	25
Uniformity of honey throughout comb.	20
Thickness of comb for ease of uncapping	20
General appearance	10
	100

Beeswax

Color between straw & canary yellow (undamaged by propolis, iron stain)	30
Cleanliness (free from surface dirt, honey and impurities)	25
Uniform appearance of all wax in the entry	15
Freedom from cracking, shrinkage and marks	15
Texture and aroma (pure wax free from hard water damage, etc.)	15
	100

Art Designs in Beeswax

Color between straw and canary yellow (some parts may contain wax colored to bring out certain necessary points in item)	25
Cleanliness (free from surface dirt, honey and other impurities)	25
Novelty of mold or sculpture	25
Neatness of workmanship	25
	100

Art Designs in Comb Honey

Originality	25
Neatness and workmanship	25
Attractiveness	25
Quantity and style of display	25

100

Gift Package (May be a box, basket or other suitable container of apiary products. Contents to be 5 pounds or less.)

Originality	25
Eye appeal and neatness	25
Suitability of container and contents	25
Quality of contents	25

100

Display of Apiary Products

Educational value	20
Advertising value (normally for the products in general, not a brand).	20
Attractive arrangement (pleasing and eye-catching)	20
Originality	20
Appearance, quality and variety of products in the display	20

100

Division 3401 – Open (Killion’s Award will be awarded to exhibitor with the most points)

Class No.	Class Description		Premiums
01	Amber chunk honey	3 1-lb. jars, any type of jar glass or plastic	\$19-\$17-\$16-\$14-\$12-\$10-\$8-\$5-\$3
02	Amber extracted honey	3 1-lb. Queenline or classic jars, strained without pressure filter	\$19-\$17-\$16-\$14-\$12-\$10-\$8-\$5-\$3
03	Beeswax - candles	1 pair, molded	\$19-\$17-\$16-\$14-\$12-\$10-\$8-\$5-\$3
04	Beeswax - art designs	Not less than 3 lbs.	\$19-\$17-\$16-\$14-\$12-\$10-\$8-\$5-\$3
05	Beeswax - molded in commercial forms for sale	Not less than 3 lbs.	\$19-\$17-\$16-\$14-\$12-\$10-\$8-\$5-\$3
06	Chunk honey in glass	3 2.5-lb. square jars	\$19-\$17-\$16-\$14-\$12-\$10-\$8-\$5-\$3
07	Comb honey in round sections	3 sections	\$19-\$17-\$16-\$14-\$12-\$10-\$8-\$5-\$3
08	Crystallized (or creamed) honey in glass	Not less than 3 1-lb. containers	\$19-\$17-\$16-\$14-\$12-\$10-\$8-\$5-\$3
09	Dark extracted honey	3 1-lb. Queenline or classic jars, strained without pressure filter	\$19-\$17-\$16-\$14-\$12-\$10-\$8-\$5-\$3
10	Frame of honey for cut comb or for packing in glass	Shallow frame preferred	\$19-\$17-\$16-\$14-\$12-\$10-\$8-\$5-\$3
11	Light chunk honey	3 1-lb. jars, any type of jar glass or plastic	\$19-\$17-\$16-\$14-\$12-\$10-\$8-\$5-\$3
12	Light comb honey	3 wooden sections	\$19-\$17-\$16-\$14-\$12-\$10-\$8-\$5-\$3
13	Light cut-comb honey	3 plastic boxes	\$19-\$17-\$16-\$14-\$12-\$10-\$8-\$5-\$3
14	Light extracted honey	3 1-lb. Queenline or classic jars, strained without pressure filter	\$19-\$17-\$16-\$14-\$12-\$10-\$9-\$8-\$7
15	Honey Gift Pack	Box, basket or other suitable container of apiary products, contents to be 5 lbs. or less	\$19-\$17-\$16-\$14-\$12-\$10-\$8-\$5-\$3

Division 3402 – Professional (**Governor’s Award will be awarded to exhibitor with the most points**)

Class No.	Class Description		Premiums
01	Professional Class Entry	Exhibitors wanting to enter this division need only enter class 01 on the online system. Exhibitors will be placed in each of the following classes by the Competitive Events Office.	N/A
02	Amber chunk honey in glass jars	Not less than 3 jars (1-lb. round preferred)	\$14-\$12-\$9-\$7
03	Amber comb honey in round sections	3 sections	\$18-\$15-\$10-\$6
04	Display of amber cut-comb	6 1-lb. plastic boxes	\$14-\$12-\$9-\$7
05	Display of amber extracted honey	30 lbs., strained without pressure filter	\$18-\$15-\$10-\$6
06	Display of dark extracted honey	6 1-lb. jars	\$14-\$12-\$9-\$7
07	Display of art designs in beeswax	Not less than 10 lbs.	\$38-\$34-\$24-\$19
08	Display of beeswax molded in commercial shapes	Not less than 15 lbs.	\$14-\$12-\$9-\$7
09	Display of designs in comb honey and comb building		\$14-\$12-\$9-\$7
10	Display of light comb honey	Not less than 12 wooden sections	\$65-\$59-\$54-\$50
11	Display of light cut comb	6 1-lb. plastic boxes	\$14-\$12-\$9-\$7
12	Display of light extracted honey	Not less than 50 lbs., strained without pressure filter	\$40-\$36-\$32-\$27
13	Finely crystalized (or creamed) honey	Not less than 3 1-lb. glass containers	\$18-\$15-\$10-\$6
14	Frame of amber honey for cut comb or for packing in glass	Shallow frame preferred	\$12-\$8-\$6-\$5
15	Frame of honey for extracting	Either full depth or shallow frame	\$14-\$12-\$9-\$7
16	Frame of light honey for cut comb or for packing in glass	Shallow frame preferred	\$12-\$8-\$6-\$5
17	Honey Gift Pack	Box, basket or other suitable container of apiary products, contents to be 5 lbs. or less	\$18-\$15-\$10-\$6
18	Light chunk honey in glass jars	Not less than 3 jars (1-lb. round preferred)	\$18-\$15-\$10-\$6
19	Light comb honey in round sections	3 sections	\$18-\$15-\$10-\$6
20	Light or amber chunk honey in glass jars	Not less than 3 2.5-lb. square jars	\$18-\$15-\$10-\$6
21	Color Photography	An original 8" x 10" color apiculture photograph, suitably framed for display	\$18-\$15-\$10-\$6
22	Best Display Booth		\$100-\$75-\$50-\$25

END OF DEPARTMENT 34 – BEE CULTURE