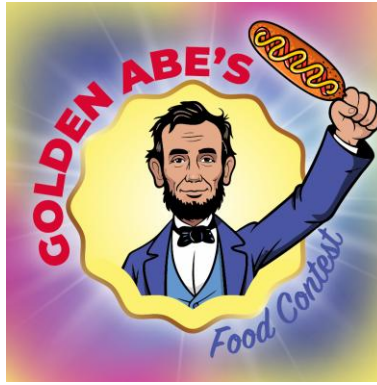




Golden Abe's Fantastic Fair Food Contest

Business: _____

Name: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Contest: ☐ Sweet ☐ Savory ☐ Drink (non-alcoholic) ☐ New Vendor in 2026

Submitted Dish: _____

Entry Rules:

- Participants must have a current 2026 contract with the Illinois State Fair Space Rental Office.
- Three items maximum per vendor with new items being encouraged.
- Items must be produced in sufficient quantities during Fair operations.
- Third parties may develop the entry for you, but they are not allowed to be involved with preparation, presentation, or media association.
- Failure to have your dish available on time will eliminate you from the competition.
- To be featured in our Press Preview Day and be entered into our Early Bird Drawing, you must submit this entry form to the ISF office no later than Saturday, August 1st.
- Last chance to register for the contest is Wednesday, August 12th.



In partnership with Woodward Community Media.

Judging:

- A panel will be judging the preliminary round for each category on Friday, August 14th in the tent just outside of The Shed. Each vendor will be scheduled a specific time for judging. Vendors are expected to provide four samples unless a dish can be split for judging. If this is the case, only two samples are needed.
- The final round of judging will be on Friday, August 14th at 3:00pm on Lincoln Stage. Vendors are asked to provide four additional samples. Again, if a dish can be split for judging, only two samples are needed. In this round, vendors are encouraged to attend so they can be interviewed by the emcee about your business and the item submitted.
- Entries need to be presented just as they will be served at the Fair. No Styrofoam may be used. No China or glassware if not being used for service during the Fair and no presentation enhancements that will not be used on every service to Fair patrons.
- **Sweet:** Awarded during the first round of judging.
- **Savory:** Awarded during the 1st round of judging.
- **Drink (non-alcoholic):** Awarded during the 1st round of judging.
- **Notable Newcomer:** Designed for our new vendors in 2026. This is a great opportunity for additional free promotion and to announce yourself to our fairgoers.
- **People's Choice:** Fairgoers can vote online for their favorite dish between Saturday, August 15th – Thursday, August 20th, where voting concludes promptly at 5pm. All vendors will be given a participation card at the conclusion of the preliminary round, regardless of outcome. This is to recognize and promote each vendor's participation in the contest. These cards will also have a QR code so fairgoers can vote online.
- Check presentation for the Early Bird Drawing will be announced on Friday, August 21st at a check presentation event.